### **NEW LIFE NEWS**

www.NewLife-Mission.org

**Transforming Homeless Families** 



## Summer Adventures

Our child care center is removing the barrier many single moms face in finding safe, affordable child care and meals throughout the summer break.

From drive-in movies, field trips and nature scavenger hunts, children in Kids Academy are having a blast in our first official Summer Camp!

Teachers are incorporating daily outdoor play time into their curriculums, including bike rides, nature walks and gardening. They enjoyed a camping week with tents, S'mores and crafts.

Overall, children's moods have been brighter, and their health and wellness has improved since given space to explore the New Life Village campus.

One of the moms shared, "My daughter has blossomed socially, emotionally, and spiritually during her time at Kids Academy. Not only has her experience there better prepared her for school, but it has also fostered her relationship with God and encouraged her to seek Him throughout her everyday activities."

On Fridays, teachers and students go on field trips to local splash pads and parks. They have visited the Brevard Zoo and Medieval Times theater. "The highlight of camp has been our drive-in movie event with our cool, new projector screen," said Kids Academy Manager Ms. Dezi. "The children cuddled in their decorated box car and enjoyed popcorn and drinks."

#### **Contribute to Kids Academy**

- **\$50** provides breakfast, lunch and snacks for 1 child for 1 week
- \$100 provides meals, activities and field trips for 1 teenager for 1 week
- **\$250** provides meals for 5 children for 1 week

When a child is lovingly cared for, a mother is better able to focus on the tasks she needs to accomplish to move her family forward toward self-sufficiency.







## Much to Celebrate

Annual fundraiser success, first summer camp. graduation and more families!

A recent study released by the **Brevard Homeless Coalition shows** that homelessness in our area has increased by 15% in the last year, which is consistent with what we've seen at the Mission: more calls for help from families struggling to make ends meet.

As we wrap up our fiscal year, your faithful support has helped us stay on budget during a difficult economic climate of rising costs and decreased donations.

Our annual fundraiser, Community Care & Share, is a perfect example of how you responded faithfully and helped us meet our fundraising goal, which will allow us to continue current programs and increase

capacity to meet the needs of more homeless women with children.

Our children are flourishing socially, emotionally and behaviorally in our new Kids Academy childcare center, and this summer we organized our first-ever summer camp.

Our first house at New Life Village opened in April and has space for five families. We're looking forward to opening the second house this fall. We also celebrated three graduates in May, who will all take advantage of the affordable graduate housing we offer.

Mental health counseling continues to be a primary focus for all families who enter our program.

The dedicated staff members of New Life Mission are on the front lines every day answering the call in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, vou did for me."

Thank you for trusting us to do His work in this community!

Amy Lyon

**CFO** 





# Small Visits, Big Impact

**Joy Olson - Kids Club Volunteer since 2021** 

"The most important two hours of my week is the time I have spent with the children in Kids Club. Although I may not think I'm

making a difference, others tell me that I really am, however small.

"When I first began volunteering, there were four older kids (ages 12-14), and we immediately connected. We played games outside and shared about our days and favorite Bible stories. I love walking in and receiving a hug or hearing the excitement in their voice ready to tell me something new that happened.

"Since March 2021, I have enjoyed being part of something larger than myself. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways, and I want to share his love and message. New Life Mission is the perfect match for me as it is Christian based and as a mother, I am always interested in helping children."

Scan here for volunteer application

Volunteer **Spotlight**  Meet the Class of 2023!

#### Mariah

"When I called New Life Mission, I had nowhere to go and was finally ready to get closer to God. I had come from abusive relationships in which individuals controlled my every move even at points controlling my money or taking it. I lost my faith in God during those times.

"While I have been here, I have brought my GPA up from a 0 to almost a 3.0, made the President's lists, Dean's list, National Honors Society, and recently won the Student of the Year Award 2022-2023 in Communications and Library Resources - all while attending Eastern Florida State College! I am working on eventually completing the paralegal program at EFSC.

"New Life has also allowed me to save a significant amount of money, while paying my bills and paying off an \$8,000 debt I owed when I first arrived here. My family and friends all see the old Mariah back!"

#### **Chantal**

"When I first called New Life I wasn't sure what my next step would be. To say I needed transformation was an understatement. I had no car, no savings, a work-from-home job, all while fighting to remain sober, on top of learning how to parent three small toddlers all under the age of 4. My credit score was below 500 and I was roughly \$18,000 in debt.

"I have been sober for 3 1/2 years now. I have paid ALL my debt off AND have a savings account for the first time ever. My credit score as of today is 746! I was able to save up enough to reinstate my license and received a vehicle through a wonderful program donation. I volunteer in Ekids at my local church on Sunday mornings. And as far as careers go, I just finished LPN nursing school!"

#### Jen

"When I arrived at New Life Mission, fear was my co-pilot. I was barely functioning. And I was so deep in my fear that I couldn't see a way out.

"I met with my faith-based therapist that New Life had hired for us. She was trying to explain to me that there are people in my life who want to help me. I wanted to believe her, but when you come from domestic violence, you see the world through a very different lens. Everyone wants to hurt you, control you, criticize you. I told the therapist I didn't know what healthy help and healthy love looked like.

"THIS is what God's love looks like. These people embody His love. And fear is no longer my co-pilot. I know my purpose now. I know I am on this earth to share the gifts he blessed me with and to show others what God's love is."

Receive e-News and stay up-to-date on student milestones! www.NewLife-Mission.org/enews

# Hardmade Healing



The Transformed Shop sewing center is the social enterprise of New Life Mission, a transformational program that has helped women with children transition out of homelessness to a life of self-sufficiency since 2009.

By purchasing these products, you are empowering a woman to gain valuable skills that will equip her to break the cycle of homelessness.

www.TransformedShop.com

### Corporate Catalog available!

Now is the time to make a plan for holiday gift-giving! Imagine giving a gift to an employee or client that also supports women with children who are transitioning out of homelessness.

Each Transformed Shop product is individually packaged and includes an information card signed by the woman who worked on the project.

Quantity discounts are available and quotes may be obtained by calling (321) 480-9100 Ext. 119 or emailing <a href="mailto:Kameisha.C@NewLife-Mission.org">Kameisha.C@NewLife-Mission.org</a>

Online orders may be placed at <a href="https://www.TransformedShop.com">www.TransformedShop.com</a>







#### **Community Care & Share 2023**

## Opening Eyes to Homelessness

Thanks to your generosity, our annual fundraiser Community Care & Share 2023 was a tremendous success! During the two-day event on April 27 and 28, we welcomed nearly 800 attendees who helped us raise \$626,644!

These funds will directly support programming for women and children, and will help us continue our history of solid financial footing as we move into fiscal year 2023-2024.



Our graduate, Yvette, shared her journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency, and said, "The New Life program helped me because for once I had someone else who believed in me." Watch her video at www.NewLife-Mission.org/CCS









Community Care & Share 2024 is April 18 and 19

For sponsorship and table host information, please email <u>CCS@NewLife-Mission.org</u>