



SPRING 2008

The Shepherd's Way

Shepherding Homeless Families to Independence through God's Love

1232 N.E. 26TH STREET • WILTON MANORS, FL 33305 • 954-566-2311 • www.theshepherdsaway.org



Executive Director's Message:

I find it hard pressed to think of anything more precious than a child's smile. With two young children of my own, I am often blessed with the sound of laughter and excitement in my home. This is not only true for my family, but also for the many families who reside at Paul's Place and receive safe housing through Faith In Action. As I walk through the open field at Paul's Place, surrounded by children laughing and playing, I often forget that these children are "homeless."

When I see the many smiling faces I am filled with hope for the future of these families and the men and women they will become. For many families homelessness is a passing moment, not a thing or time to define a person by, but rather an obstacle to overcome. We come alongside families in their time of distress and provide the loving care necessary to make lasting change.

While this is the case for the many families that we serve, it is not the reality for hundreds of children who are experiencing homelessness every night throughout Broward County. Children are forced to sleep doubled up with friends or family in housing already too small for the family living there. Moving every other night to a new place before the family wears out its welcome. Or even worse, the

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

(1 John 3:18 NIV)

family must sleep in their car or on the street because there is no other place to go.

While this is a dire picture, with your help we can provide safe housing for families in their time of need. Through programs such as Faith In Action we are expanding the number of families that receive shelter. The spirit of a child is amazing and even amidst the various hardships of life many children are able to hold on to their joy and innocence. However, someone must help them in their time of need and your continued support does that.

Thank you for helping us care for homeless children and parents.

Come, serve, and give... for Jesus has told us what we do for the poorest of the poor is a direct reflection of what we do for Him (Matthew 25:35-41).

Grace and Peace,
Robin Martin, M.Div.
Executive Director



FAMILY JOURNAL

The Shepherd's Way is much more than a homeless shelter. We offer a wide range of services to families in need. Below is just one example of how this ministry impacts the lives of others...

Sarah and her daughter, Sienna (3 years old), were recently helped through our new Faith In Action: Community Housing Program. They received emergency safe housing for a week at Christ Church United Methodist (Pompano Campus) and moved into Paul's Place Shelter because we had an opening available. About her time she writes, "I am very grateful that I have been blessed to be in the Shepherd's Way. It is a safe place for me and my child and a new beginning on my life. My treatment at the church and at The Shepherd's Way has been excellent. I feel that I am finally a part of a family and not alone anymore."

*If your church would like to host a family in the FIA Program, please contact **Lucette, Program Manager**, at **954-566-2311**.*

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY CONTACT NUMBERS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Office954-566-2311
8:30 AM – 5:00 PMMON-FRI

Thrift Store954-566-3004
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.....TUE-SAT

EXTREME MAKEOVER: Homeless Shelter Edition!

Put together one very run-down family homeless shelter, eleven very deserving families, numerous staff and volunteers, several weekends and what do you get? The answer is **EXTREME MAKEOVER: Homeless Shelter Edition**.

If you haven't seen Paul's Place Family Shelter in a while, you would be amazed at the transformation that has occurred. I say transformation because that is the only way to describe the dramatic changes that have occurred throughout the property. Over the last month, **CALVARY HOUSE**, a Christian discipleship program for men, and **NATURAL ART, INC.** have worked together to transform Paul's Place from a drab complex into a tropical paradise.

To see the many good works that we do and enjoy the many changes at The Shepherd's Way, call our office to set up a tour of our ministry, 954-566-2311.





Church Sponsorship Program

The Shepherd's Way is partnering with local churches to "sponsor" our shelter units. When a church sponsors a unit they adopt the apartment as an extension of their ministry and the families that reside in them as a part of their community. We are praying for eleven churches to adopt one unit each, including taking on the project of renovation and providing emotional support for the families that live there.

Thank you to the men, women, and children from **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE** for all the work in Unit 11, especially **JOE VASON** and **BILL CRANSHAW**. They worked very hard raising the standard of living for Paul's Place and greeted the family that moved in with a home cooked meal.



Spotlight on Success!



congratulations

In the month of February, The Shepherd's Way Thrift Store had a record-breaking sales total of \$25,479 worth of goods and gave away \$2,698 worth of goods to those homeless men, women, and children in need.

Under the leadership of **PAT SCALISE**, the caring staff of **TONY, LESLIE, BRENDA** and **MARY**, and the many **DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS**, the Thrift Store has become a bright spot in our ministry.

From everyone involved in The Shepherd's Way, congratulations Pat and the Thrift Store family, you deserve it!!



Volunteer Corner



(L-R) Sam Drucker, Beth Drucker (Co-Founder), & Jacob Drucker with Robin Martin.

Foundation –4– Homeless Kids!

Beth and Jacob Drucker, local area high school students, witnessed the need for clothing for homeless children throughout Broward County and began a local foundation to solicit donations. Their vision is to provide homeless children with new clothing as a means to provide hope and encouragement for families in need.



Willis Floyd

August 6, 1921 –
January 6, 2008

A Faithful Volunteer goes to be with the Lord

On January 10, 2008 we celebrated the life of **WILLIS FLOYD** with a service at Christ Church United Methodist. The service was performed by Pastor Alex Shanks. Pastor Alex could not have summed up Willis' life in a more beautiful way.

Willis was the first property manager at Paul's Place Family Apartments. He was not only a property manager, he was a father, a grandfather and a friend to each one of the family members on the property and also the volunteers. His love for God was reflected in many ways but the most noticeable was in the way he loved people. His door was open 24/7. The families looked to Willis not only for his handyman skills but also for his words of encouragement and prayers.

One of Willis' favorite things in life was to share the Word of God with others and for many of our families that was the first time they got to hear about the Lord.

Willis will forever hold a very special place at The Shepherd's Way.

I miss you my friend...

Karla, Board Member



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