

Love and Hope in Action

Fall Newsletter



CHRISTY'S FAMILY

Another family has a home -- this time, a single mother of 3 who has been through so much. Christy's oldest child is diagnosed with high functioning autism and the younger two have severe mental disabilities. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the diagnoses of the children, who are currently working with a Certified Behavioral Case Manager, the family has received multiple 7-day notices that ultimately ended in an eviction, leaving the family of four homeless.



This case was referred to LAHIA through Mental Health Collaborative of Vero, who had been working with and advocating for the family for about four years now. According to Christy's long-time case worker, Christy has done everything that has been asked of her for the betterment of herself and her children. She has worked on her budget, which was \$800 in arrears monthly, so that she now clears about \$300 a month after all of the bills are paid, including rent for her new apartment. All Christy needed from LAHIA was help with the initial cost of obtaining her apartment. Through the PATH grant, LAHIA was able to help with the cost of housing this family.

Now that Christy is safely housed, her goal is to earn/budget the funds to pay the deposit fee for Habitat for Humanity over the next 2 years so that she and her children can have a home built for them. The mortgage for this home will be \$680 a month, allowing the family of 4 to have financial stability. It is clear that this single mother of 3, with her willingness and ability to accomplish goals set out for the amelioration of herself and her children is an inspiration! We are so grateful to have been able to help this strong mother and her family in such a positive, needed step for their future!! "Being a single parent is not a life full of struggles, but a journey for the strong."

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – HENRY

Henry first came to us at the end of July 2021 after he saw a list of volunteering opportunities through his church, Coastal Life. Thank goodness LAHIA stood out to Henry! He came in to fill out an application and the rest is history ~ Henry is now part of the LAHIA family!

Henry is a physical therapist and shares the story of a patient who had been injured a decade prior and experiencing pain ever since. In one session with this patient, Henry was able to ease his pain! When Henry isn't working or volunteering, he enjoys fishing, yard work, and bike riding. He and his wife have been married for 20 years, and in his younger years he was a very good baseball player!



Henry has become an important part of the LAHIA team during the busy morning hours! He sure isn't afraid to multitask! When the time calls for it, Henry deftly handles answering phones, sorting mail and signing our clients in for breakfast with an engaging smile and a "how are you today?" If Henry has extra time after

the breakfast rush passes, he helps organize hygiene products and other donations. Henry is without a doubt a huge help, but one of the greatest benefits is to be in the presence of his positive, uplifting spirit and pure heart. We are extremely fortunate and grateful to be able to call him a friend!!

Henry reminded us of I Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor mind has thought of the things the Lord has prepared for those who love him." Thank you Henry for letting your light shine so brightly!

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – MIKE



We feel it's about time a shout-out was given to our friend and volunteer, Mike!

Mike first became aware of LAHIA through a news feed on his phone. He has been spending much of his free time here at LAHIA, either in the kitchen prepping for dinner, or managing the hygiene cottage, where our clients can shower and have their laundry washed. His other volunteer interests include: Big Brothers, St. Vincent de Paul, serving on the board of his Neighborhood Association & church food bank.

Mike spent 35 years of his life as a mid-level corporate executive in Health Care and 4 years as an Army Officer. Something you might find surprising is that Mike graduated from Army Rangers School and also was a skydiver in his younger years. Today Mike enjoys lifting weights.

We are so grateful to you Mike, for the time you have so freely given and for the genuine comradery you provide to our clients. When a LAHIA client was asked to describe you Mike, the following was given without hesitation, "Mike has a heart of pure gold, and he isn't afraid to show it."

THANKSGIVING 2021

"Thanksgiving is a joyous invitation to shower the world with love and gratitude."

Thanksgiving dinner here at LAHIA was a SUCCESS! The goal this year was to be able to host a special meal for our clients without a hitch, and we nailed it! With 20 energetic volunteers under the tutelage of our fearless leader Chef Carla, 15 turkeys



were cooked, carved, and served with mashed potatoes, gravy, cornbread stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, and roasted butternut squash. Many of the ingredients for the food items served were generously donated by individuals and partners in our own community! The result of the collaboration between donations, planning and time given provided us with the opportunity to serve 88 individuals a delicious Thanksgiving's Day meal that they may not have been able to enjoy otherwise. It also afforded us a moment to let our clients know that God loves them, and so do we!

"The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us." We have so much to be grateful for!!

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!

Learn more at www.lahia.org, call us at (772)781-7002 and "like" us on Facebook for updates.
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