



Good News!

Helping Hands supports those in need by providing housing in a compassionate and safe environment. We also assist our residents with employment, food, clothes, medical and dental needs, transportation, counseling, and education. Our mission is to help others come out of difficult and painful circumstances into a new and better life through the grace of God. Helping Hands is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) serving the people of Ocala/Marion County.

Our Resident's Apartments



Thank You For Helping Us Help Others!



"Helping Hands has been an amazing journey. I now have wonderful friends and my relationship with Jesus grows stronger with every passing day. They take time out of their lives to show me love and help guide me in my walk with Christ. I never imagined my life could be so full of hope.."

- Arlene



"Praise God for Helping Hands. I must say I have never experienced an organization such as Helping Hands. Their team is nothing but genuine, loving, God honoring people who really take 'enhancing the kingdom to heart.' My family had a serious need. They took the time to listen and hear our hearts on the matter and acted accordingly."

- The Scotts



"Helping Hands has been the biggest blessing to me and my daughter's life. I've never felt the love from such a group of people. It's so comforting going home and feel safe. Not only have they helped me with housing, but they've helped me grow my walk with the Lord. I seriously wouldn't want to be anywhere else with my daughter."

- Cinthia

Two Beautiful Stories of HELPING HANDS RESIDENTS

KENNETH & VALENTINE'S STORY As a young mother, Valentine followed her husband into the world of using and selling drugs. After 7 years of this lifestyle, with an abusive marriage, Valentine got away from her husband. Feeling lost and alone, she met Kenneth. Five weeks later she was pregnant, and sadly two days before the due date, Kenneth Jr. was still-born. This additional pain in her life became crippling. Over the course of time Valentine had two more children, but also began making, using, and selling drugs again. This time it was with Kenneth.



In January of 2013, Kenneth and Valentine were arrested and ended up in prison. It was there that they both independently asked Jesus to be Lord and Savior of their lives. Valentine's heart and life were transformed in prison, though she was bound on the outside, she became free on the inside.

After nearly 7 years of prison, Valentine was released and left a different person. She couldn't return to what she had come out of, so what was the answer? Someone recommended that Valentine apply to Helping Hands.

In November of 2019 we gladly accepted Valentine into our program, and over the course of time we helped her secure employment, become part of a good church, and worked with her and DCF to regain custody of her children, Preston and Makenzie.

A few months after being with us, Valentine said "the transition from prison was so easy because of the amount of fellowship available at HH...I have a wonderful job. I have re-established myself. I have constant fellowship. Their generosity and love are just what I needed to come out of prison to. They have blessed me beyond measure."

Valentine diligently worked to re-establish her life outside of prison. Meanwhile Kenneth was still in prison. He could have been released on probation sooner but remained with the Department of Corrections to finish obtaining his state certification and license for waste-water management.

In July of 2021 Kenneth was released from prison as a new man in Christ, with a new outlook on life, and new job skills, but he still needed a safe place to live. That is why he applied to Helping Hands. Well, Valentine might have had something to do with it too. But Kenneth and Valentine were not married, and by law Kenneth could not yet be with his kids unsupervised, so we placed Kenneth in his own apartment until we could help him close out his DCF case.

Kenneth says, "My life has gotten so much better since being at Helping Hands in so many ways. I now have stable and affordable housing. Within one week of being released from prison, Helping Hands found me a wonderful job. They are in the process of helping me with my transportation issues and needs. And because of all this, I was able to open up a case plan so that I am able to get my parental rights back." Kenneth continued to say, "I have never been surrounded by so many people who actually care,

but are willing to help you achieve goals that you thought at one time were unattainable. God has placed the people at Helping Hands and their residents in my family's life for a specific reason. The people are absolutely awesome and do amazing things through the grace of God. I will say the Reynolds family is very grateful for Helping Hands."

After some time of premarital counseling, Kenneth & Valentine were happily married, but they remain under two different roofs here at Helping Hands, and we will continue to assist them with things like affordable housing and completion of their DCF case, until they reach complete reunification as one family and under one roof. We are so glad to be able to help people and families like the Reynolds build a new and better life by the grace of God!



To view Valentine & Kenny's VIDEO
testimony scan the QR code



Building A New And Better Life



SUE'S STORY Coming from an abusive home environment, Sue began using drugs at the age of 13. Eventually she found herself in jail facing a potential 16 years in prison. In jail, Sue surrendered her life to God and soon her charges were dropped, but her challenges were not over.

Once released from jail, Sue determined she would not go back to her former life, but she made the mistake of seeking security in a relationship with an ungodly man. She soon became pregnant and gave birth to twins. The father of the children became abusive, and Sue left him. She was now alone and scared, but was committed to giving her girls a better life! That is when she applied to Helping Hands.

Sue came to us with her young twins, homeless, hurting, and needing a clean & safe place to live. Since being with us, she has healed and prospered, and become such a shining light of joy. And in Sue's blessings, her children have been blessed and spared from the life that Sue knew growing up.

We have seen Sue rely on God and grow in her relationship with Him, while overcoming many challenges and experiencing the favor and blessing of God in her life. Sue came to us depending on Psyche medications and in danger of relapsing, but she has never relapsed and has been off her medications for quite some time. After becoming a resident, Sue left a bad job situation and obtained a waitress position at a local restaurant. She soon became a valuable, award-winning employee, while also continuing to be a loving single mother to her twins. In addition to the twins, Sue has two older boys. One night Sue received a phone call that no mother should receive. Her 19-year-old son had been stabbed multiple times. Sue was able to see her son at the hospital being kept alive, but he died two days later. The suffocating pain and grief of Jeremiah's murder was almost unbearable, but despite being tempted to turn to drugs for escape from the pain, Sue instead clung to God and found strength in her Helping Hands community & church family.

In the midst of being a single mother, financial provider, working in her church's girls ministry, attending our weekly meetings, and healing from the pain and loss of her son; Sue applied to Habitat for Humanity. She hoped to receive their specialized assistance in obtaining and owning her own home- and she did. Sue has put in nearly 1,000 hours of work and effort in building her home and helping other Habitat clients build their homes.

Although she will always be a part of the Helping Hands family, we are so happy to see Sue transition from our program into her own home. As happy as we are for her, we are even more proud of her. To know her condition and needs when she came to us, it has been a tremendous blessing to watch her grow in love and grace, to see her diligently seek God, and to overcome trials with persevering faith!

Sue says, "Helping Hands has done so much for me, [they have] helped me find the better version of myself. Helping Hands has helped and allowed me to take time in my cocoon and heal; so that I could become a strong, healthy, determined, confident, mother and follower of Jesus Christ. They have given me tools, so that when I leave, I can stand firm in the word [of God], and I can continue to stay close to my best friend, which is Jesus Christ...[tools] to hold myself accountable for the choices I make so that I never feel alone. Helping Hands has made me successful, and I say this with true boldness and confidence as a follower of Jesus Christ, because true success is Jesus."



To view Sue's VIDEO testimony scan the QR code above.



Some of the children who found a safe, loving, and happy place at Helping Hands

Ways To Support Helping Hands



Our Helping Hands Thrift Store is a great place to shop and save, while supporting our mission to help others build better lives. You can also support us by donating furniture, clothes, appliances, and much more. All sales go to help fund the operational cost of Helping Hands. Pick-up and delivery services are available.

Come Visit Us and Thank You For Your Support!

Monday – Friday 9:00 – 4:30 & Saturday 9:00 – 3:00

8820 SW Hwy 200 ■ (352) 237 - 1761

Would You Like To DONATE YOUR VEHICLE?

By donating a vehicle you can make a huge difference in the life of a single mother, for example, in getting to work, taking children to school, or going grocery shopping. We invite you to consider donating your vehicle to Helping Hand and help others succeed in life.

For more details call Ken Dinkins at **352-547-4212** or go to our website.

(Your donation is tax deductible)



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