



Heart for Winter Haven | Quarter In Review | Spring 2022

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## The Beatty Beat

BRAD BEATTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Do you ever have to do things you would rather not do? It feels like such an effort to do them, no matter how simple they are, or how connected they are to other things. For instance, I like to grill out and eat what I cook. Even more, I love when other people enjoy what I prepare. However, when it comes to clean up, I'm less enthusiastic. Preparing a meal and fellowship are so interconnected, but I don't like part of that process. Sometimes, I can avoid the part I don't like because someone else steps in to fill the void. However, at times the task is too big, or time expedient, or there is just no one else. So, I am called to clean. I even occasionally enjoy the tasks and feel grateful while doing them.

So it has been the past 18-20 months providing rental and utilities relief money to families effected by the Covid crisis. At H4WH, we like people, and we like to help people and keep them from experiencing homelessness, but we don't particularly like doing "relief" work. It feels transactional, and we pride ourselves on utilizing relational strategies of poverty relief that we believe are transformational. The last two years we've seen disruptions to people's income coupled with rapidly rising housing costs. This has made many more families at risk for homelessness, and we want to do all we can to prevent that from occurring. Our love for people cannot be neglected, no matter how much we dislike "doing relief". So, we did relief, and we did it well. Beginning in 2020-present, our partnerships with the **City of Winter Haven** and **Polk County** allowed us to have an economic impact of over \$2 million dollars in housing and utilities relief. Hundreds of families were kept from experiencing homelessness, and Winter Haven became the only city that saw a decrease in the percentage of homeless students among Polk County schools!

As we pivot back toward the focus of alleviating poverty rooted in broken relationships, utilizing programs that strengthen families through abiding hope (**Jobs for Life, Person of Jesus, Faith & Finances**, Biblical Entrepreneurship, etc!) we can appreciate the opportunity God gave us to join Him in this work.

And, maybe, I can begin to wash the dishes with a grateful heart. ♥



# New Leadership at The Center for Well-Being

KIM SMILEY, INCOMING DIRECTOR OF  
THE CENTER FOR WELL-BEING

Greetings everyone! I am looking forward to coming on-board full time at Heart for Winter Haven in June as the new Director for The Center for Well-Being, and continuing to provide stellar service to our clients. I'll be blending 22 years of IT (applications) experience, 20 years of youth and women's ministry, and 4 years of marriage, family, and individual therapy, to create something beautiful! This is a tremendous blessing and I am truly honored for the opportunity to be a part of this team. ♥



The Center for Well-Being

Winter Haven families via fresh initiatives in financial literacy and employability training (now developing into "**Heart University**") are exciting, and we can't wait to see them take shape. Tabitha will be succeeding Bee as the Director of Programs, which means leading our Care Team on the front lines of ministry. Under Tabitha's leadership, the Care Team will begin expanding its mission from primarily housing stability relief to include life plans which embody a holistic approach to long-term care. This exciting upgrade will open up direct lines to our **Center for Well-Being** and **Heart University** empowerment courses and beyond!

Finally, please join us in thanking God for bringing Brian Flores to us as the new **Scholarship House** "Head of House!" He will move in soon and lead the students in community living and work/school skill-building. We are grateful for his own story of faith, redemption, and transformation- and especially for his desire to walk with others on similar paths. ♥

"WHICH OF THESE THREE DO YOU THINK WAS A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO FELL INTO THE HANDS OF ROBBERS?" THE EXPERT IN THE LAW REPLIED, "THE ONE WHO HAD MERCY ON HIM." JESUS TOLD HIM, "GO AND DO LIKEWISE."

LUKE 10:36-37

## On The Move...

ASHLEY BLACK, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

As usual, we have new positions/people in our midst! First, a fond farewell to our spring 2022 social work interns from USF: Demario and Kharla! They served with our **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** from January to April. We will miss you dearly and pray for your bright futures as, above all, Caretakers of People. Shine on!



Welcome to our Master's of Social Work summer interns from SEU: Jalae, Josselin, and Grace. In addition, Lucas, an undergrad in community development from Covenant College, is joining us and will be living at our very own **Scholarship House**. You four are already a blessing to our team! Thank you in advance for your service on our Care Team and the IDA research you are tackling.



Speaking of new faces, this spring blessed us with the addition of Tia Sasser to our team as Executive Assistant! Tia works alongside our Executive Director as well as providing client support for The Center for Well-Being. Welcome Tia!

The next time you stop by H4WH, be sure to congratulate Tabitha Keith and Bee Gallison on their recent promotions! Bee will be forging a new path as our first-ever Director of Research and Development! Her ideas regarding empowering our





# The 7th Annual H4WH Golf Tournament

On April 4, 2022, 110 golfers gathered amidst beautiful weather for our 7th Annual Golf Tournament, presented by SouthState Bank, at The Country Club of Winter Haven! Through the support of many generous and faithful people, we reached our goal to raise \$50,000 to fund the work to alleviate poverty, in all it's forms, in our community. We appreciate the many sponsors, teams and players that made this tournament our most successful to date!



## Life From The Heart - Spring Graduations

ASHLEY BLACK, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

On May 3rd, ten women graduated from our Spring LFTH course at Central County Jail taught by Michael and Kathy Kidd. In a heartwarming ceremony, instructors and students alike shared the encouragement of their faith and commitment to transformation. Luke Carson, a local youth pastor, spoke sincerely about his story and encouraged each graduate, "It is not an easy journey, but you are not alone! We are all battling everyday to choose discipline instead of regret!" Joanne Torres, as she lead the closing prayer, gave each graduate hope through her own story of 10 years of sobriety and new life post-incarceration. Each graduate will be facing different challenges: some will be released while others will move on to long term sentences in prison. Be praying for transformation and faith, no matter what their destinations! We sincerely thank the Lead Detention Counselor, Chip Keller, for his invitation to be a part of this life-giving program.

In a similar fashion, on May 12th, South County Jail conducted a similar ceremony for twelve men nearing their release dates. Jim Adkins faithfully spent 12 weeks facilitating the class, and his words that night reinforced the dignity and value of each graduate. Prayers for faith and strength go with each man for their next steps in their journey! (See pic on page 2 for the women's graduation. Picture not yet available for the men's graduation- coming in the summer newsletter!) ♥





## Home Repair Work Camp

We are excited to partner with a number of churches and NPO's to support a home repair work camp for teens this summer (June 12-17). The campers will be hosted by The Rock Church and Pastor Mike Jarrett. We look forward to a growing tradition of service as a means of worship and love for our community. ♥

## Join us for Coffee & Conversation!

Come enjoy 30 minutes over a cup of coffee with a member of our team and a board member, as you explore the ministry, work and community impact of *Heart for Winter Haven*. For more details, email [tia@heart4wh.org](mailto:tia@heart4wh.org).



## The Housing Partnership of WH & The CARES Act

**BEE GALLISON, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Since October 2021, HPWH has been working with Polk County Housing and Neighborhood Development in disbursing Emergency Rental Assistance Program dollars from the CARES Act. The assistance is for families under 80% average median income (AMI) that experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This support goes towards delinquent rent and utilities for their household.

At present, HPWH has disbursed \$1,518,145, helping 274 families avoid experiencing homelessness. Winter Haven residents make up 106 of these families, estimating \$536,216 of the disbursed amount. The total amount awarded was \$1,850,000 and we will continue assisting our remaining active clients until the end of August.

## WAYS TO HELP

- **PRAY!**
- **GIVE:** To make a donation, please visit us at [heart4wh.org/donate](http://heart4wh.org/donate).
- **SERVE:** Want to volunteer? We are currently looking for individuals to serve as Instructors and Champions for upcoming **Jobs for Life** and **Faith & Finances** classes. If you'd like to help, please email [admin@heart4wh.org](mailto:admin@heart4wh.org).
- **SPONSOR:** Sponsorships available soon for the 4th Annual Vision Banquet on Oct. 13th. For information, please visit [heart4wh.org/banquet](http://heart4wh.org/banquet) or email [events@heart4wh.org](mailto:events@heart4wh.org).
- **HOUSING PARTNERSHIP:** We are looking for available land for 3 donated houses (3 lots) to expand this program. If you can help, please email [brad@heart4wh.org](mailto:brad@heart4wh.org).

## Not your average Lunch & Learn...

Come join a conversation about Jesus of Nazareth.

Bring your curiosity and opinions.  
Light lunch provided.

Person of Jesus Study at H4WH

250 Magnolia Ave SW (parking lot entrance- go to 2nd floor)  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays from Noon - 1pm



Heart for Winter Haven

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