



## Love And Hope In Action

### **RATOYA – working single mother of 3 on the verge of homelessness.**

On a busy Friday morning, LAHIA received a call from Gary the Volunteer Coordinator/Case Worker at Salvation Army of Martin County. He had just met with a single mother of three on the verge of homelessness. Before her funds ran out, in a desperate attempt to keep her children and herself safely housed, Ratoya went to Salvation Army looking for help and resources. Through Gary's diligence and knowledge of local resources, they reached out to LAHIA! Together we spoke to Ratoya and discovered that the family's rent had increased by an unaffordable \$1000 per month and causing them to vacate. The family had no choice but to reside at the Suburban extended stay hotel until another option became available – but time was running out!

In further speaking with Ratoya, it was discovered that she has a brother in Iowa who is willing to let her family of four live with him until they can afford a residence of their own! Ratoya already has a job lined up in Iowa and is pleased to discover that the cost of living in Iowa is such that she will be able to afford housing for her family. Another lucky break is that the Iowa school year does not begin until the end of August, giving the family time to register and prepare.

In collaboration with St. Vincent De Paul and Gary at the Salvation Army, we were able to gather all of the required information and documentation needed to purchase Greyhound bus tickets for the entire family to relocate to Iowa! In the meantime, we helped pay for the cost of lodging to keep them safe until their departure a few days later, as well as gather clothing, travel bags and food for their trip. The last piece of the puzzle was put in place when one of our kind volunteers confirmed they would be willing to transport the family to the bus station on the day of their trip.



This brave mother along with her three very polite, helpful children are heading to a new life and a new school during pretty monumental school years. One is entering high school as a freshman, one is starting middle school as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and the youngest is going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. There is a mix of excitement and nervousness between the children and here we see the beauty of a new day! Lord, You are always with us! When we begin to fear, remind us that You are with us. Help us to be brave when confronted with new people and new situations. Keep these children safe. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## CRAIG – VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Meet Craig another one of LAHIA's incredible volunteers. If Craig isn't fishing or spending time with his daughter who just started 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he can likely be found cooking breakfast for 60+ hungry people in LAHIA's kitchen with the music cranking!

Craig recently retired as owner of a marketing and sales company in Maryland and moved to Florida. That is when he met our friend and long-time volunteer, Joe who has been his fishing buddy for a few years now! Initially Craig would come to LAHIA with Joe to help cook breakfast. Now Craig picks up Publix donations of breads, pastries and deserts twice a week along with cooking breakfast and anything else we ask him to do... as long as it doesn't interfere with his fishing!



Just to be clear, Craig loves to fish -- from the brackish waters of the Chesapeake, where he still owns property in Virginia, to the intercostal and oceanic waters here in South Florida.

We are so grateful Craig shares his time with LAHIA when he is not spending it at his home in Virginia or fishing these southern waters. When we asked Craig if we could honor him with a volunteer highlight, he said he doesn't need any recognition... "Just let me keep working here."

Thank you Craig for all the help you provide and for sharing the uplifting atmosphere that surrounds you!

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS INVENTORY!

Did you know, LAHIA serves an average of 763 meals every week? Did you also know that the meals made at LAHIA are created mainly from donated food items? Large or small, all food donations are utilized by our creative chef to produce healthy, homemade meals for anyone that comes in hungry. Unfortunately, our food inventory has significantly dwindled over the summer. We are hopeful that adding the Chef's list of needed items below will inspire food donations! While LAHIA will accept any and all food donations, we have plenty of pastries and breads as Publix generously donates these items daily.

**Kitchen items:** eggs, milk, Country Crock butter spread, grits, breakfast meats, sugar, coffee, powdered creamer, gallon-sized iced tea bags, ranch dressing, Italian dressing & maple syrup.

**Emergency pantry items:** single-serve pop-top Dinty Moore beef stew, Progresso and Campbell soups, Chef Boyardee, Pork & Beans; single serve cookies, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, and single serve dried fruit.

Perhaps you have items at home you won't be using, or maybe you would rather order online and have items delivered to LAHIA. Every item makes a difference and we are appreciative of all of it!



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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