

# Love and Hope in Action

## Summer Newsletter



### Aaron

Aaron has been a part of the LAHIA family since 2015. He came as a man struggling with substance abuse, homelessness, unsteady work, and in need of basic services, counseling, prayer and emotional support. From the beginning, Aaron willingly and capably busied himself with all sorts of handyman tasks around the facility and property for a couple years. He assisted with various projects led by other volunteers and just seemed to have a knack for fixing and making things better.

Last year Aaron enrolled in the LAHIA Culinary Pathway training program and persevered under Chef Carla's rigorous 9-week curriculum. He certainly felt out of his league at the beginning but graduated proudly with a new tolerance for vegetables as well as the skills needed to work safely and efficiently in the food industry!

One of the bigger blessings of the class is the focus on soft skills training. These include punctuality, personal hygiene and presentation, time management, safety awareness, and working well with others in a high-pressure environment. Aaron excelled at all of it and is now working full-time. With his earnings and motivation to move forward, he has done the tedious work of cleaning up old debts and clearing his driver's license.



Aaron, we are so proud of your persistence in overcoming strongholds from your past and are encouraged as we witness your relationship with the Lord grow. You will always be a part of the LAHIA family!

### VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – Juanita and Mia



This volunteer highlight is double special as it is a twofer! We at LAHIA feel it is time to shine a spotlight on two very special ladies who have spent much of their time volunteering in our hygiene cottage. For those who are not aware, the hygiene cottage houses two sets of showers and a laundry facility for the homeless individuals in our community. So without further ado, please meet Juanita and Mia!

Both Juanita and Mia go above and beyond to help our clients. These ladies keep the facility organized, clean and ensure that anyone wishing to take a shower has the opportunity to do so. They stay past their scheduled time to make sure everything is left tidy and our clients have clean, dry clothing, especially after a rainy, stormy night.

Both of these ladies found their way to LAHIA during a time of need in their own lives and both are currently living homelessly here in Martin County. Unfortunately, each of these beautiful ladies have lived through some type of trauma. Luckily for LAHIA and our clients, however, they found their way to us and are willing to help provide services with much kindness. Both have previous volunteer experience: Juanita created a 5K walk in Boston and helped feed the homeless individuals living in Ft. Lauderdale using leftovers from the cruise lines. Mia used to coach youth baseball & softball and also volunteered time at Habitat for Humanity.



When asked if they enjoy volunteering at LAHIA, both answered with a resounding YES! They find joy in interacting with the clients. “Providing a service and seeing how kindness effects change. Giving dignity to those who deserve it. Giving dignity to those who didn’t even know they could get it”. Thank you ladies for being reliable, for following through on the commitments you have made, and for taking such great care in the responsibilities given to you. We are so grateful to be a part of your lives, for however long you will allow us!



### **Brian**

Brian was stranded homelessly here in Martin County after following a job offer that didn’t come to fruition. Two weeks had gone by before he found his way to LAHIA – a fellow homeless individual let him know of our location. Brian took the initiative and marched right over... literally, like he was on a mission. He wasn’t afraid to let us know exactly what he needed. Frankly, he wasn’t shy about sharing any information about himself – if we asked it of him or not, he was a pretty opened book. He let us know, for instance, that both his mother and father are deceased. He doesn’t have the close family support that so many of us have, during a time of need. This doesn’t seem to dampen his up-beat attitude, however. He had positive, uplifting, motivational comments at the ready - even when discussing something so sad.

Brian further showed his character while waiting for his Greyhound Bus ticket to arrive from our partner St. Vincent de Paul, when he stepped in to help move dirt for a paving project underway on the LAHIA property. Brian, who is an interior and exterior painter by trade, is going home to begin a new job search. We’re glad that he came to us with all of his confidence and determination – it was pretty inspiring to witness. “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” God-speed Brian – go with our blessing to new beginnings!



Thank you for your continued interest and support of LAHIA. 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](http://www.lahia.org), call us at (772)781-7002 and “like” us on Facebook for updates.  
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