



Winter  
2020

## GraceWay Launches Initiative to Develop a Family Restorative Housing Facility

In response to the rapidly growing number of homeless families throughout the Treasure Coast, **GraceWay Village has announced its most ambitious initiative:** The construction and operation of a Family Restorative Living Facility (FRLF) on its Fort Pierce campus.

The proposed facility, along with its \$7 million fund-raising campaign, was introduced to area civic and community leaders at a kick-off event at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center on Dec. 10. The first phase, costing \$4.5 million, includes the land purchase and construction of the facility's first wing of 12 family living units.



*"Our 'rapid rehousing' FRLF will provide safe, temporary housing for families and their children facing unexpected, serious upheavals to their lives leaving them homeless," explained Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village's Executive Director. "Families will reside for 30 to 90 days. They will receive professional guidance from GraceWay Village social workers to improve life skills and work habits, as well as job training that will enable them to become self-sustaining. Their stay may be extended, if additional time and services are needed."*

The kick-off luncheon was highlighted with the leadership gift of \$250,000 by William and Estelle Turney. They have actively participated in GraceWay Village --- as volunteers helping clients as well as 'gift bag' sponsors of the recent Fashion Show. (See related article.)

## Homelessness Impacts our Youngest Residents



The new endeavor expands GraceWay Village’s commitment to the 16 percent of St. Lucie County residents who live in poverty, and to the 1,500 students attending St. Lucie County schools who have been registered as being ‘homeless.’ Of these registered students, some 400 live in substandard, temporary campgrounds or call the family car ‘home.’ School authorities believe that many homeless families do not register as they are frightened that their children will be removed from their care and turned over to the legal system.

*“Their plight is compounded as there is only one homeless shelter that is just open three nights a week. The demand for immediate assistance greatly exceeds St. Lucie County’s limited supply,”* continued Ms. Mouring. *“Our goal is for these families to live as self-sufficient, healthy family units.”*

## Community Leaders Show Their Support



The event was attended by business and civic leaders including Aileen Pruitt, Senior Vice President at PNC Community Development Banking; PSL City Council Vice President Shannon Martin; St. Lucie County Commissioner Linda Bartz; Michelle Franklin, St. Lucie County Property Appraiser; St. Lucie County School Board Member Debbie Hawley; PSL Assistant Police Chief Richard Del Toro; as well as representatives from Congressman Brian Mast’s office, The Crossing Community Church and Westside Church.



*For more information about the Treasure Coast Family Restorative Living Facility and GraceWay Village, call 772.925.3074 or visit [www.gracewayvillage.com](http://www.gracewayvillage.com).*

## Bill and Estelle Turney: Two Lives Dedicated to Humanitarian Service



After a highly-successful career in business and as entrepreneurs, William Turney and his wife, Estelle now focus on benefiting those in need. Their philanthropic commitment again was made highly evident with their recent pledge of \$250,000 towards the creation of GraceWay Village's Family Restorative Living Facility campaign. (See related story.)

Bill, who says that he is “absolutely retired,” had a career in management of manufacturing organizations in Ohio and Maryland. Later, he developed an educational service helping high school students improve their writing skills and SAT scores.

Then, both Turneys began to share their good fortune with others.

Bill, a Penn State University graduate had been approached by legendary football coach Joe Paterno. Soon, he was appointed to the Development Committee of its College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. Twenty years later, a student lounge commemorates his service.

Their single-mindedness to help the homeless led them to their active involvement in several nonprofit agencies in Maryland and now, closer to their Port St. Lucie home, on the Treasure Coast. This dedication also led Estelle to GraceWay Village where she volunteers with its meal service and clothing distribution efforts. Meanwhile, Bill participates on the organization's Development Advisory Committee.



“Our passion for helping those in need began 15 years ago when I listened to a priest’s sermon about the homeless,” Bill explained, then quoting Matthew 25:35, “***For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.***” This concludes in verse 40 with ‘The King will answer and say to them, ***Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.***’ The priest’s words hit me between the eyes. Ever since, we have felt an obligation.”





8th Annual

# Butterfly Kisses



Father-Daughter Dance

**A SIGNATURE EVENT**

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

**1:00-4:00 pm**

**Pelican Yacht Club, 1120 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce**

*\$75 for father and daughter, \$25 per additional daughter*

*Lunch buffet, dancing, glamour and glitz, arts and crafts,  
silent auction, special entertainment and more!*

**Royal Event Sponsor: The Lyshon Family**

## Grand Ballroom Dance Sponsors



## Ballroom Dance Sponsors



We do more than building buildings.  
We're building *solutions.*<sup>SM</sup>

## For registration information

contact 772-925-3074 or [info@gracewayvillage.com](mailto:info@gracewayvillage.com) or  
go to <http://www.gracewayvillage.com/event/butterflykisses2020/>



GraceWay Village is a 501 c 3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.

## Christmas Came Early for Children and Their Parents at GraceWay Village's Cocoa and Cookies with Santa Celebration

Santa led the festivities and posed for pictures with all his young guests, while elves hosted a variety of holiday activities such as decorating shortbread cookies and creating Christmas tree ornaments. At the same time, others were helped to write their "wish list" letters for mailing to Santa's workshop.

"We asked everyone to bring cans of food as their 'price of admission,'" said Rena Marconi, Operations Manager. "These food items were distributed to those in need throughout our community—many of whom already join us for meals every Sunday evening and Wednesday afternoon. Other cans were offered to seniors and the disabled who are unable to leave their homes in local public housing sites."

The jolly man in white beard and red attire, who bore a striking resemblance to Todd McGraw, was aided by volunteers who came from the North Pole via the Calvary PSL Motorcycle Ministry, along with GraceWay Village's cadre of volunteers! They were joined by Miss Mallory Cunningham, Miss Teen Port St. Lucie who greeted the children—especially their older siblings.



Adrian and Jayda Lentz make some Christmas decorations thanks to



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Beth Compitello** has recently joined GraceWay Village as a volunteer in Matthew's Café. She helps prepare and serve lunch on Wednesdays to our clients of Hope's Closet and to the homeless.

Previously, Beth had volunteered at a dental clinic which served the poor and homeless population. After that clinic closed down, she realized she really missed connecting with those in need. When chatting with a friend about this, she was referred to GraceWay Village. Beth looks forward to coming each week, calling it "the highlight of her week"! She also used her floral design and table

decorating skills to help with Cookies and Cocoa with Santa (see above). We are grateful to have her on our team!

Just a couple hours a week offers great rewards in knowing that you have blessed someone else! Seeing some of the same humble and grateful folks each week brings joy to her heart! As she says, **"You get so much more out of serving, than you give."**

**As always, volunteers are welcomed at both Matthew's Café and Hope's Closet. Please call 772-925-3074 if you are interested in serving your community at GraceWay Village!**

## Hope's Closet

Our children's clothing program provides **FREE** clothing for school and play. Donations of gently used clothing are received 24/7 in the blue bin.

Specific needs include:

**\*Boys' clothing, sizes 5-16**

**\*New (colored, not white) underwear,** especially boys' size 2 and teen girls' bikinis in sizes 5 & 6.

**\*Teen girls' "no-show" black socks**

If you or anyone you know would like to sponsor an "Undie Drive", please contact us for more info.

## Matthew's Cafe

**FREE** to all who are hungry and in need:

- \* lunch on Wednesdays, 12-1 pm
- \* **hot dinner on Sundays**, 5-6 pm
- \* meals delivered to three public housing communities for seniors and disabled.
- \* **Lunch On Us, 4th Wednesday of each month**, 11:30-1:30. Those in need receive free nonperishable food, along with special items, such as jackets, blankets, towels, lozenges, reading glasses, etc.

GraceWay Village will be hosting its **2nd Annual "Special Day of Caring"** on Wednesday, **February 26, 11:30 am-1:30 pm**. It is a special day for those in need to receive free services from our local resources, while enjoying a free lunch. There will be free haircuts, showers, vision checks, blood sugar checks, gift cards and more! Please help spread the word to those who may benefit from these services!

Also at GraceWay, you won't want to miss the **"US Census Day Event"** on **Sunday, March 22, 5 pm-6 pm**. **All** are welcome to come and learn about the importance of the Census and receive help in filling out their Census data.

## 2020 GraceWay Village Board of Directors

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Sue Woodward	SLC Sheriff's Office, Sergeant

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at  
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