

# Love And Hope In Action



**HEATHER** came to us in early August with her 4-year-old son. She came from Michigan to live with her mother in Stuart, hoping for support as a single mom. Sadly, her mom's HOA would not allow her and her son to stay. Faced with homelessness, Heather came to LAHIA for help.

Heather needed to buy time to be able to find housing that fit within her housing voucher budget. Furthermore, with the school year approaching, Heather needed to find a VPK program for her son ASAP; doing so would also allow Heather to find work to support her family.

For the ensuing 10 days, LAHIA put Heather and her son up in a hotel, and provided administrative documentation to help her get her son into VPK. By the end of those 10 days, her son was registered with VPK. We are now blessed to report that Heather and her son have been housed, and Heather has found solid employment in the field of her choice!



**IT'S A BOY!** In May of 2023, LAHIA learned that one of our female clients living in the woods, was 7+ months pregnant. What followed was an amazing team effort of grace and support between numerous partner agencies.

Upon learning about the pregnancy, LAHIA quickly mobilized to support her immediate day-to-day needs, while partner agencies worked on a long-term plan for her and her baby.

**LAHIA** initiated daily support that included giving her full access to our air-conditioned dining room, food, water, and hygiene support, during the heat of the day, when we are normally closed to clients who aren't engaged in client services.



Meanwhile, LAHIA staff marialed key partner agencies in crafting a long-term plan. **Healthy Start** from the **Florida Department of Health Martin County** assumed prenatal care and appointments for the last two months of her pregnancy, while **Ride United** provided transportation to and from her appointments.

A week before the due date, LAHIA put the client up in a hotel. Both LAHIA and Healthy Start staff conducted daily wellness checks, ensuring she had sufficient food and hygiene support. Then, on the first of August, the client was transported to **Lawnwood Medical Center** in Fort Pierce, where she delivered a healthy baby boy!

Thereafter, case workers from the **Department of Children & Families**, in conjunction with **Safe Space** and **Safe Families with Children of the Treasure Coast**, found housing and support for both mother and child! How grateful we are for the life-giving support system that came together for these precious souls.

## PEGGY – VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

I sold my house in Connecticut in 2021 after raising my son and becoming an empty nester after he moved to Austin, Texas for a PhD program at the University of Texas. With family in Florida, I thought I'd move on down and start a new life. I was specifically looking for an organization that worked with the homeless and those struggling in poverty. I'm a freelance writer, so I had lots of availability and LAHIA's volunteer coordinator was happy to fill that time for me!



I did a lot of volunteering at my son's schools, from kindergarten all the way to senior year. Painting sets for the annual musical, being a room parent, PTA meetings, whatever was needed. When my son graduated, though, I didn't do anything but work. I knew a part of my new life in Florida would be volunteering.

I love volunteering 3-8 shifts per week at LAHIA! But when I'm not at LAHIA or writing something for a client, I like to walk, go to the gym, the beach, the pool, visit family. I listen to a lot of podcasts, too and read at least 5 newspapers per day online. My Border Terrier, Maude, is very good company.

Something about me that might surprise you: I was a pipe organ prodigy when I was a kid. There aren't too many of those. Played at local churches and often filled in for the organist (also my teacher) at my own Congregational church. Also, I'm just short of losing 100 pounds in the past two years!

I really enjoy my work at LAHIA. The other volunteers and the staff are fun to work with and I learn a lot from them. But the clients I've gotten to know over the past two years have actually turned my life around. They are grateful, pleasant, frustrated, and anxious all at the same time. If I can show them a smile, give them some sweet tea and listen a bit, it hopefully gives them a little dose of joy and makes my heart full.

## TURKEY TROT 5K RUN/WALK FOR LAHIA

This year's Palm City Turkey Trot will be the 12<sup>th</sup> annual 5K Run/Walk at Palm City Presbyterian Church on Thanksgiving morning. All proceeds will support LAHIA! This well-known event attracts over 600 runners and their family members each year. Sponsors and volunteers are needed and welcome! It is not too early to sign up as a volunteer, sponsor or runner!!

To get more involved, please email [palmcitypresturkeytrot@gmail.com](mailto:palmcitypresturkeytrot@gmail.com)  
To learn more and register as a runner, please visit [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com)

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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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