



Good News!

Winter / Spring 2017

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.

DONATE AND VISIT OUR THRIFT STORES



West Hwy 200

(Located 7.5 miles southwest of I-75)

Pine Run

Palm Cay

Treasure Shoppe
Thrift & Consignments
8820 SW Hwy 200
Ocala, FL 34481
(352) 237-1761

HELPING HANDS operates two local thrift stores to help fund our ministry. We employ our residents to allow them opportunity to get back in the workforce as they get back on their feet again. Stop by and see what treasures you can find. You may also drop off items to donate at either of the stores.



CUT-A-THON Raises \$1,200



Planet Cosmo Salon held a haircutting fundraiser for Helping Hands. They donated 100% of the proceeds totaling \$1,200!! It was a fun and uplifting day. We are very thankful for Planet Cosmo and all those who supported this wonderful fundraiser!



\$5,000.00 DONATED!



BBVA Compass Foundation and Compass Bank representatives presented a check for \$5,000 to Helping Hands to support our efforts in helping people impacted by homelessness, abuse and poverty.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the BBVA Compass Foundation and their bank's leadership team. Their support is a big lift to our efforts in helping hurting people in our community.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Frank grew up in Connecticut in a very close, loving family. But after time both of his parents became heavily involved with drugs and eventually both were incarcerated. At this time, at the age of 14, Frank was taken into

states custody. He remained in foster care until the age of 16 until he was emancipated by a judge and has been on his own ever since. He worked, went to school, and played sports, but instead of going to college after high school he joined his family in the crime and drug lifestyle. As a result of this lifestyle Frank was arrested and incarcerated for the first time at the age of 19. When Frank got out of prison he worked his way up the ranks of a large corporation in New York and eventually oversaw several high-volume pizza store franchises in Long Island. Seemingly "overnight" Frank became very successful.

Frank tells us that at this point he did not have God in his life and several years later lost everything: his business, wife, kids and his home, all to a terrible drug addiction that he chose over everything else. He found himself back in prison again and was released several years later with nothing. He was divorced at age 33 and was going to marry again but drugs stood in the way. In 2005 he overdosed on drugs that resulted in him being paralyzed and had to move to Florida for his rehabilitation. During this rehab he became addicted to pain killers which led to more criminal activity and drug use that eventually led to more incarcerations over the years and ended up in the Marion County Jail.

It was in the Marion County Jail that Frank committed his life to Jesus Christ and the amazing part of that was that his wife Julie was in jail the same time he was and he didn't even realize it. Julie also gave her heart to Jesus Christ while in jail. They had given up on each other at this point, but when they realized God had been working in their lives, they knew they were to stay together. They did, and after being released from jail the only place they could find to live was a place where drug addicts were actively using. They knew they had to get out... but had no place to go. At this time they were having Bible studies with a couple who was well acquainted with Helping Hands. He introduced them to us and after we interviewed them, Frank and Julie were accepted as residents.

After moving in, Frank and Julie were able to have their teenage daughter come and live with them as well because they were now in a safe and positive environment! Frank and Julie have jobs, are very hard workers, and have a great love for God. We are glad they are here, and believe they have a great future.

We are very grateful for all the prayers and financial support we receive, in helping us help Frank and his family and so many others build a new and better life.



IN MEMORY OF

CLP Allan Morone by Sandy Morone
Trudy Just by Robert J. Just



Donating new school shoes for the children of Helping Hands.

We want to thank the staff of Palm Garden of Ocala! They bought new tennis shoes for each one of our 17 children living at Helping Hands. This was a huge blessing to each of our kids as they prepared to head back to school.

BURGER 21 EVENT



Ken DePasquale (pictured on left) of Burger 21 presented Helping Hands with a check for \$1,000. Burger 21 chose Helping Hands to be a recipient of their "Neighborhood Charity of the Month". The check represented a percentage of total store sales. Thank you to all our friends who came out that day to enjoy a great meal and support Helping Hands!

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/ONLINE- Go to our website at 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 can 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, club or friends. Call Nigel Wagg for assistance at 352-732-4464.