

# New Life Mission opens fourth campus

## Nonprofit offers hope for homeless women with children

By **Brittany Ó Ruacháinn**  
For Hometown News

BREVARD COUNTY — New Life Mission is transforming lives and breaking the cycle of homelessness one woman at a time.

The nonprofit organization provides housing, childcare, job training, counseling, and so much more for homeless women with children.

With the recent ribbon cutting of its fourth campus, New Life Village, the nonprofit can make an even bigger impact as women find stability in their lives.

“It’s our biggest campus,” said Amy Lyon, chief executive officer of New Life Mission. “The potential is there for future development, which we’re not really even making plans for yet. We’re just trying to wrap our arms around what we have.”

By December, New Life Village will have opened its three houses for women new to the program. The Village will be able to serve 15-18 families, adding to the 21 other families served at its other three campuses.

The village sits on 25 acres and was formerly known as the Hacienda Girls Ranch, owned by the Children’s Home Society.

What’s wonderful about having such a large campus is that it can serve as a hub for women who come into the nonprofit without transportation.

This campus features an administration building, a Kids Academy childcare center, Transform Shop sewing center, three build-

ings for housing, and a garage.

For every new family that joins, New Life Mission helps to supply everything from toiletries and furniture to bus passes.

New Life Mission has a public wish list available, in case anyone would be willing to donate. The nonprofit is in need of everything from children’s toys to kitchen supplies.

Larger monetary donations can help to provide bunk beds, dressers, washer/dryer sets, refrigerators and more.

A complete wish list is available by visiting [newlife-mission.org/wishlist](http://newlife-mission.org/wishlist).

Women who join New Life Mission will begin at the Village where they will develop skills, learn financial education, and are encouraged to earn a degree.

Once they’ve gotten a little bit of their life back, families are moved to another campus. By now, some women may own cars and have reliable transportation to take them to work, school, or back to the Village to work in the Transform Shop.

When women have completed the four-phase program, they can apply for graduate housing, which offers affordable rates for up to two years while they save to move into an apartment or to purchase a home.

“Our graduate alumni program allows us to keep in touch with them after they leave our campuses,” Lyon said. “They have access to our services forever. We don’t want them to slip back into homelessness if they lose a



New Life Mission/For Hometown News

New Life Mission celebrated the ribbon cutting of its fourth campus, New Life Village. The nonprofit helps homeless women with children find stability and independence.

job or if something happens. They’ll always have that safety net.”

Some women are happy to move on and leave this part of their lives behind them, Lyon said, which is okay. But there are women who want to pay it forward and come to work or volunteer with New Life Mission when they’ve “graduated.”

“We can talk to the new families coming in, but to hear it from a graduate who’s already gone through the program and knows from that level, I think it’s more impactful,” Lyon said.

To learn more about New Life Mission, visit [newlife-mission.org](http://newlife-mission.org).

**YOUR BREAKFAST & LUNCH “HOME COOKING” STOP**

**20% DISCOUNT EVERY DAY TO OUR MILITARY FRIENDS!**

**\*\*Gift Certificates Available Through Hometown News\*\***

**SOUTHERN SISTERS CAFE**

**2242 Sarno Road, Melbourne (321) 775-3442**  
(corner of Sarno and Croton, behind Exxon gas station)  
Monday through Sunday 6 am-2 pm

## Council supports renaming Melbourne’s Crane Park

### Change to Tim Wakefield not official yet

By **Chris Bonanno**  
For Hometown News

MELBOURNE — A proposal from Melbourne Mayor Paul Alfrey to rename Melbourne’s Crane Park after the late Tim Wakefield received unanimous support from the Melbourne City Council at a meeting on Oct. 10, according to video posted by the city.

The park, located at 1550 Mosswood Dr., according to the City of Melbourne’s website, is less than a mile from Eau Gallie High School, from which Wakefield graduated. According to City of Melbourne public information officer Cheryl Mall, the park features two baseball fields along with a softball field and a multi-purpose field.

According to the site, the park also has a basketball court, playground, dog park, pavilion and grill.

“Everybody knows who he is and what he’s done in this community,” said Alfrey in remarks at the meeting about Wakefield, a former standout pitcher with the Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Pirates who passed away on Oct. 1 at the age of 57. “He went to Eau Gallie High School like I did. He was a few years ahead of me. It was seeing somebody excel at Eau Gallie at something you love and being just a great guy, then staying at Florida Tech and

then moving on to his baseball career and playing in a World Series. It was really, really neat. I’d like to do something in his honor because I don’t think you’ll find a better guy.”

Alfrey said he had members of the community reach out to him about the idea.

“I would like to see the Tim Wakefield Sports Complex,” Alfrey said.

Mall indicated that are steps that now must be taken before a resolution to re-name the park can become official.

First, background research must be conducted on the current name and have the results of that research presented before Council. Beyond that, the cost of re-naming the park, with things that include sign replacement, must be estimated.

“They also have to send a courtesy notice to any residents who lives within 500 feet of the park,” Mall said. “They have to do it ten days before it will appear before Council.”

Because of that, Mall said the earliest the Melbourne City Council could vote on a resolution would be at their Nov. 14 meeting.

“If they approve then it’s immediate, it goes into effect immediately, the name change,” added Mall regarding a potential vote on a resolution.

## Young @ Heart Senior Expo

**Thursday, October 26 - 10 am to 1 pm**

**Viera Regional Community Center**

*2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera*

**Free Admission - Health Screenings**

**Meet Your Local Health Experts**

**Snacks, Refreshments & Door Prizes**