

Love and Hope in Action

Spring Newsletter



TRYSON & AMY

Tryson and his wife Amy traveled to Florida from Arkansas to get their lives back on track. Tryson was in an addiction treatment recovery facility and Amy was in a similar type recovery facility, both here in Florida. Upon leaving the facilities, they were stranded here homelessly. They found their way to LAHIA on a hot Friday afternoon. When they arrived, they were understandably hungry, tired and worried. After meeting their immediate needs and spending some time with the couple, it was determined that they may benefit from Greyhound Bus tickets we are able to provide.

In collaboration with St Vincent De Paul, we are able to send homeless individuals to any location in the continental United States contingent on confirmation with the receiving friend or family member that they are willing to house the individual until they are back on their feet. This is to ensure that we are not sending a homeless individual to live homelessly somewhere else. The offer was made to Tryson and Amy, but there was some hesitation. The couple explained that even though they have a place to live if they returned to Arkansas, the environment their families would provide is not conducive to their desire to remain sober. They confided that even the current situation they find themselves in is making it difficult to stay on the sobriety path they have chosen.



LAHIA was able to provide the couple with enough to keep them comfortable throughout the weekend with the hope of further helping them the following week. When Monday morning arrived, it was a relief to see that they were still in the area, had stayed true to their desire to remain sober and were ready for breakfast! It was an even bigger relief to learn that they had reached out to a family member residing in Tennessee who was willing to take them in! We got to work right away. In a joint effort with St. Vincent De Paul and one of our amazing

volunteers, we were able to get them a Greyhound Bus ticket and a ride to the Ft. Pierce bus station for an 8am departure the very next morning!

Will you breathe a prayer for Tryson and Amy that the Lord will give them the strength to stay on the right path and keep them safe as they begin again? "...old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new", 2 Corinthians 5:17. It's never too late to start over!

ELLEN – VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

This lady right here is so loved at LAHIA! Ellen has been cooking here since 2014. She first became involved with LAHIA while in a small group Bible Study that wanted to get involved with a service project, and thus began cooking dinner once a month. We are so glad Ellen decided to stay with us!!

Ellen's career highlight is working for over 25 years at the Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office as a legal assistant and court transcriptionist. Ellen's vast volunteering interests include everything from time with the Girl Scouts to reading with struggling kids at Pinewood. She volunteers at Project Lift and is presently a Guardian Ad Litem. She also works in the Kids Ministry at Covenant Fellowship Baptist Church and was an Awana leader for six years. For the second year now, Ellen is the Event Lead for American Cancer Society's - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Before that she was the Survivor and Caregiver Chair. Ellen also founded the Treasure Coast alumnae chapter for her college sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. On top of all of these impressive roles, Ellen and her husband Jim are in the process of becoming certified as foster parents!!



Some fun information Ellen shared with us is that she is a sixth generation Conch and has operated the Conch Tour Train! If you're ever in Key West, you'll have to add this fun attraction to your list of must-dos! When Ellen isn't volunteering somewhere, she enjoys reading, Bible study, fostering and rescuing dogs, growing orchids, roses and other things. Ellen also really enjoys cooking... big surprise there!!

Ellen has said that she is so full of Jesus that when a mosquito bites her, he goes away singing "there is power in the blood"! She doesn't want any credit for her generous volunteering time, stating that "it is all Him". We are so grateful that He sent Ellen to us! She is such a huge part of the LAHIA family and it makes us happy to spend time with her!

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Our volunteers are critical to our purpose here at LAHIA! It is as true now as it has always been. LAHIA wouldn't be able to successfully operate without each one of them!



We recently had a volunteer appreciation event to show our thanks and give recognition to all of our wonderful people. The turnout was greater than we had dared to hope for! A record-number of individuals from all around this lovely community set aside time on their Sunday afternoon to attend. We were able to eat together, laugh together, share stories together and make new connections. Morning volunteers were able to be introduced to afternoon volunteers. Kitchen volunteers were able to meet the hygiene and clothing volunteers. The engagement, connection

and comradery between these likeminded generous individuals from all walks of life was a joy to behold!

We are so fortunate to have such an awe-inspiring group of individuals rallied around us and our clients. We feel blessed to have your seemingly unending time and support. We hope you are aware of the difference you have made and continue to make in others' lives ~ differences that truly matter!



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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