



Heart for Winter Haven | Season In Review | Spring 2024

The Beatty Beat

by BRAD BEATTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you pray for Heart for Winter Haven, thank you! If you don't, I'd like to invite/implore you to start today. I am convinced that your prayers are supporting and elevating our work with people in this city, making work easier and our burdens lighter as Jesus answers each call upon His name.

I recently learned that the McClellan Foundation made praying a priority in their broad work. So much so, that it is reflected in their budget and work calendar. They staff prayer coordinators and provide prayer rooms; they have people interceding for every operational hour and group gatherings several times a week.

When I first learned this, I was confounded by the idea that their practice of prayer, while a necessity, also seemed like a luxury. Perhaps it is both. I assure you, that at Heart for Winter Haven, we regularly pray. Many times, when we are thankful, confounded, or exhausted; we stop and pray.

In a recent meeting, we discussed one of the biggest obstacles our clients face: childcare costs. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta estimates that childcare costs often exceed housing costs in a family's budget. We discussed how great it would be to have childcare vouchers for parents to help them seek employment. Not knowing where to get them, we stopped and prayed that God might provide.

The next day, I returned a call from the Executive Director of a fellow nonprofit, who asked me if we provided educational and housing services to families, and if so, would we write a proposal to have those costs covered. Faith & Finances, Jobs for Life, and our Housing Partnership programs and care management were exactly what they wanted, and we were awarded the money. Here's the kicker: we also got access to help our clients access childcare vouchers!

Friends, please pray for us, for our clients, for our community. God loves us and cares for us. Yours, Brad ♥

The Gift of a House

by TERRY HENDERSON, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

I'm pleased to announce that a long-term champion has very generously donated a three bedroom, two bath house near downtown Winter Haven. This helps jump-start our housing strategy and will allow us to provide affordable housing for a family in our community. We're in the process of doing a little refurbishment and hope to move a family into the home in June. Join us in thanking God for this wonderful provision! ♥



An URGENT Need!

A generous donor has offered to match gifts up to \$50,000 to launch our new youth & family learning lab. This lab, "Elevate U", will provide space for ongoing Faith & Finances, Jobs for Life and other classes, as well as online learning, resume preparation and more! Would you prayerfully consider a gift toward this match? To give, please visit

heart4wh.org/match



Celebrating our Spring Graduates!

by **TABITHA KEITH, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS**

We are thrilled to celebrate the recent graduates of our **Jobs for Life** and **Faith & Finances** programs! These women have shown remarkable perseverance, and their futures are bright with hope. Through **Jobs for Life**, they learned not only practical job skills but also the values of confidence, reliability, and character needed to succeed in their career pursuits. Each of them now feels equipped to chase their purpose and dreams, and are actively working towards the education and steps needed to make it happen.

These ladies also took a deep dive with us into money management in God's kingdom through our **Faith & Finances** class. They gained valuable knowledge in budgeting, saving, and debt management, and are now equipped to make informed financial decisions.

My personal favorite outcome of this journey wasn't just that two of the students moved from homelessness to stable housing, nor was it all the wonderful knowledge these amazing individuals gained throughout their time in class, or even the fact that the incredible Amy Beatty gave an outstanding and tear-jerking commencement address at graduation. While all of this is remarkable, and I praise God for these outcomes, what stood out to me the most were the relationships. The transparency, hard conversations, connections, tears, and laughs are what we will carry with us beyond the class. God made us to be together, and through this experience, we have strengthened our bonds.

We invite you to join us in celebrating these achievements. Your support and encouragement mean the world to our graduates. If you are interested in sponsoring a class, hosting a class in your church or business, or volunteering as a mentor to the students, let me know at tabitha@heart4wh.org. ❤️

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13

Community Engagement Win: Spring Microevents

by **CHUCK PETERMAN, DIR. OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

All nonprofit organizations cherish the opportunity to meet new people and engage them in the cause. H4WH does this primarily through events. Most of you have taken part in our very successful annual **AS ONE!** fall banquets, but I am excited to tell you about our new addition: Microevents.

This spring, H4WH has piloted our first "microevent season" led by our Board's Fundraising Committee. Microevents are very similar to the age-old "house party" idea. A H4WH champion will invite a small group of people to their home or a venue to fellowship together and to share their passion for this ministry. The time spent together centers on the champion's story of connection to H4WH and telling this select group about how important the ministry is to them. It gives a fresh group of eyes and ears an introduction to H4WH and paves the way for our team to foster a journey of deeper involvement for interested attendees.

If you have been looking for a "needle moving" opportunity to invite your sphere to deeper exposure to the mission of H4WH, please reach out to me at chuck@heart4wh.org. There are so many easy ways to host, from right here in our office to anywhere your heart and hosting chops can envision.

We say every day that accomplishing the end of childhood homelessness and elevating our city will require us all. Let us know how we can help you spread the word to those in your life. We are so grateful for you! ❤️



Having Fun and Making an Impact!

by JENNIFER COWAN, CHAMPION RELATIONSHIPS SPEC.

The 9th Annual H4WH Golf Tournament fundraiser, presented by our friends at SouthState Bank, was held on May 6th at The Country Club of Winter Haven. This incredible event SOLD OUT this year in 10 days- wow! Because of the outpouring of support from many community partners (businesses, churches, nonprofits and individuals), we reached and EXCEEDED our goal to raise \$60,000 to fund the work to alleviate poverty, in all it's forms, and put an end to child homelessness in our community. We deeply appreciate the many sponsors, teams and players that made this tournament our most successful to date!



"It's not about perfect. It's about effort. And when you implement that effort into your life. Every single day, that's where transformation happens. That's how change occurs. Keep going. Remember why you started." - Anonymous

Mental Health Awareness Month

by KIMBERLY SMILEY, DIR. OF THE CENTER FOR WELL-BEING

Can't believe the month of May has come to a close! Among other celebrations, May is also Mental Health Awareness Month. The Center for Well-Being provided several opportunities for our staff and clients to take better care of their mental health. During the month of May, we offered a yoga class, boundaries lunch and learn class, self-care lunch and learn class, and offered prizes for employees who took part in Wellness Bingo!

Caring for our mental health shouldn't start or end in May! Take a moment to do a self-inventory and find out whether your mind is well. Here are a few questions to ask yourself: Am I sleeping well? Do I find myself isolating from others? Am I more irritable than usual? Am I smiling less, or not able to find humor in things I normally do? Is my anxiety level higher than usual? Based on your answers, there are some self-help things you can do to improve your mental health, like gardening, taking up a hobby, exercising, and even visiting your primary care physician for blood work and check-up. Also, never underestimate the power of a good conversation with a trusted friend who will hold you accountable for getting re-centered! Of course, if you try self-help and still feel stuck, reach out to a counselor for an initial consultation. Your mind will thank you! ❤️



SLEEPING IN YOUR CAR? ON A FRIEND'S COUCH? WANT TO MAKE A CHANGE?

The Scholarship House offers a unique community living environment for male college students who are otherwise homeless. See post details for more information.



The Scholarship House

Two New Faces!



WELCOME BACK KHARLA!

by BEE GALLISON, DIR. OF CARE

We are thrilled to announce the return of Kharla Laguer to our team as our new bilingual care manager. Kharla, who holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from USF, previously completed her internship with us in 2022, demonstrating her dedication and passion for serving our community. With her expertise and commitment, we look forward to Kharla's invaluable contributions in providing comprehensive support to our clients, ensuring that language is never a barrier to accessing the care they deserve. Welcome back, Kharla! ❤️



WELCOME ABOARD RACHEL!

by TERRY HENDERSON, CHIEF
OPERATING OFFICER

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Rachel Miller, who has recently joined our team. Rachel has a huge heart for service and began

as a volunteer in our office, first with the Care Team, then on the administrative side of things. We liked her so much, we hired her! Rachel works part-time as our Executive Assistant and has the unenviable responsibility of keeping Brad and me on track. Rachel, her husband and two children live in Winter Haven. We are blessed she is part of our family! ❤️

Ways To Help

- **PRAY:** For those we serve, our volunteers, staff, community businesses, city leaders, etc.
- **GIVE:** We are looking for **10** new monthly partners to join our Heart 100 giving family! Please choose "Ongoing" for your gift of any amount at www.heart4wh.org/donate.
- **SERVE:** We are seeking volunteers to serve in various areas of ministry. Please mail info@heart4wh.org for information.
- **SPONSOR:** Want to sponsor a Faith & Finances or Jobs for Life class? Please email tabitha@heart4wh.org.



AS ONE!

VISION BANQUET

The journey continues
November 7th. Save the date!