

Heart for Winter Haven | Quarter In Review | April 2020

863.291.6270 | heart4wh.org

### A NOTE FROM BRAD...

Thoughts to gladden your heart... Isaiah 45:2- "I myself will prepare your way, leveling mountains and hills. I will break down bronze gates and smash their iron bars."

Because we partnered with the City of Winter Haven starting back in the fall of 2018, today we are positioned to serve families facing homelessness due to economic hardship. Because we partnered with Living Word of Faith Assembly several years ago, and the Rotary Clubs of Polk County last year, we were able to open the Scholarship House, providing a safe haven for homeless college students. Because we partnered with Jobs for Life, we have been at the forefront of providing virtual classes both locally and nationally. We are also leading JfL's leadership training, being able to imprint our core values across the country. Because we partner with you, because you believe in a city-reaching, life-transforming, development oriented, gospel empowered ministry called Heart for Winter Haven, we are prepared and resourced to make an impact at a critical time in our community's history. For such a time as this....



-Brad Beatty; Executive Director

### BECAUSE WE PARTNER WITH YOU...

#### GivingTuesdayNow



GivingTuesday is a generosity movement each year in November that unleashes the power of people and organizations to transform their local communities. GivingTuesdayNow is a new global day of unity on May 5, 2020 as a response to the unprecedented need caused by recent events. Due to the postponement of our golf tournament in early April, we are about \$25,000 shy of where we should have been by this time of the year. But our God is ABLE and we know we can come together to make up this difference with your help! Would you consider making a donation and/or promoting this event through your social circles? Thank you to our champions for engaging with others in your circle on this special day and helping to connect them with organizations and people who are doing good work!

On May 5th, we invite you to join us throughout the day on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/Heart4WH](https://facebook.com/Heart4WH)) as we share the impact of H4WH and include opportunities to share in meeting our goal. There are many amazing nonprofits working to bring HOPE during this difficult time. We are blessed to come alongside them, and thankful for your partnership in making that possible! Together, let's spread the word... we look forward to seeing you May 5th!

(You can also donate now at [givebutter.com/H4WH-GivingTuesdayNow](https://givebutter.com/H4WH-GivingTuesdayNow))

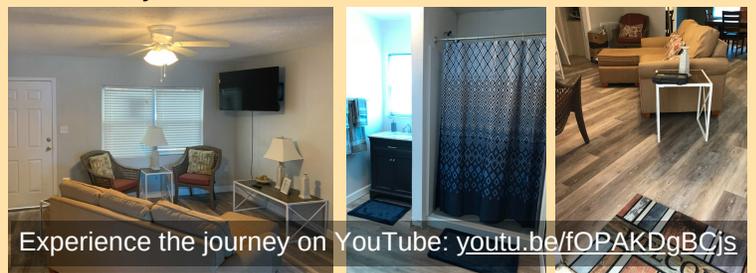
-Jennifer Cowan; Champion Relationships Specialist

### BECAUSE WE PARTNERED WITH LIVING WORD OF FAITH AND ROTARY CLUBS...

#### Lenfestey Scholarship House at The Manse

Just days before the "safer at home" order, the Scholarship House accepted its first residents, ending homelessness for two local college students and fulfilling a shared vision for our community. Conceived over a meal two years earlier with Pastor AJ Hardin, H4WH Board VP James Arnold and I, the dream of providing supported housing for homeless students was finally born! The Community Men's Breakfast group was an early support, but the entry of the Rotary Clubs of Polk County signaled a surge of effort and resources that pushed the development toward fruition. A network of organizations continues to support the House and its residents, promising the skills, social support and resources to create a safe haven for up to 6-8 young men as they complete their academic pursuits. Resident Manager, Dexter Thomas, and volunteer leaders Andrew Albrecht and James Arnold look forward to stepping alongside the students and supporting their success. As they say, it takes a village...

-Brad Beatty; Executive Director



Experience the journey on YouTube: [youtu.be/fOPAKDgBCjs](https://youtu.be/fOPAKDgBCjs)

## BECAUSE WE PARTNERED WITH THE CITY...

### The Housing Partnership of Winter Haven

Eighteen months ago, due to a desire to create deeper connections in our community, Heart for Winter Haven began building a relationship with the City of Winter Haven. Because of this friendship, we were able to be at the forefront of a discussion on homelessness among families with students in our local area schools. The amazing partnership that resulted, the **Housing Partnership of Winter Haven**, has allowed us to begin serving at-risk families (5 families in the past 4 months) that were facing homelessness. In addition, we began offering housing counsel, with referrals to partnering agencies. These associations, along with the charitable contributions from our champion donors, have allowed us to work with not only families who are at-risk, but assist in the rehousing of already homeless families. Through these services, we are currently working to provide a faith-based financial literacy class, reliable renters class, and client-based care plans to assist in educating and stabilizing those we serve.

-Bee Gallison; Program Coordinator



## BECAUSE WE PARTNERED WITH JOBS FOR LIFE...

Grace Lutheran Church was 5 lessons away from graduating their 7th Jobs for Life (JfL) class when COVID-19 brought the class to a halt. At South County Jail and other locations, classes had to be placed on hold. National JfL CORE Training, hosted by H4WH and Lighthouse Ministries, was abruptly placed on hold. Like many ministries across the globe, we faced the question- How do we serve our city and beyond in a ministry that is about transforming lives through relationships? Thus began our pivot point. With the commitment of Grace Lutheran, we launched our first Virtual JfL class. The students were so dedicated to completing their transformation journey that they all graduated on April 9th! One student, who was homeless and without WiFi or computer access, sat in Grace's fellowship hall where they allowed him use of electronics to attend the virtual class. Volunteers at the jail committed to maintaining relationships with our students via email.

We partnered with JfL and launched a National Virtual JfL Class. I served as Lead Instructor and one of our local volunteers, Richard Murray, was National Champion. Students are attending from across the US and a second class is in the works that will allow local students to attend. On April 17&18, again in partnership with JfL Nat'l, we trained 30 ministry leaders from across the country in our first Virtual CORE Training. The training, which was originally scheduled to be held at Lighthouse Ministries in partnership with H4WH, was instead streamed from our new office. COVID-19, instead of being a roadblock, has created an opportunity for us to expand the ministry of H4WH not only locally, but across the country. Our model of seeking the welfare of our city through community connected is now being showcased on a national level. We have also been afforded the opportunity to coach churches and ministries one-on-one in developing life transformation ministry anchored in relationship. Through this partnership we are fulfilling the great commission- reaching locally, regionally and nationally with the message of community transformation through the gospel. As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 states- In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (even in COVID-19 quarantine)

-Margaret Jones; Dir. of Training & Programs



### CITY OF WINTER HAVEN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 | 12:00PM | LIVE ON  

*Come join us for a time of prayer for our families, city, churches, government, businesses, and more!*

An opportunity for giving will be available at the event. All proceeds to benefit the Housing Partnership of Winter Haven.

<https://www.facebook.com/Heart4WH> (YouTube link coming soon!)

Presented by Heart for Winter Haven, the Community Men's Group & your local churches

The 2020 Cares Act provides for a universal, above-the-line, deduction of up to \$300 cash made by any taxpayer - whether they itemize or not. This will reduce your taxable income for 2020 to any nonprofit and charitable organization.

Did you know H4WH recently moved?



Please see below for our new address information!

NEW Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2383, Winter Haven, FL 33883

NEW Physical Address: The Davis Building, 400 3rd Street SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880