

Love and Hope in Action

Winter Newsletter



JOHN HAS A PLACE TO CALL HOME!

We have been able to help this gentleman obtain a home! John had been homeless off and on for about a year when he was introduced to one of LAHIA's outreach employees, Jarrett. Sadly, John had separated from his wife of 20 years, and during the separation John lost everything. To add to his deprivation, he'd been diagnosed with liver cancer, an illness classified as terminal.



John has lived a very interesting life, and has lived it all over the world! By John's own admission, he has been a person of high moral standings because he is a Mennonite. He really cares about people that care about him. He has a Bachelors degree in computer science and computer engineering. He also has a Masters in Florida history and anthropology. To add to his impressive resume John is also surprisingly a comedian and a magician!

In speaking with John to gather information for this letter, he routinely insisted that Jarrett receive due credit for all of the help he was able to provide through LAHIA. He said that Jarrett "made everything good for him – made sure everything would be okay". We are so appreciative to have Jarrett as a part of the LAHIA team and so grateful John is in a safe environment!

"Grace and gratitude will make the hard stuff bearable and the good stuff even sweeter."

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – GENE

Eugenio, known here at LAHIA as Gene, is a special volunteer! Initially Gene heard about LAHIA from others in the community that were in need and being helped by LAHIA, so he just had to come here! Thank goodness for word of mouth or Gene may never have found his way to us. That was eight years ago!

When Gene isn't providing a helpful hand at LAHIA, he enjoys fishing, snorkeling, camping, hunting, painting, and cleaning. Previously he had a unique career as the operator of a tugboat and fishing boat!



Gene is such a huge part of the daily operation here at LAHIA. We see him almost every day. In fact, it's odd if Gene is not here. He pitches in wherever and whenever he can. He unloads vehicles when donations come in, washes dishes, pots and pans during breakfast and dinner, landscapes around the entire property, cleans inside and out, lovingly attends to our chickens... and even interprets for our Spanish speaking guests! Simply put, Gene helps with just about anything and everything that is needed at any given moment.

Gene -- we are so grateful for you and the time that you give to LAHIA! Thank you for being such a positive, consistent, helpful part of our days here!!

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – MAUREEN

If there has ever been any wonder as to how LAHIA is able to produce such creative, delicious, homemade meals for our clients on a daily basis... this lady might be onsite – meet Maureen!

Maureen spends much of her free time in the kitchen here at LAHIA prepping and cooking food for the evening meal. When she isn't here, it may surprise you to know... Maureen is quit the thrill-seeker / daredevil! She's been both parasailing and hang-gliding! She also has a sailboat with her husband, and together they enjoy short and long trips to places like the Florida Keys. Maureen is also a member of both the choir and the bell choir at her church.



One of her dreams was to open her own restaurant which she achieved when she created her Panera-like café, Boca Buns! She also began to teach her culinary skills which she loved so much that she ended up teaching for 15 years! After Maureen retired from her dream job, she was searching for a place that could benefit from her talents. As she called around, everyone she spoke to told her to call LAHIA! And that was that! Maureen is now part of the LAHIA family!!

Technically, Maureen is a huge asset to LAHIA as she is a culinary chef by trade. The true benefit of having her as part of our team here, however, is the friendship she so willingly gives to all. Maureen is readily available when called upon to help. She has been aptly referred to as our “Ace-in-the-hole” and she truly deserves the title!

Thank you Maureen for the time and the talents you freely give to LAHIA and our clients. What a gift you are to all of us!!

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*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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