



Love And Hope In Action

2022-2023 Winter Newsletter

Bruce is an 80-year-old homeless man that had to leave his Stuart rented room due to drug activity on the premises. He had been living there for 15 months but then had to move to the Suburban Inn for \$113 a night on his \$886 per month income. He, unfortunately, does not qualify for most of the housing assistance programs because he does not exhibit physical or mental health issues or deal with substance abuse. He does present with some back pain and cardiac medical issues and takes multiple medications for health reasons.



Having retired about 10 years ago, Bruce has a long history of construction work. This work background helped him to stay in fairly good physical shape. LAHIA Client Services staff provided Bruce with a local landlord's contact information in early November. Once Bruce reached out to the landlord and visited the property to ensure it was satisfactory, LAHIA then paid for the first month's rent to get him into his own place in Hobe Sound in December. In addition, LAHIA provided clothes, sheets, blankets, and towels, and completed Food stamps to help Bruce remain financially capable of paying his rent going forward.

Bruce came back after a few days in his new home and thanked the LAHIA staff profusely for their help. Truly a happy ending!



Volunteer Highlight Micki (pictured on the right)

This Long Island wild child gave her father a run for his money when she was younger. These days she uses that same spunk and energy to do good things for her community! Micki



volunteers all over the place! She retired about 5 years ago and immediately thought, "Oh, no... what did I do that for?!" She quickly got busy filling her time with volunteer work, admitting that she got a little too busy, a little too fast and forgot to leave herself some free time. Micki currently volunteers at Hospice by visiting patients in nursing homes, Volunteers in Medicine by checking people in when they first arrive, Safe Space, and when they are busy House of Hope gives her a call for help!

Micki learned about LAHIA simply from driving by on her way to the Kane Center where she previously volunteered time by helping set up events or serving. Finally, she decided to stop in to see what we are all about and has been a part of the LAHIA family ever since!

At first Micki would help in the LAHIA office, but has really found her niche helping to serve breakfast in the mornings as she loves talking to the people. Besides, she spent her life doing office work and doesn't want to do that anymore. When asked what her hobbies are, she answered, "I don't have any. I'm not talented so I can't do crafts, but I love helping out and socializing." Volunteering is perfect for Micki, and we are the lucky ones for it!



When **Carla and Jeff** first arrived at LAHIA, in April of 2021, they were having a really hard time. They were on their way to West Palm and ended up here in Stuart by mistake. Shortly after arriving, Carla was arrested ~ confessing that this probably saved her life. While Carla was incarcerated, Jeff was left alone to take care of their "girls", their 2 young dogs. He says he felt lost, stressed and confused. Jeff would stop at LAHIA for meals, bringing his girls with him. He took such good care of them in Carla's absence.

Once Carla was released, they both wasted no time getting jobs at Labor Finders, working to save money for a place to live. They had spent about a year living homelessly before finding a home. Carla was getting her hair cut, explaining to the hairdresser that she and Jeff were homeless. Carla said that the woman immediately got on the phone and helped them obtain the place they currently call home.



Excited for Jeff and Carla's success and determination in finding housing, LAHIA started gathering the items they needed to help make their new house a home! Most of these supplies were donated straight from this community!! We pulled together all of the cleaning supplies we could get our hands on. We delivered van loads of housing items such as bedding, kitchen supplies, toiletries, food and everything in between. When a donor would call to offer a bed, we would pick it up and deliver it directly to Jeff and Carla!

From the couple to LAHIA ~ "Thank you for everything you have done, and still do for us! We don't know where we would be without you." Jeff and Carla have been housed for over a year and a half now! They feel safe, happy and blessed and we are still celebrating with them!!

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!

Thank you

