

Love and Hope in Action

2024 Winter Newsletter

A Generous Community and a Fresh Start for Earl and Lynn



LAHIA had an extremely busy and very blessed start to 2025!

With the help of Martin County Human Services, a friendly landlord in Jensen Beach, a generous furniture donor in Sailfish Point and a bighearted mover in Stuart, we were able to move two of our senior clients out of their vehicles and into their very own apartments. Our journey began with a call from Julie Stellatos, the Housing Program Coordinator for Martin County Human Services, Julie called to say that she had a one bedroom in Jensen Beach available through a landlord who would work with her State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program. Program HOME funds pay rental assistance for a limited time based on income eligibility.

We immediately thought of Earl, 70, who came to us in 2022 and has been living in his car ever since. The one-bedroom, unfurnished apartment was in the heart of Jensen Beach. All we had in our LAHIA storage trailers out back behind the chicken coop were twin sized beds and a couple of smaller chairs. At over 6' tall, we'd make do for now but would need to put out a Facebook call for furniture.

Then, on the very day we found out about the apartment for Earl, we received a donation of a condo full of furniture! A lovely woman from Sailfish Point called LAHIA and said she needed to clear out her condo before the closing, which was just days away. Client Services jumped right on it without knowing exactly how we'd move a king-sized bed, couch, table and chairs, etc.—but with a prayer and a call to Sergeant Moving and Storage in Stuart, we made it with time to spare.

Michael Chicurel of Sergeant had previously contacted LAHIA on an unrelated matter and mentioned to one of our case managers that if we ever needed help with moving services, we should give him a call (probably not realizing what that would eventually get him into). Michael gave us an extremely generous discount on the move and even stored the furniture on the truck for a couple days when we were delayed in getting the new keys.

We moved Earl into his beautifully furnished apartment on January 2nd. Just days later, our housing angel Julie called again to say that the landlord had a studio apartment available at the same complex in Jensen Beach! We immediately thought of Lynn, who recently had to flee her housing situation in an emergency and was now living in her car. The twin bed in the storage trailer was a perfect fit and a post to our Facebook friends generated everything else we needed to provide Lynn with a safe home.

When we say we rely on the community to help us do our work, we really mean it! From county programs and our donors who make our programs and services possible, our volunteers who every day make our wheels turn, local businesses who lend a hand when needed, and the members of the community who donate food, clothing, furniture, housewares and other items that keep our shelves stocked—WE ARE A COMMUNITY caring for our homeless neighbors. God put us in Martin County because this is where we are needed, and Martin County and the Treasure Coast is where we are supported.



Giving Back with Gratitude: FoxHaven Roofing Group Brings Thanksgiving Joy to LAHIA

LAHIA could not run without our talented, committed volunteers. On any given day, we might have a dozen volunteers working in the kitchen preparing and serving the meal; in the hygiene cottage scheduling showers and queuing-up the first six loads of homeless' laundry for cleaning.

Holidays can be a challenging time to catch our volunteers with chunks of free time, as many head to cooler climates to be with family and friends. We were blessed this year by Andrew Keys and his colleagues from FoxHaven in Jensen Beach who planned, purchased, delivered, cooked, served and cleaned up a fantastic sit-down Thanksgiving Holiday meal for 71 grateful clients.

FoxHaven is new to LAHIA but is by no means new to community service in South Florida. In fact, service is central to the mission of the seven-year-old company.

As Andrew, who started FoxHaven, tells it..."I had a bad heroin addiction that led me to give up everything and move into my car. After some trouble with the law and a few stints in rehab, I was finally able to overcome my addiction problems. A big part of overcoming addiction was starting to do roofing and focus on my business. As my business started to get off the ground, I was able to find a new self-respect and new purpose in life that I had never felt before. The farther I moved in my business, the farther I moved away from my ugly past. And now 8 years removed from my addiction I've become a completely different person."

After about a year of repairing roofs solo, Andrew had the momentum going to start building a team. He credits the company's growth and success in the last seven years to truly caring about how FoxHaven treats their customers and employees.

He has found that giving back to the community is great for building a positive company culture and morale. "After a day of service with the team, we all feel closer to one another and proud to work where we work and who we work with," said Andrew.

"Work is not always easy and sometimes it can feel like a grind, but getting out of the normal day to day to give back to those in need really helps the team refocus and feel gratitude."

Andrew feels that operating a local business is more than dollars and cents. "It feels much better and fills us with more purpose when we are able to turn around and give back to the community, who allows us to serve them while operating a thriving business," he said. "Definitely feelings of gratitude after last Thanksgiving!"



Learn more at www.LAHIA.org

Call us at (772) 781-7002

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We welcome you to share this newsletter with your family and friends.

New volunteers and supporters are always welcome to join our mission in assisting our homeless neighbors!