



Fall
2020

*Where grace leads
helping neighbors in need*

Adapting to Meeting Old Needs in a New Normal

The world is changing. New business models, different school schedules, and home-centered lifestyle diversions are commonplace. GraceWay Village is no exception to COVID's demands as we have incorporated alternative ways to serve those less fortunate.

For example, children and teenagers of families living in poverty continue to need new clothing, especially since schools have reopened. Our mission, therefore remains, but we have changed the methodology.

Anticipating COVID-safety protocols, we temporarily closed our boutique for individual service. However, GraceWay Village remained available to the community. Representatives from local social service agencies continued to communicate their clients' needs, knowing we would help. Our staff assembled the requested items, added customary pairs of socks and underwear, and arranged for pick-up. In July alone, 2,745 clothing items were provided to 178 children.

A soft reopening for current clients of the clothing boutique took place Wednesday, July 15th. On Tuesday, September 15th, we held a grand reopening, welcoming new clients and announcing our new days and hours. We will now be open every **Tuesday and Wednesday** from **10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Some special guest volunteers were welcomed as pictured here. What has not changed is the desire to meet the ever-present needs of children.

Donations of gently-worn items are, urgently and gratefully, accepted. A collection box at our front door is available, or arrangements for drop-off can be made by calling 772.925.3074.

All of us serving our community at GraceWay Village remain committed to meet these once unimagined challenges. We do so, encouraged by the knowledge that we have your unyielding support and heartfelt prayers. Thank you.

Cathie Mouring, CDE
Executive Director



Dana Trabulsy (Florida State House Rep.),
Cathie Mouring (Executive Director),
Chrystal Netherton (Operations Manager),
Michelle Franklin (SLC Property Appraiser)

Partners Come in All Ages

From a small child comes a big donation to GraceWay Village.



Nine-year old Avery Setser unselfishly used personal gift money from family and friends to purchase \$300 worth of children’s underwear and socks. Her gift will be distributed to 80 children of low-income families who receive items at GraceWay Village’s clothing boutique.

“I was watching the movie Little Red Wagon and saw how the little boy raised money for poor people, and I wanted to do the same thing,” said the Vero Beach third-grader at Masters Academy. *“I am very happy to do this, but, now I’m worried. How can I raise more money?”*

With the assistance of Operations Manager Chrystal Netherton, Avery sorted the 240 items by size and then placed them in the appropriate bins.

“Her gift is particularly noteworthy as she chose not to spend her money on herself, but on others who don’t enjoy similar advantages,” Chrystal explained. *“I hope her thoughtfulness serves as an example to other youngsters on how they can make a difference.”*

Between March and October, GraceWay Village distributed more than 11,467 items of clothing to 674 children. Visit the website to learn more about the programs, opportunities to volunteer, and ways to become a Community Care Partner through financial support.



Kind Words from a Referring Agent...

“GraceVillage has helped several families in my care,” said Carmen Leon, a targeted case manager from Suncoast Mental Health Center. ***“They all face severe financial hardships. Not only can they not afford clothing, but most don’t have any transportation. So, even when it’s open, there’s no way for them to get to GraceWay. My ability to come in their place has been invaluable.”***

“Carmen is one of several representatives from local social service agencies, such as New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Sequel Care of Florida, who received clothing at GraceWay Village in July,” explained Chrystal Netherton, Operations Manager. *“The average savings for a family in need comes to approximately \$300.”*

Hope Lives Foundation Donates Office Furnishings to GWV

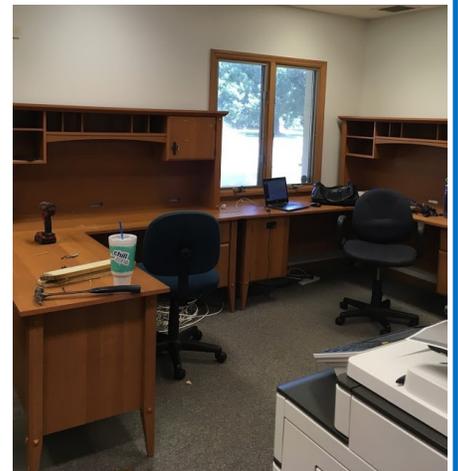


Thanks to the Hope Lives Foundation, GraceWay Village now is benefiting from its gift of new office furniture including several desks, bookcases, and storage cabinets.

“The furniture was no longer needed, and we realized that GraceWay Village would put these items to good use,” explained Chris Robertson, its Executive Director. *“We share a common mission with GraceWay Village to help children and families. So this transfer was a good fit.”*

GraceWay Village faced the task of disassembling and transporting three trailers full of furniture, removing the no-longer-needed furnishings at its Fort Pierce campus, and then reassembling the new furniture. The challenge was met by the invaluable assistance of volunteers from Larry Neese Roofing & Construction Company and from Westside Church.

“We are honored to be the beneficiary of the Foundation’s generous gesture,” said Cathie Mouring, GraceWay Village’s Executive Director. *“Their thoughtfulness improves our office efficiencies, rejuvenates our administrative staff and volunteers, as well as aligns us with partners that have similar missions.”*

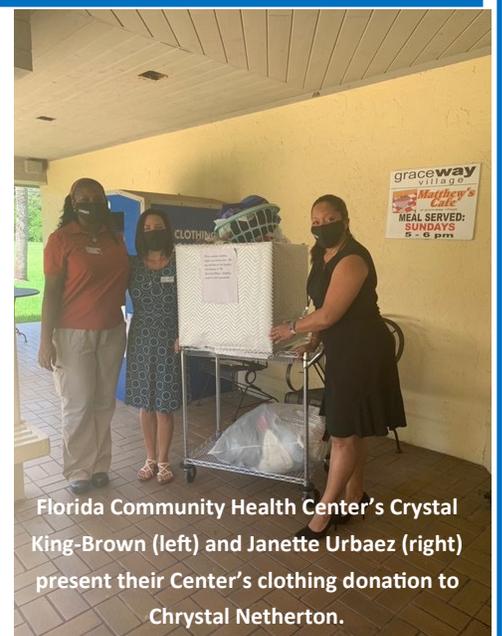


Florida Community Health Center Conducts Clothing Drive

A wide assortment of clothing is now available for clients of GraceWay Village’s clothing boutique thanks to the thoughtfulness of staff and visitors of Port St. Lucie’s Florida Community Health Center.

“The clothing drive was a featured part of activities commemorating National Association of Health Care Centers Week,” explained Crystal. *“We had set up a collection box in the lobby of our Darwin Square location. Even some patients, who have low-income themselves, participated.”*

“We had been well aware of what GraceWay Village does, but after today’s tour conducted by Chrystal Netherton, Operations Manager, we are in greater awe and full of admiration of its services,” she continued. *“I expect our center will want to continue our support.”*



Florida Community Health Center’s Crystal King-Brown (left) and Janette Urbaez (right) present their Center’s clothing donation to Chrystal Netherton.

GraceWay Village and You: Fighting the Curse of COVID One Meal at a Time

The numbers stagger the imagination as COVID and its mortality rates continue to escalate. A detrimental economic impact has resulted in historic unemployment rolls, created havoc on already-meager personal savings, and multiplied the number of people without adequate nutrition.

Locally, the *Treasure Coast Food Bank* estimates that 100,000 residents of Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties don't know where their next meal is coming from. Also, 25% of the area's children "are considered 'food insecure', which can affect their development and have irreversible repercussions."

In response, GraceWay Village has expanded what we do best: Providing hot, nutritious meals to everyone in need. We have increased our food program by more than 400%. Every month since March, more than 4,800 dinners have been provided on site and at four off-site locations, totaling over 28,000 meals served since March 10th.

The pandemic has complicated lives already in despair: Families dealing with chronic unemployment, debilitating health conditions, or living in isolation. Our staff and volunteers bear witness to those who had managed to survive paycheck-to-paycheck, but now unemployed, must cope with frightening, uncertain futures. Even in the midst of this crisis, indeed, maybe because of this crisis, we witness grateful and happy expressions of thankfulness for what they are receiving.

We don't ask why of our grateful recipients. We accept that help is needed. We make no judgments.



GraceWay Village will be there for them – long after the pandemic is a distant nightmare. We are confident that our compassionate supporters also will be by our side. Due to this partnership, the blessings are reciprocal to all.

Volunteers from CCO Spruce Up GWV Campus

There's a new look at GraceWay Village thanks to 20 volunteers from iServe — a collaboration of five Christian-based organizations.

During their August visit, college students and other young adults from the Coalition of Christian Outreach (CCO) completed several much-needed clean-up projects. Their efforts accomplished a variety of projects: Painting parking lot lines, curbs, exterior poles, and trim; pruning landscaping and planting shrubs; refurbishing the kitchen; sorting donated clothing.



The event was organized by Jason Fletcher, CCO's College and Young Adult Ministry Leader, who brought together members of his organization, while joining with representatives of Care Net, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Grace Family Church, and Westside Church.



"Our goal was to do a large amount of work in a minimal amount of time," said Jason. "We are well aware of how hard GraceWay Village works for the needy in our community. This was one way we could give back."

Jason added, *"In addition, the day was an opportunity to meet others and develop new friendships. We saw their joy, laughter, and smiles as they came together, demonstrating that God is still at hand."*

Watch a CCO-produced video of the students' accomplishments at GraceWay Village:
<https://vimeo.com/443122040/f31950c1b3>

Honor Family & Friends by Giving to Those in Need

Interested in offering congratulations on someone's birthday or anniversary?

How about publicly celebrating a special occasion?

Perhaps you wish to offer final respects with a fitting 'end-of-life' tribute?

And at the same time, want to fight the escalating challenges of food insufficiency in our community?

If the answers are yes, then make a donation to GraceWay Village:



In Honor Of

or

In Memory Of



We will acknowledge your thoughtful gift, as well as notify the honoree or family of your thoughtfulness. The donation amount remains strictly confidential.

Your generosity will have a meaningful impact on a family member or friend now, while tomorrow providing hot, nutritious meals to the homeless and unemployed; frail seniors and homebound disabled; and families living in poverty.

These grateful recipients, the GraceWay Village staff, and those you hold dear, all thank you.

www.gracewayvillage.com/dedicated-gifts/

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