



Heart for Winter Haven | Quarter In Review | Summer 2023

The Beatty Beat

BRAD BEATTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community collaboration is vital to all that we do at Heart for Winter Haven. It is a mission imperative. From our very first program to this day, we know that collaboration provides us with the best pathway toward healthy and sustainable growth in our community. This newsletter is filled with examples of how we go about connecting the sectors of our city. Whether it's by providing mental health first aid training to nonprofits and churches, partnering with businesses like [SS Designs](#), or serving our Creole speaking friends with [El Shaddai Community Church](#), collaboration makes our efforts stronger and more far-reaching. We believe that the relationships formed through those connections forge a pathway to healing, therefore, they are invaluable to building community.

One effort I'd like to highlight is the outreach work being coordinated by our own Brian Flores. As house manager for the [Scholarship House](#) and a member of our Care Management team, Brian has worked with a local volunteer to do regular outreach to men, women and children at some of our area's homeless encampments. They bring hot meals to share with our homeless neighbors, and more importantly, extend offers of friendship to the folks there. St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Through friendship learn faith." We have tried to keep that idea before us as we work with people as well. Brian's work at the encampments, and in inviting and hosting others at our Friday night [Heart Place](#) community meetings, is a living example of the power of collaboration (with [His Mission](#)) to move mountains of hopelessness and despair. Thank you Brian!

On a final note, we look forward to our [AS ONE! Vision Banquet](#) in October. We hope that you will come, consider and pray with us for that night as it is so important to our "friend-raising" and fundraising. We hope that half of the audience will be new to us, and everyone will be inspired to overcome the mountain of disbelief and cynicism that stands in the way of ending homelessness. Come and see! ❤️

AS ONE! Vision Banquet

JENNIFER COWAN, CHAMPION
RELATIONSHIPS SPECIALIST

The annual [AS ONE! Vision Banquet](#) returns on October 26th to Heartland Church! This event has become one of the most encouraging and uplifting gatherings of the year for many involved in the work of H4WH in our community (and a "doorway" to others who are hearing about us for the first time)! It's not too late to be a part of the action—whether by sponsoring a table, volunteering for set up or at the event, etc. Questions? Email jen@heart4wh.org! ❤️



SCAN ME

10.26.2023

FROM THE SUMMIT...



AS ONE!

Presented by:




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New Arrivals

JENNIFER COWAN, CHAMPION RELATIONSHIPS SPECIALIST

You may have recently noticed new faces at H4WH! Chuck Peterman is our new Director of Community Engagement and comes to us with over 20 years of ministry experience. Most recently, he has been serving in the area of building ministry capacity and long-term sustainability. Chuck is looking ahead at not only helping H4WH grow, but to invest in all the ministry and non-profit leaders here in our city. Chuck is originally from St. Petersburg and has been married to his wife Jackie for 18 years.



Haley Osemeke is our new Clinician at **The Center for Well-Being**. She joins us with 4 years of experience in the field of Social Work, and has a passion for providing counseling services to those in need in our community. In her internships before graduation from Southeastern University in 2020, she gained experience working with: those experiencing homelessness, children and students of various ages, individuals in need of grief counseling, and more. Welcome to the H4WH family, Chuck and Haley! ❤️

Client Spotlight - *The Torres Family*

LISA TORRES

Before taking **Faith & Finances**, we had accumulated a significant amount of debt and felt overwhelmed, guilty, out of control, confused, and a little fearful of the future because of it. We knew we were in a financial crisis, living paycheck to paycheck, and never having security of knowing if an emergency happened, we would have the funds to handle it. We were always borrowing to pay back, and not paying attention to where our money was going.

Faith & Finances gave us the skills and encouragement needed to address our money issues and bring resolution to the problem. By tracking our expenses and eliminating unnecessary purchases, we have been able to save money every week and have not paid ANY late fees! Our kids have learned the importance of saving for security and what it means to be a cheerful giver! We now see God in our finances and how to honor Him with our money. When we are faithful with little, He will make us ruler over much! **Faith & Finances** was a blessing to our family, and totally worth the hour drive! Thank you so much for what you do! You are changing lives for the glory of God!



Personal Reflections...

TABITHA KEITH, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

The Torres' two oldest children took **Faith & Finances** and both of them ended up getting jobs at Cracker Barrel during the class. The lessons they learned about budgeting and stewardship they are currently applying to the money they've been making at their jobs. They all four qualify for our Match Savings Program- whenever they save \$300 for 3 months we will give them an additional \$300 as an incentive to seed an Emergency Savings Fund.

One thing that stuck out the most to me about their story isn't just the change in their financial management, but rather the shift that happened in their family dynamic. They really applied what they learned about relationships and the underlying heart issues that are reflected in poor financial literacy. They have a better home life because they learned money ultimately isn't the thing they need the most of- or even proper money handling- but rather JESUS is what they need the most of. That's the real lesson and answer in all of this. ❤️

Mental Health First Aid

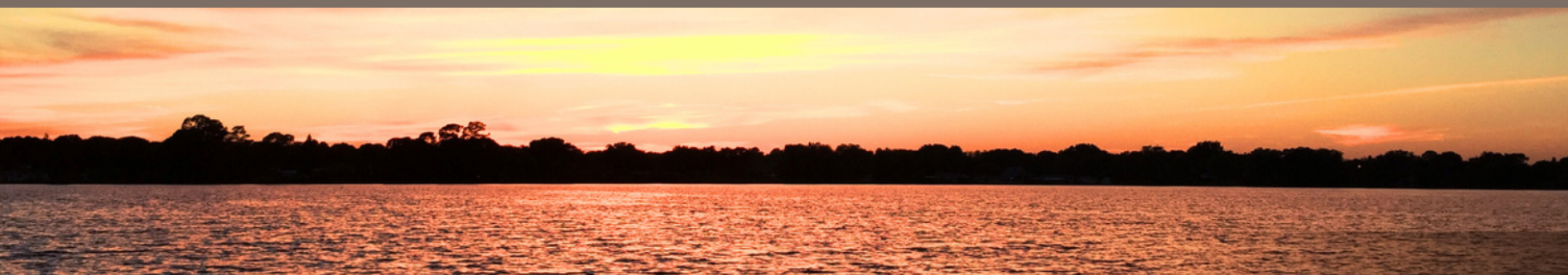
KIMBERLY SMILEY, DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR WELL-BEING

The Center for Well-Being at Heart for Winter Haven is now offering Adult Mental Health First Aid to other nonprofits, churches, and agencies in the greater Winter Haven area. Adult Mental Health First Aid is an early intervention public education program and consists of 8 hours of instructor-led training. It teaches adults how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen non judgmentally and give reassurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge, and how to refer a person to appropriate professional support and services.

By the end of the course, participants are able to:

- Identify the impact of mental health challenges on the well-being of adults in the U.S.
- Explain that recovery from a mental health challenge is possible.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges that may impact adults.
- Evaluate the impact of early intervention on mental health challenges.
- Apply the appropriate steps of the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan when a person shows early or worsening signs of a mental health challenge, or respond to crisis situations.

This training (valued at \$195 per person) will be offered free of charge to participants, made possible due to BayCare and United Way Community Wellness grants that have been awarded to **The Center for Well-Being**. ❤️



Emergency Rental Assistance Event- *El Shaddai Community Church*

TABITHA KEITH, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

In a wonderful display of unity, Heart for Winter Haven recently partnered with El Shaddai Community Church for an outreach event, extending vital support to community members grappling with COVID-19's aftermath. Central to this endeavor was the teamwork of seven volunteers from El Shaddai Community Church who bridged language barriers, ensuring effective communication with Haitian-Creole speakers. Their dedication exemplifies Heart for Winter Haven's ethos of unity, underpinning our mission to connect all of the sectors of our city and alleviate poverty.

At the heart of our shared mission lies the restoration of community bonds and the empowerment of those on the margins. This event is a testament to the strength that emerges when a community unites, illustrating that through unity, we can restore hope, and elevate our entire city.



A special thank you to Pastor Dony, and his wife Sharon, as well. We are blessed to minister alongside such incredible people. In addition, SIX local Haitian churches were represented at the event! Wow! ❤️

Ways To Help

- **PRAY!** For those we serve, our volunteers, staff, community businesses, city leaders, etc.
- **GIVE:** To make a **donation**, please visit www.heart4wh.org/donate.
- **SERVE:** We are seeking volunteers to serve in various areas of ministry. Please mail info@heart4wh.org for information.
- **SPONSOR:** Sponsorships are still available for the vision banquet. Please email jen@heart4wh.org.

Upcoming Events

Sept 7	ECP Faith & Finances at SS Designs begins
Sept 19	Jobs for Life Champion Training (virtual)
Mid-Oct	Fall 2023 Jobs for Life begins (exact details TBD)
Oct 25	Banquet set up at Heartland Church
Oct 26	H4WH 6th Annual AS ONE! Vision Banquet
Nov 21	WH Community Thanksgiving Prayer Service
Dec 9	Community Christmas Shop
May 6	H4WH 9th Annual Spring Golf Tournament

The Employee Care Program - *NEW at SS Designs*

KIMBERLY SMILEY, DIRECTOR,
THE CENTER FOR WELL-BEING



Heart for Winter Haven is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with SS Designs and extend our Employee Care Program. SS Designs is a custom apparel company creating and decorating quality softline products for some of the world's most discerning brands including restaurant and retail chains, international corporations, automotive companies, financial institutions, theme parks, destination events and more.

This partnership allows us to offer personalized care, weekly chaplaincy services, growth workshops, and more to all SS Designs employees and their families. Services include access to our care team, financial literacy/employability workshops, and mental health counseling. These services are offered in both English and Spanish. Anyone interested in applying for employment at SS Designs may scan the QR code for more information ❤️



Immediate Job Need

Welcome to the Board, Joe Simonds!

TERRY HENDERSON, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Joe Simonds is a Winter Haven native and the CEO and co-founder of an online fishing club, Salt Strong. He and his wife, Loren, are the proud parents of three children. Joe and Loren are passionate about the work of Heart for Winter Haven in our community. They are committed to helping us grow a community of supporters who share the vision of ending child homelessness by the end of 2030. If you haven't seen the video that Joe made for us on social media, please type in this link: <https://fb.watch/mArFNFbft/>. We are so happy to have Joe on our Board of Directors- welcome aboard! ❤️

