



A NOTE FROM BRAD...

2019 has been a year of growth for us. God's faithfulness has been on full display. For this, we give thanks! As the year winds down, we also enjoy remembering you, our H4WH Champions, and give thanks again! Our heart's prayer is that you are growing through this shared experience, finding new expressions of God and His kingdom come, here in Winter Haven as it is in heaven. In early 2020... the Scholarship House will open and provide a home for currently homeless students trying to complete their education. Our new program, the Housing Partnership of Winter Haven will be fully underway, "strengthening families through abiding hope." Likewise, Jobs for Life will continue to develop the vocational lives of people, providing them with the dignity and purpose that meaningful work provides. Lastly, we are so proud of the expression of unity at our *As One! Community* banquet. [If you missed it, it's not too late to join through your year end giving or to sign up for next year :\)](#) Blessings to you and yours as we celebrate Jesus' birth... the day that God moved into the neighborhood as one of us!

Merry Christmas!

*-Brad Beatty;
Executive Director*



HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Winter Haven, we have a problem. Last year, 538 of children in our community schools experienced homelessness. Almost all of these families are working, but their income is insufficient due to skyrocketing housing costs and limited available inventory as our population has grown. We have to respond. And we have!



With the support of the City of Winter Haven and our non-profit partners, we formed the Housing Partnership of Winter Haven as a means to strengthen families and share the hope that abides with us. We have a workable plan and strategy, we have resources, and we have YOU, our community! With God's help, we have everything we need to change the future for these families and children. We are starting with an eviction prevention and rapid re-housing program, but we are also looking to increase the number of available housing units for working families to attain. If you'd like to participate, please contact Brad or Bee at our office. In the coming months, we will continue to need: financial literacy and Jobs for Life volunteers, builders and buildings, investors and resources, skilled labor, and supportive friends that will join us as gospel neighbors in restoring our neighborhoods and community.

-Brad Beatty; Executive Director

JOBS FOR LIFE

What an amazing year it has been for our Jobs for Life Program. Thanks to the hard work of our 3 host sites (South County Jail, Living Word of Faith Assembly, and Grace Lutheran Church), 5 classes graduated a total of 42 students who completed the 8-week, 16-session course and performed all the tasks needed to obtain their certificates. Each student's amazing transformation is a direct result of the service of incredible volunteers and leaders!

This year, we also assisted two of our ministry partners in launching their own JfL programs! Lighthouse Ministries just graduated their first class in November. We also had the pleasure of training a group in Port Charlotte to take the JfL program to women at the Charlotte County Jail- their first class will graduate the end of December!

With the new year quickly approaching, we are already preparing for our 2020 classes. Please contact us for more information on how to serve!

-Bee Gallison; Program Coordinator



2019: A YEAR OF INCREASE

As we approach 2020, we look back with eternal gratitude at God's miraculous hand of growth upon us in 2019, and marvel where we are today! Here are some of the highlights from our gratitude list this year:

- Our team increased from 2 full time employees to 3 full time, 2 part time, and 2 contracted
- Our number of church partnerships increased both relationally and financially
- Volunteer participation increased 120%
- A business partnership with a local bank was launched to provide counseling, training and onsite care to its employees
- The JfL Program was introduced at South County Jail, with a 99% non-recidivism rate of the 1st class and 75% now employed (ALL completed aftercare appointments upon their release)
- A partnership with the City of Winter Haven was launched to combat homelessness faced by children in Winter Haven schools
- Began partnership with local Rotary Clubs to complete renovations on the Scholarship House
- Provided counseling, referral and care to assist individuals referred by churches, non-profits and partners
- Continued to build a connected city by hosting and partnering in Pastors Prayer Breakfasts, the MLK Day of Service, the Elbert Christmas Shop, Men's Prayer Breakfasts, a business Bible study, the Downtown Thanksgiving Prayer Service and more
- Saw an increase in giving by individual & corporate partners, enabling us to provide, free of charge, our J4L classes, training to volunteers, and events to strengthen the welfare of our city

Please join with us as we celebrate God's provision to us in service to our city. We could not accomplish any of this without Him, and without those who partner with and pray for us.

Our prayers for 2020:

- A reduction in the number of those who are homeless and unemployed/underemployed
- For increased relationships with church leaders of all denominations and backgrounds
- To see healing of broken relationships and the loneliness that many in our city are facing

With gratitude...

-Margaret Jones; Director of Training & Programs

AS ONE! VISION BANQUET

Almost 300 people came together "As One!" at Heartland Church on November 14th for our annual fundraising and vision banquet. We celebrated together the story of Heart for Winter Haven and shared an invitation to all to take part in the great work going on in our city!

There were smiles, shouts, applause, and even tears as we heard tales of transformation and hope. We rose to our feet in a standing ovation after the amazing testimony given by Rebecca Clark, a recent Jobs for Life graduate. We witnessed changed lives, new friendships forged, challenges accepted, and we were all invited to participate in serving together to bring our community abiding hope!

The Lord laid an impossible goal before us- to raise \$150,000 (to sow into the new Housing Partnership of Winter Haven and provide for our other ministry needs in the coming year). In Matthew 19:26, Jesus told His disciples facing an impossible task, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." We are pleased to announce that, with God's help and the generosity of so many of you, we have achieved our goal!

We are still pressing forward to answer any challenge the Lord sets before us. How will you respond? Will you accept the invitation?

-Jennifer Cowan; Champion Relationships Specialist



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS...

Chevrolet Center, Givewell Community Foundation, CenterState Bank, the Homer and Annette Thompson Legacy, Brooks Law Group, Winter Haven Worship Center, Florida Natural Foundation, and Redeemer City Church!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Join us for the
MLK Day of Service on
January 25,
2020!

WAYS TO HELP

- **PRAY!**
- **GIVE:** To make a *year end contribution*, visit our website at www.heart4wh.org/donate.
- **SERVE:** We are currently seeking volunteers to serve in various areas of ministry. For more info, email admin@heart4wh.org.
- **SPONSOR:** Tee off! 2020 Golf Tournament sponsorships are available at admin@heart4wh.org.