



# Good News!

Summer / Fall 2016

Helping Hands provides help for the homeless and others in crisis, especially women and children. We provide a safe and clean place to live, a compassionate and friendly environment, life skills, training and counseling. We also assist with food, clothes, medical, dental, transportation, and jobs. Helping Hands is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) serving the people of Ocala/Marion County.

## SPOTLIGHTING **SUNBRITE** APARTMENTS



One of the two apartment buildings owned by Helping Hands are the Sunbrite Apartments. These apartments are for single women and single moms. Ten women and five children currently live here, many of whom have a history of emotional or physical abuse and several who have defeated heavy addictions. Since being with Helping Hands, ALL the women have been able to get jobs and are successfully getting back on their feet. One of the best things about Sunbrite is that the ladies look out for each other and encourage each other, having overcome many of the same issues! In total we are serving 41 people, of which 20 are children. If you are interested in taking a tour of our facilities please contact Nigel Wagg at (352)732-4464.

## CAR DONATED!



Kim is a hard worker and a great mother. But even with a great desire, Kim still faced the challenge of getting to work each day, getting her son to child care, and trying to figure out how to get to school as well. It was a very difficult task to accomplish without a vehicle, so Kim had to put off her dream of college.

Then something happened that changed things around for Kim. Someone saw a Helping Hands flyer about donating a vehicle. The Lord laid on their hearts the desire to donate a used vehicle they had to Helping Hands ... and they did! Kim has already been able to use this vehicle and it has been a huge blessing! She has been able to continue working with almost full-time hours, get her son back and forth from child care, and.... SHE JUST STARTED HER CLASSES AT COLLEGE! The donated vehicle has made a huge difference in Kim's life! If you would like to donate a vehicle, contact Nigel Wagg at 352-732-4464.

## **\$6,600.00** RAISED!



World Wings International Sponsored a Dinner - Fundraiser to benefit Helping Hands. It was held at the Country Club of Ocala and was a wonderful evening that included entertainment by Louis Armstrong impersonator, Danny Rebecca, powerful testimonies from two Helping Hands residents, and a live auction with guest auctioneer Evelio Silvera. Our thanks to all the wonderful ladies from PanAm.



Several of the former PanAm flight attendants which make up World Wings International

# RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Rhonda was born to teenage parents who really never wanted her, and a mom who hated her from the very beginning. Her Aunt, who was only eleven when Rhonda was born, shared memories of her mother hitting her so hard, that she knocked her out of the high chair and on to the kitchen floor. This happened before Rhonda was even a year old. As a teenager, the mental and emotional abuse was unbearable, and she attempted suicide several times. She says, "Nobody was even paying enough attention to me to really notice". Her mother always told her that no one would ever love her, and she believed it.

Her father remarried and had another family. He considered Rhonda "a mistake from his past." The day after she graduated from high school, her father told her that she had two weeks to get out, and she became homeless.

At age thirty, Rhonda met the father of her children. Four days after she became pregnant, he knocked her down the stairs. She felt "her entire soul and spirit collapse. Night after night, he came home and abused me in every way, and I couldn't stand up." He used her mother against her saying, "Your own mother doesn't even love you." After having three children, Rhonda found in them a reason to stand up and find a way out.

The last time he hit her was on Valentine's Day of 2009. She still has pain and ringing in her ear as a reminder. She was able to get away and was living in a hotel in Ocala. She was down to her last few dollars and was walking with her children to Walmart to get a few groceries. She didn't know what to do after that money ran out. It began to rain, and she began to cry. She looked up to the sky and screamed, "God, where are you?" A homeless man came up to her and gave her some money. She was able to get enough groceries for one more week. Back at the hotel, the manager told her that her room was paid for the month and gave her some more food. God heard her prayer.

Rhonda heard of Helping Hands at a church rummage sale. Her money was running out again, and she decided to try one more door. She moved in to one of our apartments in September, and she is working in one of our thrift stores. She feels much better about herself, and her children are a lot more emotionally stable. Thank you for all your support in helping Rhonda and her children build a new and better life

**God**  
is my refuge  
and strength  
an ever present  
help in trouble



"some of our kids at Helping Hands enjoying a party"

## IN MEMORY AND HONOR

Throughout the year we receive gifts in honor of loved ones as listed below.

### IN HONOR OF

*in honor or  
memory  
of someone*

**George Albright III** by His Employees  
**Karol MacDonald's 90th Birthday** by Asta Nilsen  
**Teresa Marie Hutchinson** by Lucian Hutchinson

### IN MEMORY OF

**Frances Colbert** by Russell Colbert  
**Elizabeth & Floyd Keeney** by Randy & Diane Briggs  
**Belle Cochran** by Ruth King  
**Alice B. Banghart** by Joalice Hagle  
**Lewis E. Dinkins** by Kathy Dinkins  
**Cathy Fischer** by Scot Brantley

## WAYS TO HELP...



Your financial support enables us to provide housing and assist with food, clothing, toiletries, medical, transportation, jobs, counseling, and education grants. If you would like to make a donation you may do so in the following ways.

**CHECKS-** Make payable to Helping Hands and mail to the office at the address listed below.

**CREDIT CARDS-** Follow instructions on our website.  
[www.HelpingHandsOcala.org](http://www.HelpingHandsOcala.org)

**All gifts are tax-deductible**

### OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1. Donate to our Consignment and Thrift stores.**  
Call or see website for more details. We do pick up large items.
- 2. Volunteer.** See our website for an application.
- 3. Assist with a meeting to introduce Helping Hands** to your Church, business, civic associations or friends. Call Nigel Wagg for assistance at 352-732-4464.

## EASTER BASKETS



### Easter Baskets Delivered!

We want to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Mikula and the staff at the Palm Garden of Ocala! They put together and delivered Easter baskets to ALL the children of Helping Hands! They were beautiful baskets full of all kinds of gifts and treats. This was a huge blessing to all our kids!