



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.



Thank You For Helping Us Help Others



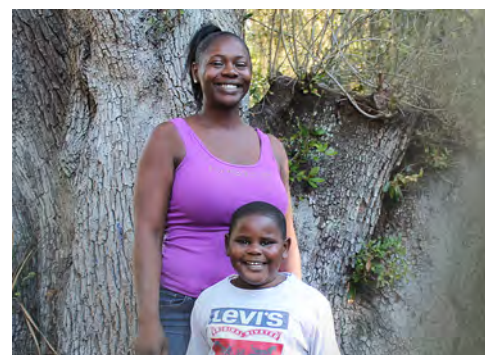
"Helping Hands has changed me and my children's lives. It is such a kind and genuine place to be. They have helped us in so many ways with food, clothes, and bringing us closer to God. We are blessed, and I am blessed to know my 3 kids are safe and happy. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else right now, and I am forever grateful!!"

-Norreal



"Coming out of prison after seven years was overwhelming & Helping Hands was just what I needed. They have blessed me with a safe, clean place to live, and helped me secure a rewarding job beyond what I imagined. Their continued support spiritually and emotionally through the ups and downs of my children's custody case has shown me a love that overflows into the lives of my children."

-Valentine



"Helping Hands has helped me out in more ways than I could have ever imagined. First and foremost, Helping Hands has helped me get closer to God and better my relationship with Jesus Christ. The program, the apartment, and the people at Helping Hands have helped me stop worrying and ease my mind at such a hard time."

-Brittany

Two Beautiful Stories of FORMER HELPING HANDS RESIDENTS

Part of the mission of Helping Hands is to help the residents we serve come out of the old life of pain, loss, and self-defeating behavior; and into a new and better life by the grace and goodness of God. We love watching God write new and wonderful chapters in the life-story of our residents. Mike Wojciechowski and Cherry Baker Steffani are two examples of this beautiful process.



MIKE'S STORY. Mike was accepted as a resident of Helping Hands after being released from a drug rehabilitation center. We loved seeing how Mike flourished in the supportive environment of Helping Hands. Mike says, "While staying at Helping Hands, they gave me encouragement and security and the opportunity to dig into the Bible to discover how much God loved me. They kept me focused on the right path, and along the way I made friends with many wonderful Christian people."

After a year of living at Helping Hands Mike finished his state mandated supervision and knew it was time for him to move on. Although Mike's address has changed, his involvement with Helping Hands has not. Mike still attends some of the Helping Hands meetings, and continues to be a source of encouragement and a shining example to current residents. He has also excelled in work, moving up to be the Purchasing Manager for Fidelity Manufacturing.

In 2020 Mike married Emily. God has recently done wonderful things in her life too. Now a single dad of a daughter, and a single mom of two, have become a wonderful family of five! Knowing what Mike and Emily have come out of, we are excited to see what God will continue to do in their life.

CHERRY'S STORY. After years of intermittent drug abuse, two abusive relationships, jail time, and being separated from the daughter she loved so much, Cherry committed her life to Jesus in a drug rehabilitation center. It is there she became serious about changing and depending on God for her help.



While in the rehabilitation center, Cherry applied to Helping Hands and was accepted. During her time with us Cherry was able to regain her driver's license and obtain a car that was donated to Helping Hands. This allowed her to help start a house cleaning business.

Cherry said when she was with us, "Helping Hands has meant the world to me. I am very blessed to be here...to grow in my faith and to have a safe place to live for me and my daughter."

Like Mike, Cherry's address and marital status has changed. Cherry married her wonderful husband Neil in May of 2018. Neil also has progressively seen the life transforming power of God at work in his life. Cherry and Neil both remain a part of the Helping Hands family. We know where they were, and we are blessed to see how God has brought them out of the old and into the new.

If you would like to view Mike's video testimony please scan the QR code



BUILDING A NEW AND BETTER LIFE



After a two year prison term Chelsea recently was accepted into Helping Hands. She describes herself before prison as “broken, depressed, co-dependent, and addicted to illegal drugs.”

Broken Childhood. Both of Chelsea’s parents were drug addicts that were in and out of jail. Their crimes included prostitution and domestic violence. Her biological mom committed suicide when she was eleven.

Troubled. In high school she felt empty and tried to fill this void with men. At the age of 15 she became pregnant and gave into pressure from others to have an abortion. Chelsea continued abusing drugs and alcohol, and later wanted to kill herself.

Marriage & Overdose. Chelsea got married but along with her husband she continued using illegal drugs. This eventually led to two overdoses, and at one point she was put on life support. Her doctors said if she woke up, she would live as a “vegetable.” Although she miraculously recovered, Chelsea continued using drugs.

Prison Sentence. Her husband was hit by a car and died. This event shook Chelsea enough to turn herself in, with a desire to get clean and be there for a son she had earlier. Chelsea ended up with a 2-year prison sentence.

Broken, she called out for help. In prison, feeling alone, and with no family support, Chelsea says God finally got her attention, and she called out to Him. Chelsea says, “He opened my eyes and gave me hope for a better future.” While in prison, God sent other Christians into her life that loved and accepted her. God’s healing and restoration began. Chelsea says God has delivered her from a life of abandonment, drug addiction, feelings of unworthiness, suicidal thoughts, and more.



Good things are happening. Chelsea said, “God has worked so many miracles since I came to Helping Hands. He is restoring relationships and has blessed me with my new family here at Helping Hands. Helping Hands has offered me the support and guidance I needed coming out of prison...living in a community with other women who are walking with the Lord has been such a blessing, and they have become like family to me.” Since coming to us, Chelsea has received a great job, a grant for continuing education, and a car of her own (Thank You, Jenkins Hyundai, for the generous purchase discount!). She is thankful for where God has brought her from, and looks forward to the future He has planned for her.



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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