



Love And Hope In Action



DAVID'S 180

David first arrived at LAHIA in January of 2021 after being homeless for the three months prior. Like many other common stories lately, his rent had increased to an unaffordable amount. He lived in his vehicle for a time, but had since lost ownership of that as well. David describes feeling stunned and overwhelmed upon his arrival to LAHIA. He came to us in desperation, looking for help and unsure of what he would find. During the intake process, David was emotional as he described losing his wife, leaving him a widower in early 2020. When asked how we could pray for him, he answered, "Just guidance - to get me back on my feet".

Things were looking pretty bleak for David, and he was feeling it. He was losing his faith in God but hadn't yet lost faith in himself. Even with all of the events he had lived through in such a short amount of time, he still had a spark! He wasn't willing to give up or feel sorry for himself. He was going to get back on his feet but needed a little help getting there! That is where LAHIA came in.

LAHIA was able to help David replace his ID and social security card in order to secure a position working day labor. Unfortunately during one of the commutes to work on the bicycle that LAHIA was able to provide, David was involved in a hit-and-run accident. Shamefully the owner of the vehicle fled the scene leaving David with broken ribs and a wrecked bike. The hit-and-run injured him so severely that he was unable to work the physically demanding day labor job.

Despite even this, David's determination and commitment to himself would not be swayed. He found a cooking position in a local restaurant that his body was physically able to handle after the accident! David didn't know it yet, but this was the beginning of a turning point in his life. One night as his shift was coming to an end, an order was placed for overcooked wings. To meet this request, David would be late to leave his shift. He was so irritated he wanted to meet "the jerk" that would order overcooked wings right before closing time.



Is it a coincidence that the "jerk" just so happened to be the owner of a tow truck company and had a position open for a tow truck operator? David had previously been a tow truck operator! Despite other applicants ahead of him, in the end, David was hired because he was the cheapest guy to insure and had the best handwriting! It is safe to assume that much of David's success is a direct result of his assertiveness when the opportunity presented itself and his push to get back on his feet.

When David was asked how he was feeling at this point in his life, he described it as a 180 degree shift from his first visit to LAHIA. He describes his faith being renewed and that his time at LAHIA felt like being at Grandma's house when he was down on his luck and alone. Now, in David's words, "As far as I'm concerned, I'm on top of the world."

BARBARA – VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Covid has had an impact on most of us and most of that impact has been negative. One absolute positive to come out of it, however, is the addition of this lady to the LAHIA family. The facility where Barbara previously volunteered was forced to change its operating procedures due to Covid and because of this, Barbara's position was no longer needed. Fortunately, it was at this same time that she heard the calling from LAHIA for help!

Barbara just celebrated her 80th birthday! When she was younger, she would go horseback riding and her daughter would ride the barrels. Living on a farm her entire life, she is naturally a bit of an animal lover. Today she has chickens, geese, a Chihuahua, ducks, goats, & lots of parrots.



Barbara brings joy to LAHIA and sometimes her dog, for a little added cuteness. We are so fortunate to have the “Apple Crisp Queen” be a part of our weekly operations! Life has an odd way of making things work out in the end. We are glad that Barbara ended up here, prepping and cooking in our kitchen!

CHRIS – VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

We'd like to highlight another one of our extraordinary volunteers! This amazing lady, Chris, with her super cool English accent, has been cutting hair every-other Tuesday at LAHIA for the past 4 years! Chris had previously volunteered at the Hibiscus House cutting children's hair but had been searching for a local place to volunteer her time when a client of hers mentioned LAHIA ~ happily Chris said, “Sign me up”!

While Chris describes herself as “low-key”, her life has been anything but! Originally from England, Chris left home at 19 with \$94 dollars in her pocket. She had applied for jobs all over the world from Australia to South Africa, Bermuda to the States. The only plan she made was to accept the first offer she received. Imagine embodying that adventurous spirit! Canada was the first to offer Chris a position so off she went for 15 years before she moved to the United States. Today she is still cutting hair at Madison Avenue Hair Salon in Jensen but also loves to knit, fish and has traveled all over the world. When asked if she prefers to fish in fresh or salt water, she replied... “If someone takes me out in a boat, I'll go!” At home, Chris has two dogs – homeless shelter rescues number 9 & 10.



“Making someone feel better, making them feel worthy, like a human being. Reminding them that they are somebody.” This is Chris's mission and the reason she has been a constant here at LAHIA for the last 4 years, joyfully establishing a relationship with anyone who will let her. We are so grateful for the time she shares with us as she lightens the burdens of others.

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