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## Young man honored



**Bill Brown (left) of The Children's Table speaks about Thomas Ruth to the County Commission.**

### Story and Photos

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 9, 2017 at 4:07 p.m.**

**BRONSON** -- Bill Brown, who with his wife Verna Brown, is a leader of The Children's Table (food distribution for needy people), presented an award Tuesday morning (Aug. 8) during the meeting of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners.



**Bill Brown and Thomas Ruth are seen with the plaque.**

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**Thomas Ruth shakes hands with Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks. Ruth shook hands also with county commissioners Mike Joyner, Lilly Rooks and Rock Meeks. County Commissioner Matt Brooks was absent.**

The Children's Table distributes food in several counties from its home base, which is in Bronson. It brings food to people without any government support, Brown said.

In July, Brown said, there were 7,767 people in Levy, Citrus, Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Union, Bradford, and Gilchrist counties who received food from The Children's Table.

The volunteers are what have made The Children's Table a success during the 21 years it has been in business, Brown said.

Brown said The Children's Table intends to present an award each year to a young person who is from the Levy County School System who has done the most in the way of community service.

The first award-winner, Brown said, is Thomas Edwin Ruth.

Ruth has been active in several community-oriented events, Brown said. He has helped the homeless. He assists people with carrying their baskets of food, too, Brown said.

He has helped at The Children's Table home base in Bronson as well.

During the Suwannee River Fair, Brown said, Ruth sold his swine at auction to Sanchez Farms, Tillis Farms, 83 Farms, Smith Farms of Bell and Baynard Law, for \$840.

"He (Ruth) didn't hesitate one second," Brown said. "He donated the entire amount to The Children's Table."

Brown presented a plaque to Ruth in recognition for the young man's service to the people of Levy County.