



Summer
2020

Where grace leads
helping neighbors in need

GWV's Food Distribution Program Increases 475%

GraceWay Village has risen to the challenge of delivering more food, to more people, to more locations in its unparalleled response to fighting food insufficiency during the COVID-19 crisis.

During the past three months, GraceWay Village has distributed some 10,200 dinners – that is 2,200 more meals than in all of 2019.

In order to accomplish this, the food site network was expanded to meet the unexpected demand. Its commitment has increased from two days a week to five days a week at its Hartman Road campus, along with meals delivered to five 'ready-to-go' locations throughout Fort Pierce – also five times a week.



At the City's Lawnwood Terrace neighborhood, GraceWay Village volunteers, realizing that many residents are too frail to walk to the nearby pavilion for pickup, deliver meals to each recipient's home. GWV staff member, Robyn Hutchinson, oversees this partnership, adding her very caring heart for neighbors in need. The initiative was made possible due to a specially-designated grant by the City of Fort Pierce. (See related story on next page.)

Hot, healthy meals also are being distributed by volunteers to 4 off-site locations. Additionally, another local nonprofit, *Ignite for Youth*, picks up meals to deliver to the families they are serving.



GraceWay Village's commitment to serving hot, nutritious meals begins every afternoon. Lead Cook Maria Sanchez and her staff of volunteers prepare 150-250 meals daily.

This ambitious service to our neighbors in need could not be accomplished without continued support from our community. Join us in this effort by visiting our website at www.gracewayvillage.com/give.

GraceWay Village and City of Fort Pierce Partnership Brings Meals To Neighborhood Residents



Audria Moore-Wells, Nick Mimms, Sara Delgado

A specially-designated grant by the **City of Fort Pierce** is bringing GraceWay Village’s hot dinners to some 80 residents of the Lawnwood Terrace neighborhood, a public housing community for seniors and disabled.

“As the COVID pandemic impacts those who could least afford to be out of work, as well as those living near or below the poverty line, we continue to ramp up our meal preparation and distribution efforts,” explained Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village’s executive director. *“Our greatest benefit to the community will be during times when family budgets are the most strained, and nutritious meals will be the most appreciated.”*

Fort Pierce’s involvement began that inaugural afternoon, when City Manager Nick Mimms, Special Projects Coordinator Audria Moore-Wells, and Administrative Assistant Sara Delgado came to GraceWay Village to help package the meals before delivering them to the residents. Mayor Linda Hudson was on hand for the deliveries, adding much emotional support to our neighbors at Lawnwood Terrace.



“We are delighted to begin this affiliation with GraceWay Village. It’s another opportunity for the City’s government to help people back to resurgence,” said Mr. Mimms.


“We have been very impressed with GraceWay Village and its efforts to feed those who are struggling – especially our seniors and the disabled.”



Mayor Linda Hudson

Faithfully serving those struggling with poverty, food scarcity, and homelessness

A Word from Grateful Hearts



Share bread
Share life

***“The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.”***

Proverbs 22:9

We, at GraceWay Village, are truly blessed. For we do not labor alone in service to our fellow man; to provide food for those who are hungry, to clothe children who have so little. Our humble successes – one person, one child at a time -- are made possible because of our many friends who share our commitment as well as our passion to serve those less fortunate.

Each one of you clearly demonstrates a deep seated compassion as evidenced through a wide variety of your thoughtful gifts of time, talent, and resources.

For example, in this newsletter, we acknowledge the invaluable participation of three GraceWay Village volunteers, The City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County Commissioner, Linda Bartz. Their selflessness and devotion represent all those who tirelessly assist in our kitchen, food distribution site, and clothing boutique in order to maintain the highest standards our community expects of GraceWay Village.

There are others whose presence is felt through generous gifts -- each at their own comfort level of giving. We greatly appreciate their contributions, and publicly thank them on a new ‘page’ on our website at www.gracewayvillage.com/benefactors/.

Others have contributed substantial ‘in-kind’ donations such as merchandise, food items, and personal supplies that are distributed to our clients or benefit them in other ways. Space permits me to only recognize just a few of the many:

Allegany Franciscan Ministries

Children’s Services Council

Community Foundation Martin/St. Lucie County

PNC Bank

Treasure Coast Food Bank for their donations of food always, but particularly during this time of COVID

United Way of St. Lucie County

Walmart Distribution Center

Every supporter enables us to accomplish a small part of the Lord’s work. Their concern for their neighbors in need make them vital members of the GraceWay Village family. We greatly value each one of you.



Cathie Mouring, Jessica Parrish (United Way CEO)



Cathie Mouring
Executive Director and
GWV Board of Directors

**Chef Maria Sanchez,
Cathie Mouring,
Jessica Parrish (United Way CEO)**

GraceWay Village Promotes Chrystal Netherton to Operations Manager

“GraceWay Village is so proud to announce the promotion of Chrystal Netherton from administrative assistant to the new operations manager,” said Cathie Mouring, executive director.

“She will oversee the agency’s day-to-day program activities as well as keeping the office, staff, and volunteer efforts functioning smoothly. Her natural abilities, along with a humble spirit always willing to learn and grow, will infuse GraceWay Village with a ray of hope and care as we all work towards restoration from this COVID crisis.”

Donating clothes to GWV in 2012, Chrystal learned more about its humanitarian role within the community, and immediately began volunteering. Soon after, she was hired as the sorting room manager, followed by a promotion to administrative assistant in 2018.

“My family has lived in Fort Pierce for four generations, but I did not realize our community’s urgent need,” Chrystal explained. *“I knew I had to be a part of this leading nonprofit that brings light to the people! Every day I strive to bring the Lord’s glory by doing what He has set before me!”*



Hope’s Closet Update: Maintaining Clothing Distribution During Pandemic

The results are the same: Children and teens receive desperately-needed clothing. What has changed is the procedure. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, only area social service agencies can obtain clothing from the boutique.

Approximately 125 staff members from these agencies continue to rely on GraceWay Village to meet their clients’ needs. Volunteers select the needed items, including underwear and socks, which are then picked up and delivered to the family by the referring agency.

“I utilize GraceWay Village monthly, which has helped me with approximately 35 clients,” explained Alyssa Collado, a Suncoast Mental Health Center case manager. *“I remember one family in particular. Five children were under the custody of their grandparents, who were retired and had limited resources. The family was ‘super happy’. GraceWay Village is a great resource.”*

“The need for assistance is increasing. Many families, who were barely able to meet day-to-day expenses, now have one or both parents out of work,” says GWV’s Operations Manager Chrystal Netherton. *“Traditionally, we are the busiest when families prepare for school. This year should be no exception even as schools’ reopening remain uncertain. GraceWay Village meets their requests, and continues to be a true community partner.”*

Keep an eye out for general re-opening plans!

County Commissioner Lends Her Support and Talents to GraceWay Village



Cathie Mouring (left) documents the visit as Linda Bartz offers a prepared dinner to a Fort Pierce resident.

One of the many volunteers helping GraceWay Village during its expanded five-evening-a-week meal service during the COVID-19 crisis has been St. Lucie County District 3 Commissioner Linda Bartz.

A St. Lucie County commissioner since 2016, Commissioner Bartz has been a steadfast supporter by volunteering in several capacities over the years, as well as by participating in many of the agency's special events.

"I was driving past GraceWay Village when I saw its sign, 'Meals served 5-6 pm.' I smiled as GraceWay Village and its Executive Director Cathie Mouring always have been a bright spot for me. I continued but then made a u-turn. Would GraceWay Village allow me to volunteer?"

Commissioner Bartz recalled. *"I was welcomed with open arms. All the volunteers were well organized and worked with love, care, and without judgment. GraceWay Village has become more visible and involved, while touching the most vulnerable people in our community."*

"We are indeed blessed and grateful for volunteers such as Linda," said Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village's Executive Director. *"They continue to make an unheralded yet vital contribution of their time and energy – especially now during these uncertain times."*

Volunteer Spotlight

Jane Klug became a GraceWay Village volunteer a year ago because she wanted to interact with clients at Hope's Closet. Now, in addition to her regular Wednesday commitment and assisting on Sundays in Matthew's Café, she has made herself available on Tuesdays for the new COVID meal schedule.

"I love developing connections with our guests as they receive clothing and food, and then seeing their smiles of appreciation," Jane says. "It's heartwarming knowing you are helping others. As my mother always said, 'Appreciate what you have, but help those who are less fortunate.' This is my goal."



Chrystal Netherton, operations manager, speaks for the GraceWay Village staff, ***"We greatly appreciate Jane's willingness to help wherever needed, her consistent positive attitude, and her genuine smile. She has become an invaluable asset to our team, bringing joy to those she serves and to those with whom she serves."***

Giving Just Got Easier...But Importance Remains

Interested in making a meaningful donation to GraceWay Village that's convenient and may not cost you anything? Now, there are three online payment 'apps' that benefit our efforts to bring food to the hungry and gives much-needed clothing to low-income families:

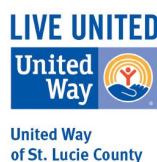
- Login to your Amazon account and go to <http://a.co/5hJuLRo>. This link will take you to our wish list of socks and underwear. Choose your items, and they will be shipped directly to us! Have fun shopping!
- Also, when you login to your account through Smile.amazon.com, you can choose GraceWay Village as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate a percentage of all your purchases to us at no extra cost to you!
- PayPal has also made it easier for you to give. When you login in to your account, you can choose GraceWay Village as your favorite charity. Simply scroll down to the bottom right of the page, click on "Make an Impact" and type in Grace Way Village. PayPal then makes sure there are no fees charged for your donations. 100% comes straight to us!

These electronic platforms are simple, safe and can be completed in a matter of seconds. Your financial support will continue to significantly serve many in need! Thank you!



2020 GraceWay Village Board of Directors

Chris Morhardt, President	Pharus Group, LLC/President
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Lynn Hahn, Secretary	Retired SLC Teacher
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Isaac Jones	TransAmerica Agency, Insurance Rep.
Scott Mosher	PNC Bank, Financial Planner
Sue Woodward	SLC Sheriff's Office, Sergeant
Cathie Mouring, Ex Officio	GWV, Executive Director



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