



Spring
2020

COVID-19: Our Response? Meals 5 Nights a Week!

Responding to the dire needs of vulnerable, low-income families and homeless during the COVID-19 emergency, GraceWay Village has significantly expanded its food distribution program. The Fort Pierce-based agency is providing dinners utilizing a drive-up system 5:00- 6:00 pm, Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday & Sunday, following stringent personal health precautions.

"We receive items from the TC Food Bank, Boys & Girls Club, Wawa, Chick-Fil-A, Cumberland Farms, and Kyle G's that wonderfully supplement our supplies, allowing us to provide healthy meals," said Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village Executive Director. *"We greatly appreciate the support."*



"We expect to maintain this increased commitment by 'ramping-up' our services," Cathie continued. *"Now, the need is even more paramount for those less fortunate to find sources of adequate nutrition. Many are unemployed. Those who had low-wage jobs often are the last to be hired, the first to be fired, and the last to be rehired. Living paycheck to paycheck before, they have no savings. They were in need before. Now they are desperate."*

GraceWay Village closed its clothing boutique for routine shopping. In case of emergency, social service agencies can contact GraceWay. Packages will be put together for the case worker to pick up when ready.

Unexpected demands for food, supplies, as well as increased staffing needed for the additional hours have put an expected strain on our budget. *"We know that everyone has a concerned heart for our neighbors in need, and greatly appreciate those who can assist by making a donation,"* Cathie said. *"I know they will have a full measure of personal satisfaction with such involvement during this time of crisis."*

Contributions can be made at gracewayvillage.com/donate or sent to GraceWay Village at 1780 Hartman Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34947.

GraceWay Village Hosted its 2nd Annual “Day of Caring” on Wednesday, February 26.



“Today is their special day. Today, we will cater to them and make them feel important.” With these words of encouragement, 15 volunteers from the Harbor Ridge Yacht and Country Club community began bringing full-course lunches to more than 60 GraceWay clients.

They were benefiting from GraceWay Village’s **2nd Annual Day of Caring**, February 26, and an afternoon of dining, enjoying a variety of personal care services, receiving clothing and other essential items from GraceWay Village, as well as seven other social service agencies.

“I am amazed how little some people have – such as the ability to take a shower. We take such things for granted,” said Harbor Ridge resident Bill Walsh. ***“Today brings us face-to-face with the plight of the needy, and makes their experiences that much more intense to us.”*** Clients queued up for hairstylist, Denise Rudisal, while others took advantage of the portable shower set up by the CareBags staff.

The Harbor Ridge visit was arranged by United Way’s CEO, Karen Knapp. ***“They wanted a ‘hands-on’ volunteer experience that helps others meet some basic needs,” she said. “We knew GraceWay Village would provide that opportunity. It enjoys an excellent reputation of ‘rebuilding lives and providing for families.’”***



Pictured L to R:
Cathie Mouring, David McGrath, Jessica Parrish, Karen Knapp



Pictured L to R:
Linda Bartz, Cathie Mouring, Michelle Franklin

One special guest was Michelle Franklin, St. Lucie County’s Property Appraiser. ***“Today is another example of how GraceWay Village contributes to our community. We appreciate that GraceWay Village provides needed services as well as spiritual guidance. It not only feeds the homeless, but helps them to be homeless no longer.”***

She was joined by St. Lucie County Commissioner Linda Bartz, who added, ***“We gained an even better understanding of what GraceWay Village does best. By referring clients to other agencies, and not duplicating services, GraceWay Village demonstrates why it’s a true partner.”***

GraceWay Village Receives “Treasure Coast Food Bank” Designation



GraceWay Village has added a major component to its aggressive arsenal in fighting hunger. On March 4, the Treasure Coast Food Bank (TCFB) designated GraceWay Village as a ‘Food Pantry’ in recognition of its efforts to feed those in-need.

The collaboration enables GraceWay Village to distribute nonperishable foods that will complement its on-going commitment of serving hot meals on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday evenings, as well as delivering meals to homebound seniors and the disabled.

“Now, the TCFB will deliver canned food and other items to the GraceWay Pantry that will be open on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7,” explained Rena Marconi, operations manager.

“We chose this time so our dinner guests may take items that will supplement their diets throughout the week. The pantry also will be available to those not joining us for a meal. Everyone’s generous donations are still needed, so we can provide additional food support to our homebound guests,” Rena continued. *“They are encouraged to bring cans of food and other nonperishable items by calling 772.925.3074 to make arrangements for drop off.”*

“After a thorough evaluation by the TCFB, Samantha Cruz, distribution and compliance manager, announced our expanded partnership,” Rena concluded. *“The Treasure Coast Food Bank staff was especially impressed that GraceWay Village prioritized their being open on a day when no other food kitchens are open.”* GraceWay Village now joins the TCFB’s 300 partner agencies throughout the four-county region that serve 100,000 individuals weekly.

“The Treasure Coast Food Bank is a powerful partner behind our area’s nonprofits that feed the many who are hungry. Our work through the food kitchen will be able to reach thousands due to their efforts,” said Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village executive director.

Many Ways to Give

***Contributions can be made at gracewayvillage.com/donate or mailed to GraceWay Village at 1780 Hartman Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34947.**

*Nonperishable food items can be dropped off between 3:30-4:30, Tues.-Thurs., Sat., Sun.



If you or someone you know would like to donate gently used clothing by shipping it, please go to: <https://givebackbox.shop/products/graceway-village-shipping-label>

To donate brand new underwear and socks, just go to <http://a.co/5hJuLRo>, then login to your Amazon account. This link will take you to our wish list.

Choose your items and they will be shipped directly to us! Have fun shopping!



GraceWay Village's Special Initiative Pampers Pace Center Students

Young ladies from Fort Pierce's Pace Center enjoyed an afternoon of 'pampering' and personal attention, courtesy of GraceWay Village's staff and volunteers on February 18. They were treated to facials, manicures, special gifts, as well as shopping in GraceWay Village's Hope's Closet.

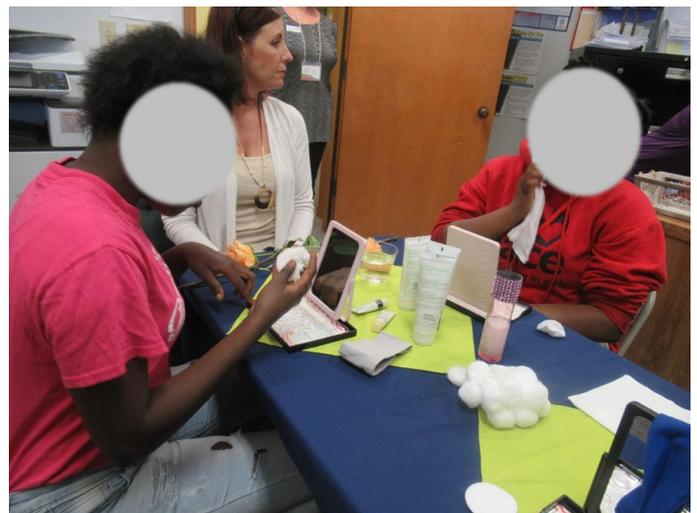
"These teens, who have experienced a variety of emotional and domestic difficulties, were in danger of dropping out of school and face uncertain futures," explains Pace's program director Adrienne Huggins. ***"Now they attend our alternative school and participate in counseling. We help them improve their social, behavior, and academic performance. Our goal is to get them back on 'track' and give them a brighter future. The girls enjoyed this experience,"*** continued Adrienne. ***"GraceWay Village's team truly left an imprint on their lives."***



In addition to the young ladies' one-day 'mini-spa' experience, GraceWay Village partners with the Pace Center throughout the year. ***"Often, new Pace clients don't have adequate clothing,"*** Adrienne continued. ***"GraceWay Village, always with 'open arms', makes sure they have an appropriate wardrobe."***

Pace participants also volunteer at Hope's Closet and help sort donated clothes. Besides benefiting from the 'workplace' experience, they receive required community hours.

"Our relationship with Pace is another example of how we extend our reach throughout the region," said Rena Marconi, operations manager. ***"We're all in this together to serve those in need."***





Daughters and Their Fathers Delight
at the 8th Annual

Butterfly Kisses

Signature Event



Ninety guests, consisting of Treasure Coast's cutest princesses and important men in their lives, enjoyed an afternoon of dancing, dining, crafts, and a 'date with dad' during GraceWay Village's 8th Annual *Butterfly Kisses* Sunday, February 9, at the Pelican Bay Yacht Club in Fort Pierce. The youngsters were kept busy at several activity booths, as well as were entertained with dancing and games led by DJ Chris Calvo. Escorts, with enthusiastic suggestions from their princesses, focused on bidding for a variety of silent auction items.

“Butterfly Kisses grew out of our need to raise funds for GraceWay Village’s Hope’s Closet that provides clothing for children living in poverty. We primarily rely on donations of merchandise, but sometimes we must purchase clothing, such as socks, to supplement those donations,” explained event cofounder Jill Todd. ***“Of the many young clients I had helped every Wednesday, I particularly remember one little girl. She was very dirty and disheveled. After trying on her new clothes, she said, with tears in her eyes, ‘Thank you very much. Now, I can go back to school.’ It thrills me even more now that the profits also go to feeding people in need. How great is it that such fun can bless so many!”***



Guests also were treated to a performance by Ariel, Walt Disney’s Little Mermaid, as well as met ‘princess-costumed’ members of South Florida Dance Company. The afternoon was made possible by the generosity of personal and corporate benefactors: The Lyshon Family, Integrated Wealth Management, Hoskins Turco Lloyd & Lloyd, RK Davis, Duraseal, Al’s Family Farms, and Walmart Distribution Center.

“We are deeply appreciative of these community leaders’ support and to everyone who participated,” said Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village’s executive director.

“Butterfly Kisses is one of the vital events that support our services to homeless families from throughout the region.”

More information about GraceWay Village is available at www.gracewayvillage.net.

Grand Ballroom Dance Sponsors



Ballroom Dance Sponsors



We do more than building buildings.
We're building *solutions.*

GWV Adds Three to Its Board of Directors

The GraceWay Village Board of Directors has elected three new members: Justin Case, Calvin Daniels, and Isaac Jones. They share strong ties to the area as well as strong beliefs in Christian values.



Justin Case's wife, Christina, who works at Westside Church, had introduced him to GraceWay Village and its executive director Cathie Mouring. *"I was looking for a place to serve the community,"* he said. *"With my background in logistics, management, and dealing with budgets, I look forward to helping on the business side of GraceWay Village's operations."* Justin is a manager at the Walmart Distribution Center after running Sunrise Tractor and Equipment Company, both in Fort Pierce. The Case's have two children, Emma and Katherine.



For the past year, **Calvin Daniels** has been the administrator of Fort Pierce's Westside Church. He became familiar with GraceWay Village's impact on the community as a volunteer serving meals at Matthew's Café. *"I am honored to join the Board and the opportunity to serve the greater good,"* Calvin said. *"I hope to focus on efforts that will develop GraceWay Village's restorative living facility."* Calvin and his wife Kerri have two children, Callie and Chloe.



Born and raised in Fort Pierce, **Isaac Jones** is an agent for TransAmerica Premier Life Insurance. He also is featured on radio station WJFP's Sunday afternoon talk show. He and his wife Andrea have three children; Leeandrea, Rachel, and Justus. *"I am interested in GraceWay Village's marketing and community outreach programs. Providing food and clothing to others is on the top of my list as a Christian,"* Isaac explained.

"We are delighted that these gentlemen have joined the Board," said Chris Morhardt, Chairman. *"They bring a diverse range of perspectives, critical expertise, as well as a strong familiarity with the needs of our community. These qualities will be essential as GraceWay Village continues to moves forward."*

2020 GraceWay Village Board of Directors

Chris Morhardt, President
Stacy Cooper, Vice President
Lynn Hahn, Secretary
Justin Case
Mary Beth Cullins
Calvin Daniels
Isaac Jones
Scott Mosher
Sue Woodward
Cathie Mouring Ex Officio

Pharus Group, LLC/President
Seacoast Bank, Client Advisor
Retired SLC Teacher
Walmart, Operations Manager
Seacoast Bank, Fraud Director, Retired
Westside Church, Serve Director
TransAmerica Agency, Insurance Rep.
PNC Bank, Financial Planner
SLC Sheriff's Office, Sergeant
GWV, Executive Director

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