



# LAHIA



Success Stories and Transitional Housing Needs



# LAHIA's History

LAHIA began as a weekly Saturday cookout in May 2007 in the backyard of a church – serving a dozen homeless folks that had been befriended by a handful of concerned Martin County residents. From the beginning, we dreamed of owning a facility that would allow the volunteers to provide basic services and more. We had no budget, no staff, no space and no experience. But we did have passionate volunteers with a ton of faith who believed that God was clearly calling us to get involved.

Nearly 13 years later, by the grace of God, the incredible generosity of private donors and consistent volunteers, we have grown into a fully functional daytime resource center for the homeless and indigent of Martin County. Today LAHIA provides: hot showers, haircuts, laundry facilities, bicycles/transportation, camping supplies, toiletries, clothing, bedding, food pantry, replacement documentation (ID's, birth certificates, Social Security cards), access to medical, dental and vision care, including mental health care and coverage of prescription costs.

# LAHIA At A Glance - 2019

- 27,000 meals served
- 6,230 showers taken in our hygiene cottage (homeless only)
- 1,207 loads of laundry - washed and dried in our hygiene cottage
- 1,000+ clients served in 2019 of which 525 were brand new
- 300+ Marty bus passes to medical appts., IRS, Social Security & court
- 254 donated bikes were repaired and provided for transportation





# LAHIA At A Glance – 2019 Continued

- 127 tents were given to those without a place to live
- 125 received their state ID cards and/or Florida drivers licenses
- 107 clients received prescribed non-narcotic medicines
- 41 of our homeless can see better because we bought eye glasses
- 38 Greyhound bus tickets provided to move to another city/state
- 28 birth certificates were obtained



# Successes At LAHIA

- Community Clean up – 3 Locations
- LAHIA Probation in place for Rule Breakers
- Partnerships with Halfway Houses and Emerald V
- Cold Weather Shelter
- SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach Access & Recovery)
- PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness)
- Housing for Elizabeth Bagy, Tina Gomez-Diaz, Kellan & Jennifer West







# The Need - Transitional Housing

- Camp Haven in Vero Beach – 70% success based on applications; 100% success for those in the program.
- Personal interview, background check, psychological evaluation, drug and alcohol test, and a strong desire for change.
- Personal accountability-child support, debt, work habits, behavior.
- Follow all campus rules.
- Educational programs-personal finance, interpersonal skills, credit repair, housing options, job training (LAHIA Culinary Pathway), etc.
- Maintain sobriety, sobriety support group, random drug/alcohol testing, employment, save 50% or more of net pay.
- Maximum resident stay is 2 years.
- First 30 days are free; then a graduated sub-market rent follows thereafter.
- Goal establishment – education, employment, housing, etc.

# What Success Looks Like!!

A resident completes the transitional housing program when he/she demonstrates compliance with the program rules, sustains employment, accumulates sufficient savings to secure community-based housing, and is psychologically stable (by evaluation from a licensed counselor). The staff will work with the resident to formulate a transition plan to community housing.

