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helping families get back on their feet

.NEW. beginnings

**SPRING
2011**



HOMELESS FAMILY CENTER:

a family's success story...

"I'll be right there," were Manuel Trossi's words over the telephone despite being several miles away.

Manuel had called the center this past July and was given a date to come in to interview for residency. It was doubtful "Manny" and his family would make that deadline - they did. Since that time Manny has proven to staff and fellow residents alike, that he is second to none in work ethic. Manny has devoted many hours of himself to the Homeless Family Center (HFC) and other community based agencies by way of volunteer hours.



During his tenure, Manny and his case manager increased his family's financial resources, opened a savings account, and enrolled in a low income housing program. Manny has recently left HFC and has obtained an apartment for his family by way of low income housing program.

Manny and his family have remained in close follow-up with his case manager since his departure. His case manager continues to assist him as requested, in various aspects of his "new life". This is part of our commitment to graduate families to help assure they maintain stability and self-sufficiency. We will continue to do so as long as he and his family have a need and want the assistance.

We are pleased Manny made it to the Center that day but even more so that he and his family obtained housing. A positive outcome for families like this validates the mission of this agency and motivates other residents and staff to achieve all that they can.

Manny, congratulations. Don't be a stranger.

Upcoming Events

- April 27 • Second Annual Spring Luncheon Bent Pine - 12:00 pm
- April 30 • United Way - SLC Day of Caring HFC - 8:00 am
- May 1 • A Flare of South America hosted by Sarah Circle Vero Beach Yacht Club 4:00 pm
- May 7 • Yard Sale hosted by Security Self Storage 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- May 29 • Poker Run hosted by the Fiasco Brothers Motorcycle Club Vero Beach Elks Lodge 10:00 am
- July 10 • Twenty Years of Serving the Homeless "Christmas in July"

For more information, call 772-567-5537 or visit www.HomelessFamilyCenter.com. Proceeds benefit the Homeless Family Center



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dan Kross, Board President

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles...

In 1987, a comedy starring John Candy and Steve Martin followed a man as he struggled to make it home for Thanksgiving. Through the course of the story, the man utilized multiple modes of transportation, friends, and strangers to make it home.

Over the past holiday season, the Homeless Family Center has likewise used modes of transportation, giving friends, and random acts of kindness to help others on their journey to a new "Home." With a well publicized Car Drawing, the HFC spread its message throughout Vero Beach and raised funds and awareness through the raffle of a car donated by Vero US1 Nissan and Route 60 Hyundai. The Annual Dinner and Top Chef events once again were events that brought friends together for great food, while raising funds for the center. Lastly, Drs. Conway and Bucaj, a local dental office, performed dental work for ALL residents, free of cost.

This creative, multifaceted approach had a distinct effect on the bottom line of people's lives and the HFC's ability to provide assistance on their journey home. To all participants, "Thank-You." To the supporters of HFC, these wonderful stories, explained in greater detail, serve as wonderful "Ambassadors" for the organization. Please utilize them to spread the story of the Homeless Family Center.

Second Annual Spring Luncheon featuring author, Richard LeMieux

When: April 27, 2011

Where: Bent Pine Golf Club

Time: 12 noon

Cost: \$50 per person

For \$12, the book can be purchased now at the Center and will be available at the luncheon.

Three easy ways to make reservations:

1. Online: www.HomelessFamilyCenter.com
2. By phone: Call Connie at 772•567•5537 x326
3. By mail: Mail checks to Homeless Family Center, Attn: Spring Luncheon, P.O. Box 650855-0855

The event will begin with lunch followed by author Richard LeMieux sharing his inspirational journey and experiences of being homeless for three years in Bremerton, Washington.



FAMILIES MATTER

D. Lorne Coyle
Executive Director

Jack couldn't wait to show me his new shirt from work.

He got out of his truck at 6:15 pm, having just worked nine hours straight. But he didn't approach me with sagging shoulders or a weary face. His back was ramrod straight and his smile covered his face.

"Check this out," he said, pointing to his new shirt. It was a steel blue polo shirt emblazoned with the logo, "Rt 60 Hyundai." Our handshake turned into a hug.

A little over two years ago, when he lost his job in construction, Jack and his family had moved to Las Vegas at the invitation of a son to live with him and his family. It didn't work out. Then, about a year ago, with \$80 in his pocket, Jack and his family worked their way back to what had been their home on the Treasure Coast. In June they called us and within a day they came here to get back on their feet.

It wasn't easy. Jack got some part-time work – at three dollars less an hour – with his former employer. When he wasn't working he helped our staff with maintenance. He fixed other HFC families' cars for free. Our employment specialist, Donald Davis, opened some doors for Jack but they didn't pan out.

Jack's break came when Tommy Chiarenza called me three months ago. He remembered what I had told him about Jack. Tommy's Rt. 60 Hyundai manager interviewed Jack and hired him.

Jack is back on his feet.

A Flare of South America
Tastings, Tapas and Silent Auction
hosted by Sarah Circle

Sunday, May 1, 2011
4 pm - Vero Beach Yacht Club

For tickets or more information call Leslie Shaw
at Community Church, 772•469•2320



The Homeless Family Center held its 3rd Annual Vero's Top Chef Challenge....slice, dice & spice on February 28th at Quail Valley River Club. The top five chefs moved to the finals after the Qualifying Event on January 31st at Pointe West. Chef Andrew Keller of Pointe West was awarded the 2011 Vero's Top Chef title and Chef Jane Faraco of STAX was the runner up. The events raised \$70,000. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, silent auction, a taste of five amazing culinary creations from the finalists and an opportunity to vote along with the judges, without knowing what entrée each chef had prepared for the Top Chef Challenge. The Homeless Family Center would like to thank the sponsors, donors, participating chefs, attendees and committee members for their support in making this event a successful one.

PARTICIPATING CHEFS

Chef Nick Bradbury - *Quail Valley River Club*
 Chef Gregg DeAquair - *Dockside Grille*
 Chef Adrienne Drew - *Catering by Adrienne Drew*
 Chef Jane Faraco - *STAX*
 Chef Michele Hennessey - *River Grille*
 Chef Patrick Hughes - *Riverside Cafe*

Chef Brian Jones - *Windsor*
 Chef Andrew Keller - *Pointe West*
 Chef Brian Lavergne - *Disney's Vero Beach Resort*
 Chef Ray Mumford - *Costa d'Este*
 Chef Brad Willits - *Cobalt*

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On November 8, 2010 at Quail Valley River Club, the Homeless Family Center held its fifth annual dinner, **Come to the Cabaret**. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner and entertainment by singer/songwriter Sybil Gage and pianist Paul Tardif. The event raised \$64,700. Many thanks to the sponsors, donors, event friends, attendees, and committee members who made this event possible. Sponsors and donors for this event include:

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changing children's lives...

Take a walk through the Homeless Family Center (HFC) during the week after 3 pm and you will find energetic, engaging children, ages ranging from infant through teens, involved in educational and fun learning activities.

The Homeless Family Center provides a safe, structured environment for successful learners. The educational curriculum continues to focus on basic math and reading skills while the parents attend parenting and financial management classes.

Many thanks to the assistance of the wonderful volunteers: John and Kathleen Simpson, Lenore and John Wolaver, Byron Hegelson, Penny Thronson, Mary Guzak, Elaine Thompson, and Pat Clauss in mentoring the children to learn, grow and succeed.

During the month of March, Dr. Seuss's birthday was celebrated to promote reading. Learning centers relating to a Dr. Seuss theme were implemented to develop skills in the areas of writing, reading, cooking, and motor skills.

"Seussology" projects were also assigned encouraging children to develop a Dr. Seuss theme park attraction based on a Dr. Seuss story. Creative park designs were presented orally along with visual presentations for parents and volunteers in attendance. You can see the priceless faces of each child and how proud they are of their accomplishment as they share their project to the audience. The activity ended with the children's creative designs on display.

Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated volunteers, John and Kathleen Simpson, families were treated and enjoyed the Seussical musical performance at the Ann Morton Children's Theatre.

Another venture is a collaborative project called "J-Walking Ministry" with a group of John Carroll junior students directed by Corey Collins and assisted by Kevin Pastore. Miss Collins was a Notre Dame intern at HFC in the summers of 2006 and 2007. Both are currently teachers at the John Carroll Catholic High School in Ft. Pierce. "J" which stands for Justice was created to develop social concerns and awareness in local communities. The ministry's goal is to provide an outreach to agencies that are helping in the community and offer its students the opportunity to serve and learn different ways of reaching out to those in need. The ministry group started working weekly on April 7 with the children at the center under the guidance of Lydia Reed, HFC's Children's Program Manager.

The Homeless Family Center's children and staff are excited with this new project in addition to the many educational and fun activities that the center provides.

**BECOME A FAN OF THE
HOMELESS FAMILY CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE.**



planned giving

A donation through a planned gift is a great way to create a legacy of support for the HFC while providing for your own future.

Through our Endowment Fund, our supporters have the opportunity to make planned and major gifts, as well as contributions. Stock, real estate, and life insurance policies are popular ways to consider contributing to the HFC Endowment Fund. Individuals of all financial circumstances can participate in, and benefit from, our planned giving program.

Depending upon the assets and the gift arrangement selected, a donor can expect to obtain some or all of the following benefits:

- Reduce income tax through a deduction for the gift
- Avoid capital gain tax on gifts of long-term appreciated property
- Retain a stream of payments for the life for the donor
- Reduce federal estate tax burden

If you would like more information, please call Adam Bolinger or D. Lorne Coyle at the HFC to discuss various options.



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www.HomelessFamilyCenter.com



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OUR MISSION

To provide opportunities for homeless families to end homelessness by achieving self-sufficiency through education, living wages, and permanent housing.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Twenty Years of Serving the Homeless

“Christmas in July”

FUN - FOOD - DRINK - MUSIC - GAMES and LOTS OF SURPRISES

WHEN: Sunday, July 10, 2011

WHERE: Homeless Family Center
720 4th Street Vero Beach, FL 32962

TIME: from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

COST: FREE but limited to the first 250 who call or email by July 1, 2011.
Call Connie at 772-567-5537 ext. 326 or e-mail cutter@homelessfamilycenter.com

DONATION OF \$20 TO THE HFC’s HOUSING FUND WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED, TO ENABLE US TO BUY HOUSEHOLD GOODS & FURNISHINGS FOR FAMILIES MOVING IN AND OUT OF THE CENTER.

If you cannot join us, please consider making a donation so we can hold the event with your generosity and support.

Creative Fundraising

Please join us in planning one of the following events in your own home to support the HFC.

Awareness Reception

Invite friends, family, co-workers and/or neighbors over for cocktails, dinner or coffee to share the mission of HFC and tell why you support HFC.

Birthday Party

In lieu of personal gifts ask for donations and items on the HFC wish list to be donated to HFC.

Special Event

Need a reason to plan a special event? HFC is the reason to plan a special event! Get friends, co-workers, organizations, classes or teams together to raise money for HFC.

Start your plan today by calling HFC at 772 567-5537.