

# Love and Hope in Action Newsletter

---



Fall 2018

## Nikki Looks Towards the Future

Nikki found LAHIA in January 2018 after spending nearly two years without a home. With the help of Michelle Miller, LAHIA Director of Client Services, Nikki has received her social security card and is working on getting her GED. Angela, a LAHIA volunteer and former teacher, also offered to help Nikki with her lessons. Nikki comes to LAHIA for meals every day and utilizes the shower and laundry facilities.



Once she receives her GED, Nikki wants to go on to college. "I'd like to be a drug counselor or help people in some way," she said. "That's what would make me happy."

For now, Nikki is happy to have found LAHIA, and a new outlook on life. "Nikki has really shown a new zest for life," said Brenda Dickerson, LAHIA Executive Director. "We're proud of the work she's doing."

"I just try every day to focus on something positive in my life," Nikki said.

---

## LAHIA Volunteers are the BEST!

Without our treasured volunteers and generous donors, LAHIA wouldn't be able to serve nearly 30,000 meals each year. Working together, we are making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for helping us meet the basic needs of our clients, while also supporting their ability to achieve eventual self-sufficiency.

### *James is a Man of Many Talents*

In his 59 years, James (pictured right) has had the opportunity to hone a lot of diverse skills. He has worked in the building trades where he developed painting and finishing skills, and in restaurants where he learned to cook and clean. Since he discovered LAHIA in 2014, James has shared many of these skills helping out in whatever way he can.



“We’re blessed to have this place,” James said. “I feel like I’m just paying back for what I have.”

Six days a week, from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., you will find James at LAHIA doing whatever needs to be done. “James is so hard-working, willing and able” said Brenda Dickerson, LAHIA Executive Director. “He works alongside ‘Big Mike’ and pitches in wherever he’s needed.”

For the past four years, James has made Stuart his home and LAHIA is a place where he feels both comfortable and needed. Like so many of LAHIA’s clients, James sleeps where he can find a dry place to lay his head. “I don’t have much of a life outside of LAHIA, but I don’t want for anything,” he said.

LAHIA is so grateful to James for all he does each and every day!

### *Joe and Mary Ellen are a Blessing*



Joe Murphy is a hard-working, long-time volunteer cook who has helped out in so many different ways, including picking up donations from church groups, produce stands and Publix.



Mary Ellen Riley recently took on the challenge of scheduling the kitchen volunteers. Her goal is to have enough volunteers every day to cook, prep, serve, and clean.



### *Hairdressers Share their Talents*

When hairdressers Lilitiana, Carmenza and Daniela, donate their time to cut hair at LAHIA, our clients feel better about themselves. We thank them for sharing their talents with us!

## Our Generous Friends and Community Members Help Us Make a Difference

We are so grateful to the generous donors, volunteers, local churches, businesses and organizations that support our mission. LAHIA is the only social services provider in Martin County where homeless men and women can receive two nutritious meals six days a week! This would not be possible without our friends and community partners.

Thank you to all those who provide a helping hand in a variety of different ways. We are grateful for each and every one of you!



### Our “Quiet” Donors, Debi and Herb

When **Debi**, a brand new LAHIA kitchen volunteer, heard that one of our commercial refrigerators had died, she quietly donated the funds to purchase a beautiful new refrigerator (see photo to left).

At the same time, **Herb**, who volunteers in the emergency food pantry, also quietly donated the funds to purchase a new freezer to replace a unit that died a couple months prior.

The commitment and quality of our generous volunteers and donors humbles us over and over again!



### Erneston & Sons Helps Provide Healthy Meals

Robert and his crew at **Erneston & Sons** have been contributing produce to LAHIA for years.

Their support is invaluable and helps us create healthier meals for our clients.