



"helping build better lives"

Good News!

Helping Hands is a Christ-centered ministry inspiring and empowering those facing homelessness and extreme need to build new and better lives through the grace of God. We do this by providing housing, with transformational discipleship and growth opportunities, in a safe and caring atmosphere. We are compassionate and unwavering in our wrap-around support to at-risk and vulnerable men, women, and children ... with a commitment to help our residents turn potential into great success.



Thank You For Helping Us Help Others!



A NEW BEGINNING

Cheyanne came to us nine months pregnant, homeless, jobless, and as she said, "hopeless". Drugs had controlled her life. She was desperate for relief and permanent change.

She applied at Helping Hands and during the interview she turned her life over to God, receiving Jesus as her Savior. She said later, "I left my interview a totally different person, the weight on my chest was lifted. I could finally breathe."

Cheyanne gave birth to her beautiful daughter just weeks after becoming a resident, and since then we have loved seeing the progress and transformation in her life! She continues to seek God and has obtained her GED, been blessed with a vehicle, and discovered she likes electrical work, and wants to get her electrician's license. Cheyanne is a wonderful mother with a beautiful personality, always cheerful, a hard worker, and cares about others.

Cheyanne told us, "I'm so thankful for all the blessings I've received from the Lord and Helping Hands. I'm so grateful for this second chance at life."

Providing Opportunities FOR A NEW AND BETTER LIFE!

THREE DAYS FROM DEATH'S DOOR, THEN

Being a lost and broken soul, I was searching for more. I sought after worldly desires and temporary fixes. None which seemed to fill the emptiness inside. I struggled with addictions of many forms for most of my life. The devil had a grip on me that I could not get away from. Through many attempts of trying to get sober on my own terms, I sought out Christian counseling with Helping Hands' Women's Director, Ms. Joyce, the person God would use to help me in many ways.

After a couple of sessions, I relapsed and soon after became very ill while my weakened and depleted body was laid up on a couch in a place that no one should call home. I didn't want to go to the hospital because I knew that I would lose any chance of getting high. I was at a point where I didn't care. I thought I had ruined any relationship with the ones that loved me most and was too embarrassed and ashamed of my actions to ask for help. So, I chose to lay there and die! At this point God knew I had given up on myself, so He sent an 'angel'. Not in the form anyone would think of, but now that I look back, I know God was in the midst! It was a man from a former toxic relationship and was also in addiction. But God still used him! He saw the shape I was in, and he decided to reach out to my dad. This left my dad in a difficult situation no father wants to be in, struggling with the fact that he now knows he can't save me, that I have to want to get help myself, and hearing that his daughter is not well.

For a week he did not come look for me, until one day he was putting his boat in the water to go fishing for the day when he said an overwhelming feeling rushed over him that he needed to go get me! So, he loaded his boat up and left to get me. When he walked into the house and saw me, it broke him.

I was taken by ambulance to the hospital. My dad was told to be grateful he called the ambulance, because I was within 2 or 3 days of dying and things were not looking good. I had both COVID and a heart infection due to the drug abuse. For the first month of my 3-month hospital stay I was in ICU and could not have visitors. Doctors thought I was going to need open heart surgery because they didn't think they could get the infection that was being pumped into my bloodstream under control. But by the grace of God and a lot of antibiotics, I did not need the surgery.

During my time in the hospital my family told me that I needed to go get help before I could come home or see my son. My dad stayed in contact with Joyce, and she suggested that I go to Teen Challenge. I applied, but they are a work program, and were uncertain if I would be able to function in the program due to being dependent on a walker and losing so much muscle mass throughout my entire body.

God made a way, and I was accepted into Jacksonville's Teen Challenge. While there, on December 13, 2021, I surrendered and gave my life to Christ! The program was not easy, but the more I learned about the Lord and His faithfulness, it made me stay one more day to see what He had in store for me! Before graduating from Teen Challenge, I was able to communicate with Ms. Joyce. She could see that I was serious about my recovery and my walk with Jesus and had me send in an application to become a resident of Helping Hands. On December 18th, 2022, I graduated and was able to move into Helping Hands transitional housing.

Since that time, my relationship with my family has been restored and I have regained not only custody of my son, but his trust too. I am now working as administrative assistant to the executive director of Helping Hands, and I am in the position to give to others what has been given to me. Helping Hands is also helping me continue my education. I am now certified as a Christian Life Coach and studying Christian Mental Health Coaching. My son and I are living life abundantly together! I am blessed and more than grateful for the opportunities that God has given me. He has continued to open doors and continue the extraordinary transformation He started in me less than 2 years ago.



Overcoming Trauma & Tragedy



Susan had a rough childhood. She said, "to escape the pain and trauma I would spend much of my life (20 years) using drugs. When the trauma was brought to light in a treatment program, I began to receive the healing that only God can bring."

Days before completing the program, Susan received heart wrenching news about her beautiful 4-month-old twin daughters. Tragically one daughter passed away from neglect in a foster home, and the other daughter had to be hospitalized due to trauma in the same foster home. Susan stated, "I would cling to Jesus Christ with everything I had in the months to come. He is the only reason I made it through, as I learned how to deal with my grief and how to live a clean and sober life."

We are so glad that Susan and her children have come to Helping Hands. She's a wonderful and hard-working mother, a woman of character, and has a great job. Susan told us, "I have never been so happy in my life. God has blessed me beyond belief and Helping Hands is a huge part of that. I want to thank God for always providing for us and giving me the strength to carry on."



Rebekah & Children With The Car Donated From Helping Hands

Rebekah has endured and suffered cycles and forms of abuse since childhood. She came to us with her three children after escaping an abusive relationship. God's loving hand was apparent in her escape, as well as her discovery of Helping Hands.

Rebekah said when she and her children came to us, "from that day forward our lives were changed and we never had to look back. God has placed leaders in my life through this program that have showed me the love of Jesus and have helped me remove the walls of mistrust. I slowly established trust and began leaning on the loving people at Helping Hands. They helped me build up confidence and to believe that I am capable of accomplishing everything that the people of my past told me I could never do. Since being at Helping Hands, I got my first driver's license, was able to receive a donated car from them, and got a job I love in home health care. I'm now walking in the peace, freedom, and joy that only God can give. My children and I are so blessed to be able to build a new life at Helping Hands."

Helping Hands Selected #1 Charity

This summer we had a "Back to School Bash" to distribute all the wonderful back-to-school items collected for us through Express Employment Professional's annual Brand It Blue Initiative. At the event Brian Ballard, the franchise owner, surprised us with a check for \$10,000 from their Brand It Blue Initiative. Brand It Blue is the company's philanthropic committee, designed to give back to nonprofits nominated by franchisees among their more than 860 franchise locations nationwide. Helping Hands was selected #1 nonprofit in the country.



\$10,000 Check Presentation
Brad Dinkins, Brian Ballard, Ken Dinkins

Brian, a longtime supporter, said, "Helping Hands is an organization that is well worth investing in with both our money and our time. What makes their organization unique is the way they walk hand in hand with others. They step in to meet immediate needs through affordable housing while also investing in individuals and families to equip them for sustained success in all the most important areas of life. Ken and his team genuinely care, and I feel like I am watching the hands and feet of Jesus at work as they invest in others! The work they do cannot be easy and I imagine can be very messy at times. However, they continue to give of themselves to give others every opportunity for lasting change. This is a cause that is worth the support of our entire community and I highly recommend that you join us in helping to make sure that their meaningful work continues to thrive and grow."

Thank you, Brian, Randall, Cynthia & the Express team for working with us to help others build new & better lives!

Please use the QR code to view our Back-to-School Bash Highlight



Furnished Apartments for Our Residents



Ways To Support Helping Hands

Financial Donations

Mail a CHECK - Auto Bank Draft - Use a CREDIT CARD via our Website



Store #1
8820 SW Hwy 200
(352) 237-1761

Store #2
9536 SE Maricamp Road
(352) 292-4470



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Open: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 4:30 | Saturday 9:00 – 3:00 | Sunday - Closed

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By donating a vehicle, you can enable and empower one of our residents to secure employment, go to work, take their children to school, shop for groceries, and more! We invite you to consider supporting our residents in this way. For more information call (352) 547-4212. Your donation is tax-deductible. Thank you!



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