

COMMUNITY ANGELS HEALTH & WELLNESS

Treasure Coast Hope for the Homeless with GraceWay Village



MARKETING TEAM APRIL 2, 2021

Since 2009, the Treasure Coast has experienced help for neighbors in need through the work of GraceWay Village. Beginning with a children's clothing boutique and a weekly food kitchen, its method of assistance and outreach has expanded greatly.

Most people don't realize the breadth of difficulties for people living in poverty or living paycheck by paycheck. Boutique volunteers grew in knowledge upon seeing a young boy's shoe with tape wrapped around it. Having no shoes his size, a volunteer quietly left to buy a pair elsewhere for the boy. This act wasn't in boutique procedures; it was simply in the volunteer's heart.

Before COVID, hot healthy meals were served onsite each Sunday night to all who were hungry. Additionally, teams would deliver meals to seniors and disabled living in two public housing communities. Guests were welcomed with sincerity and kindness 52 Sundays a year. Week after week, stories of need were shared, all having one thing in common, hungry. Yet, despite such a basic need, the guests smiled, laughed, and relaxed in the welcoming atmosphere of the cafe.

Annually, both programs helped many. In 2019, the boutique clothed *3,000 children*, providing 15 to 20



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SLC Boys and Girls Club shared resources, while similarly helping their families. The City of Fort Pierce sponsored the feeding of another senior community. CareBags was standing ready to have the shower trailer onsite when COVID concerns allowed. Restaurants, individuals, businesses, and local nonprofit

items per child. The same year, the cafe fed *8,000 neighbors in need*. Hot dinners and a bag of groceries to take home highlighted this night of the week as vitally important to many of the guests.

And then.... along came COVID.

The decision to start providing meals 7 nights a week was easy. Food for the hungry was part of GraceWay Village's mission. However, this was an unbudgeted expectation. Stepping out in faith and conviction, GraceWay Village soon discovered the community's support.

Strong nonprofits are revealed in many ways. Exemplified through the pandemic's initial onslaught was the power of partnerships. GraceWay Village moved forward, confident the immediate increase in service would be possible. TC Food Bank instantly met our needs.

foundations contributed in a variety of ways, all allowing the increased service provided through GraceWay Village.

With over 45,000 hot meals prepared since last March, the older kitchen showed signs of stress. Two more community entities stepped in to help: TC Hope for the Homeless provided a new commercial range, and the St. Lucie County Commission provided a grant that allowed the remaining appliance needs to be purchased, including a large commercial refrigerator.

TC Hope for the Homeless has been a consistent partner in the work of GraceWay Village. Richard Del Toro,



“Strong partnerships are the keys to making the biggest impacts in our community.”
- RICHARD DEL TORO,
BOARD PRESIDENT

Board President, shared, “We have been great partners with GraceWay Village since our inception, believing strong partnerships are the keys to making the biggest impacts in our community.”

Moving forward, GraceWay Village’s help to the community will expand further. A Family Restorative Living Facility will provide homeless families a safe place to live while necessary work is done for them to become healthy, self-sufficient families. With the purchase of the property last spring, the campaign is in full swing and construction conversation is frequent.

GraceWay Village is committed to providing meals at least four times a week as long as funding allows. The needs are great, clearly showing that recovery will take much longer for those with little to no income. To learn more about their work and future plans, visit www.gracewayvillage.net or email info@gracewayvillage.com.

GraceWay Village

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www.gracewayvillage.com



TC Hope for the Homeless

info@treasurecoasthope.org

Treasurecoasthope.org



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