

55 Years of Impact and Inspiration

# Come Together Changing Lives

2024 Annual Report



55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
and Grand Opening of  
The Heart House Family Shelter

**55<sup>th</sup>**  
**Year**  
ANNIVERSARY  
The  
**Neighborhood Center**  
of West Volusia  
A Place with a *Heart*



Feed the Hungry



House the Homeless



Prevent Homelessness

# Strategic Goals

To prioritize securing sustainable resources to ensure our agency's mission continues to be achieved.

*Purpose*

*People* To recruit, train, and retain the highest quality employees, volunteers, and Board members.

To increase awareness of the Neighborhood Center's mission and programs.

*Promotion*

*Programs* To sustain and increase shelter, housing, and prevention services to meet community needs.

**MISSION** To feed the hungry, house the homeless, and prevent homelessness.

**VISION** To be an integral part of collaborative efforts to serve the homeless, to feed the hungry, and to prevent homelessness.

**VALUES** To serve those in need with respect and integrity in an effort to give hope to those in need.

## History

Over 54 years ago a dream was fulfilled when the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia opened its doors on August 11, 1969. Located at the corner of South Adelle and West Voorhis Avenues, the Neighborhood Center was the brainchild of the West Volusia Council on Human Relations.

The Council was formed in 1963 to help promote racial harmony within the community but soon faced more significant problems that crossed all racial lines. More material and emotional support was needed for individuals facing financial challenges in West Volusia. Thus, the Neighborhood Center was born.

That dream became a reality due largely to the efforts of the late Norah Hagman, often referred to as the "founder" of the Neighborhood Center. Mrs. Hagman was the first director of the Neighborhood Center.

The original purpose of the Neighborhood Center was to provide information and help for individuals facing financial crisis. As more and various needs were identified, services were expanded.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution of food and gifts that began during those first years has grown into a tremendous undertaking, serving over 1,000 families during the holiday season.

As the Center enters its 55th year of serving West Volusia, over 31,000 individuals and families seek and receive assistance from this "Place with a Heart." The Neighborhood Center has learned that when a need presents itself, the citizens of West Volusia can be counted on to help meet it. They care about their neighbors and help to make their dreams come true.



## Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2024, I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our incredible community, partners, and dedicated staff. This past year has been nothing short of transformative—marked by extraordinary growth, unwavering resilience, and a profound impact at the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia. Together, we've built a foundation for lasting change, and the journey ahead is even brighter.

We expanded our services across all areas—distributing more meals, increasing mobile food drops, and providing housing assistance to more families and individuals than ever before. One of our proudest accomplishments was opening our Family Emergency Shelter in September, offering a safe haven for families in crisis. We also strengthened our disaster response efforts, ensuring shelter and meals during Hurricanes Milton and Helene, as well as during extreme cold weather events.

This year, we proudly celebrated 55 years of giving back to our community, a milestone that reflects our deep-rooted commitment to serving those in need. Our fundraising efforts exceeded expectations, raising over \$739,000, a 33% increase from 2023. These milestones have positioned us for continued success. Additionally, we made significant strides in employee retention, reaching an all-time high of 81%, thanks to our commitment to competitive wages and benefits.

While 2024 was a year of progress, it was not without its challenges. The rising cost of living and a shortage of affordable housing led to an increased demand for our services. We also adapted to new local ordinances impacting homelessness. Despite these hurdles, we remain committed to meeting the needs of our community with compassion and innovation.

As we move into 2025, our focus remains on sustainability and growth. We aim to break ground on our recycled container home community, optimize operations, and continue providing life-changing services. I am incredibly honored to lead this organization and grateful for each person who plays a role in our mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

With gratitude,

*Savannah-Jane Griffin*

Savannah-Jane Griffin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Neighborhood Center of West Volusia



## John's Journey: From the Streets to Stability



John pictured here in 2022 at our Robed In Love event.

John, a 51-year-old man with a remarkable spirit, called the streets his home for nearly three years. With no safe place to sleep, he navigated life behind buildings and in the woods—alone. What makes John's story even more extraordinary is that he is a right-leg amputee, confined to a wheelchair, and living with diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic health conditions that were impossible to manage while homeless.

Determined to change his circumstances, John entered our Bridge Shelter program, eager to overcome obstacles. Despite the many challenges, John never gave up hope. With the support of our dedicated staff, he was successfully approved for SSDI benefits, which finally provided him with financial stability.

During his time at the shelter, John adapted to the facility, learned to navigate the building and surrounding campus, and met all the benchmarks necessary to move forward. However, finding permanent housing proved difficult, as many options lacked the ADA accessibility he required. After months of searching and multiple setbacks, John's persistence—and the unwavering support of our team—paid off.

After 150 days in our care, John is living in his permanent supportive housing (PSH) apartment, where he can stay indefinitely with ongoing case management. With staff assistance, he was also approved for Votran Gold, a specialized transportation service for individuals with disabilities, ensuring he can safely travel to his medical appointments.

John now has what once seemed impossible: a safe home, reliable transportation, and a support system that will continue to stand by him. He expressed his deep gratitude for the life-changing impact of our services, sharing that he will always speak highly of the dedication and compassion that helped him find stability.



John with support staff and volunteers, 2024.

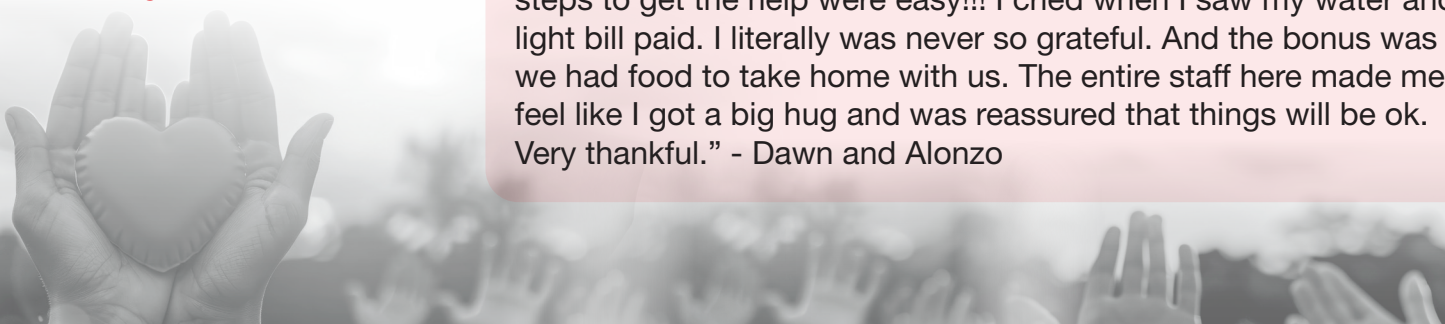


John with our Housing team case managers, 2024.

John's story is just one example of how we are changing lives together—one individual or one family at a time. Because of your generosity, hope becomes a reality for those who need it most.

### ★★★★★ FOR OUR PREVENTION TEAM

"I'm so blessed by the staff that has gone above and beyond to assist my son and me. We came in for utility and water assistance. I was so stressed out but was set at ease, but the steps to get the help were easy!!! I cried when I saw my water and light bill paid. I literally was never so grateful. And the bonus was we had food to take home with us. The entire staff here made me feel like I got a big hug and was reassured that things will be ok. Very thankful." - Dawn and Alonzo



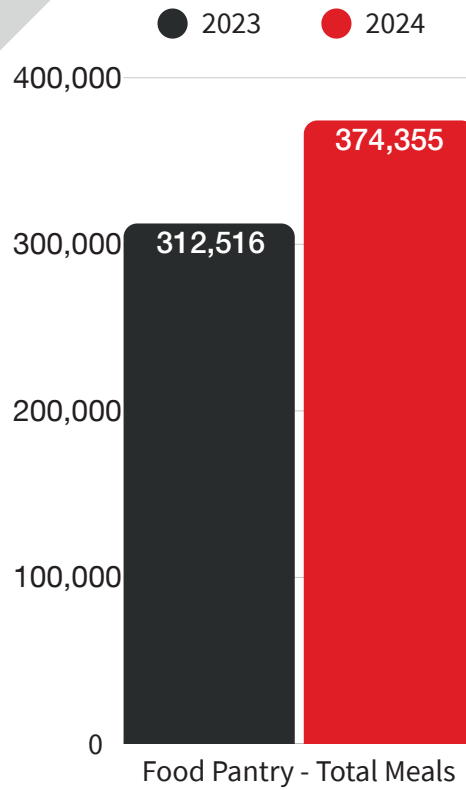
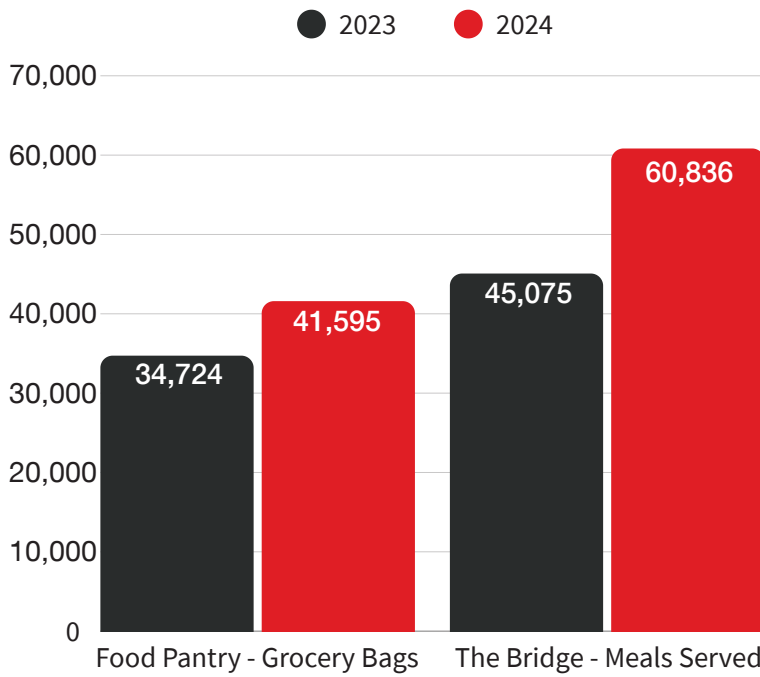




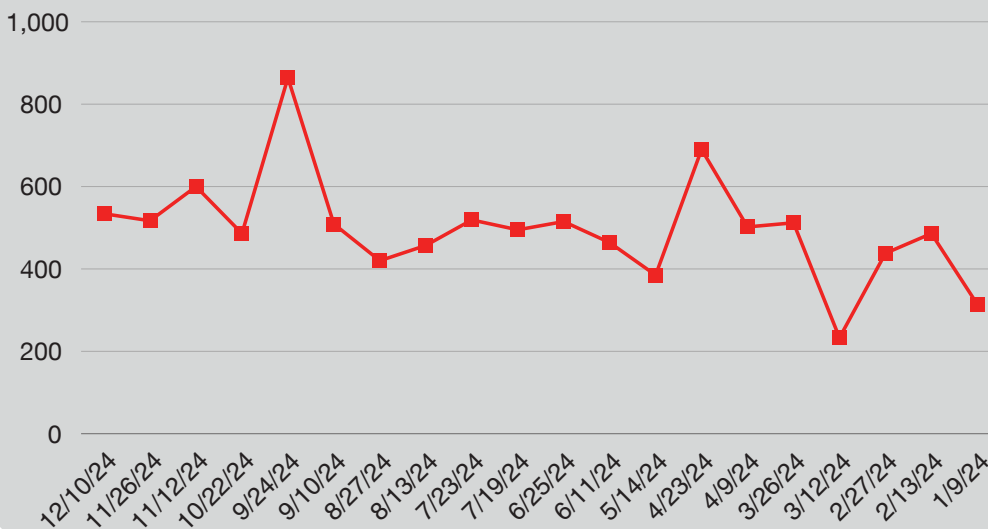
# Feeding the Hungry

Each month, **grocery bags from our food pantry** offer an estimated **9 meals** at a value of **\$35 per bag**

In 2024, the **total value of meals** provided by our pantry equaled **\$1,455,825**



## Total People Served in Mobile Food Drop Events, 2024

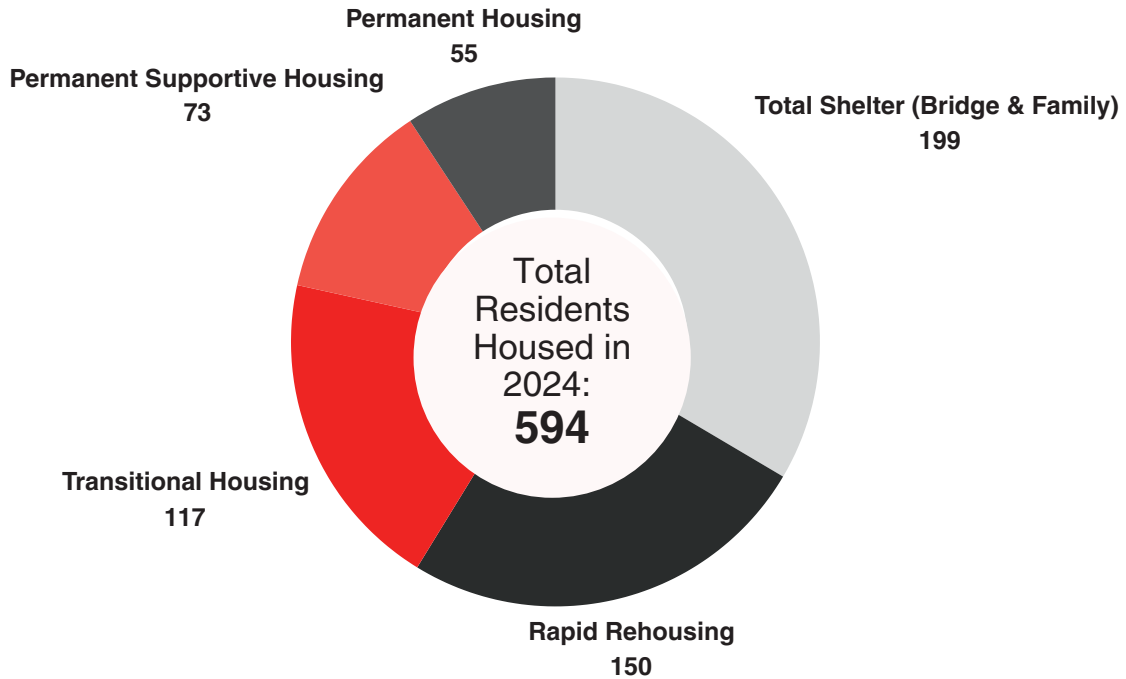


Mobile Food Drops are twice monthly drive-through grocery giveaways in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, our community's branch of Feeding America.

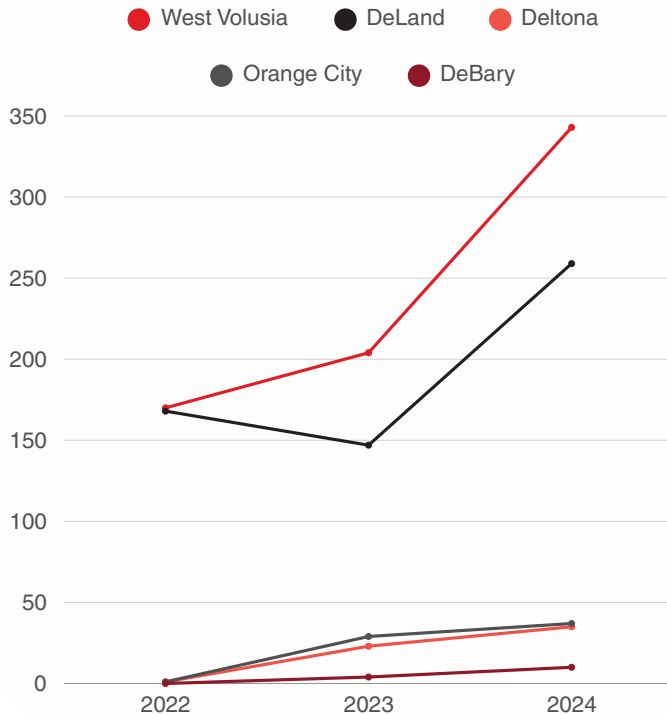
These events are open to anyone in need, and no ID or pre-registration are required to participate.



# Housing the Homeless



## Annual Point-in-Time Count Individuals, 2022-2024



Source: Volusia Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, 2024 Point in Time Count

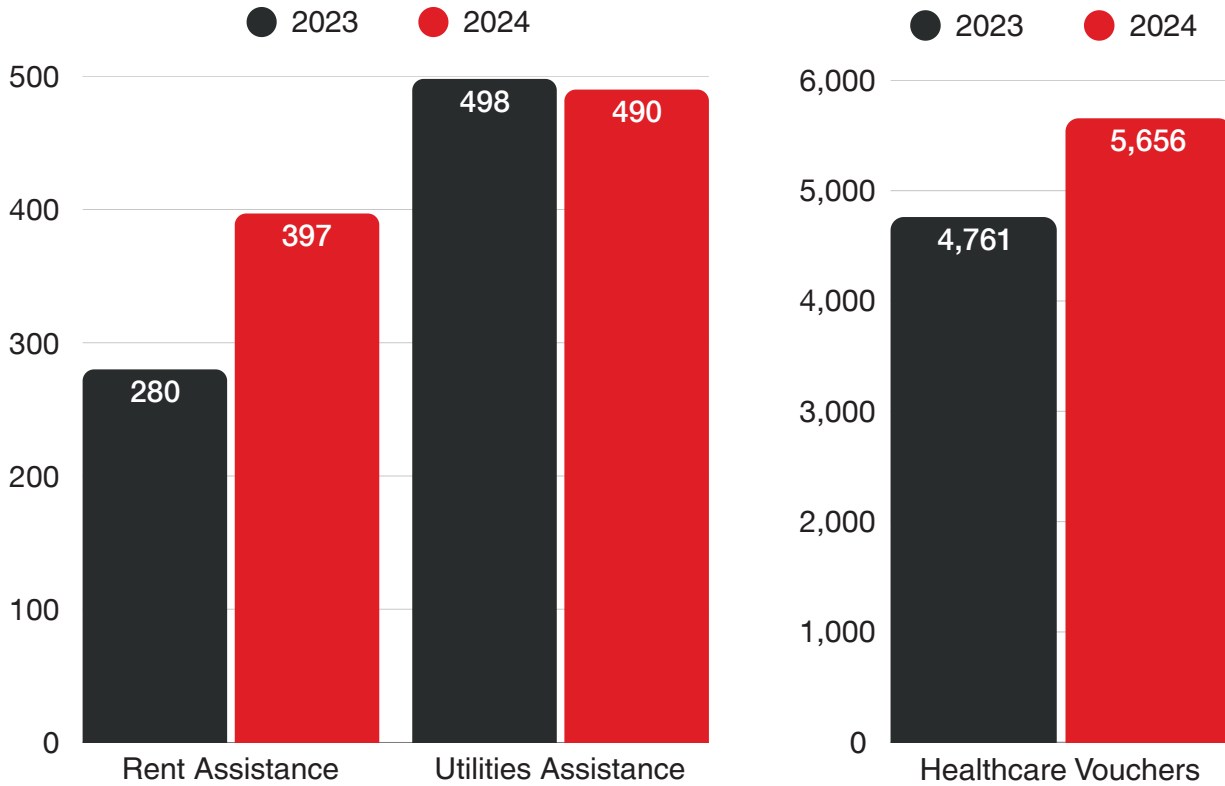
## 2024 Point-in-Time Count Findings

- 10.5% increase in total reported individuals experiencing homelessness
- **Family Shelter & Permanent Housing:**
  - 45% increase in reported families experiencing homelessness
- **Chronic Homelessness:**
  - 59% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for one year or longer
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:**
  - 218 participants reported having a disabling condition
  - 12.5% increase in the number of Seniors (age 55+) experiencing homelessness





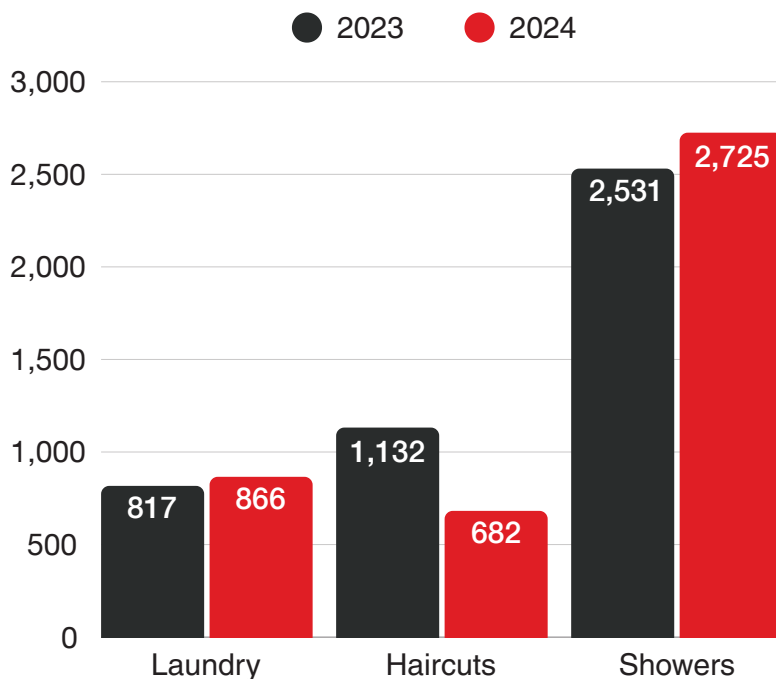
# Preventing Homelessness



## 2024 Volunteer Impact

### Powered by Volunteers

- In 2024, 884 volunteers contributed 14,412 hours of service and heart to NHCWV.
- The Independent Sector estimates that the 2024 value of a volunteer hour in Florida is \$31.61 per hour.
- NHCWV volunteers contributed \$455,563.32 in 2024!



*Our volunteers help coordinate laundry, showers, and haircuts weekly. Above is the number of individuals served.*

# Community is Everything

2024 started with a very ambitious budget. However, if we were going to meet the growing needs of our community with increased demands for food and homeless prevention services and the mounting need for sheltering our homeless neighbors, we needed to create a budget that reflected such needs.

As always, this community came through in droves, supporting our fundraising events, our calls to action, and, most importantly, our mission to serve. At year end, the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia raised over \$739,000, which bypassed our budget by over \$100,000!!

With the amazing generosity of our neighbors, the Neighborhood Center completed renovations on our iconic "Red House" and opened its doors on September 1st to five homeless families. We were also able to purchase a refrigerator food truck to increase the amount and quality of food we offer to our community and increase the amount of aid for homeless prevention services.

We take our hats off to you!

In addition, with the hard work of our Leadership and Team Members, we reduced our operating expenses by 3% and worked tirelessly to increase our internally generated dollars through our Thrift Store and Rental Properties. It is also with pride that we highlight that we have kept our Administrative Costs below 12% which allowed for more donated dollars to go towards direct client care. Due, in part, to these efforts, we were able to end 2024 with a positive financial position.

As always, we remain committed to our mission of improving the lives of those in need. With the ongoing support of our community, we will continue to make a strong and positive community impact and empower individuals to overcome challenges to achieve their full potential.

*Christine Green*

**Christine Green**  
Chief Financial Officer

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We express our deepest gratitude to all our community partners who contribute to our mission, some of whom are listed below, alongside a vast network of churches, civic groups, and businesses. Their collective efforts enable us to better serve and uplift our community daily.



United  
Healthcare

TRUIST

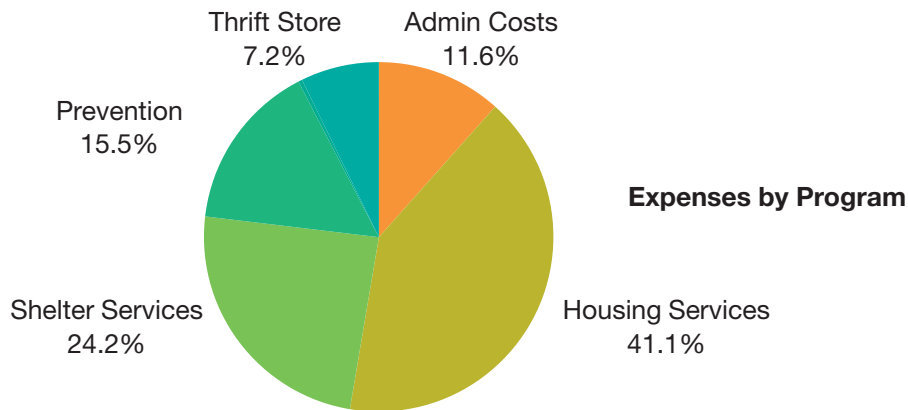
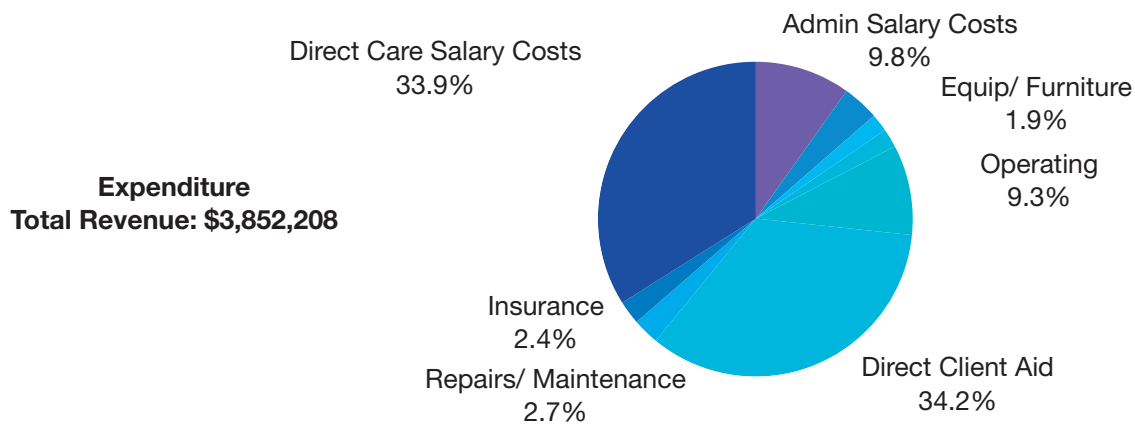
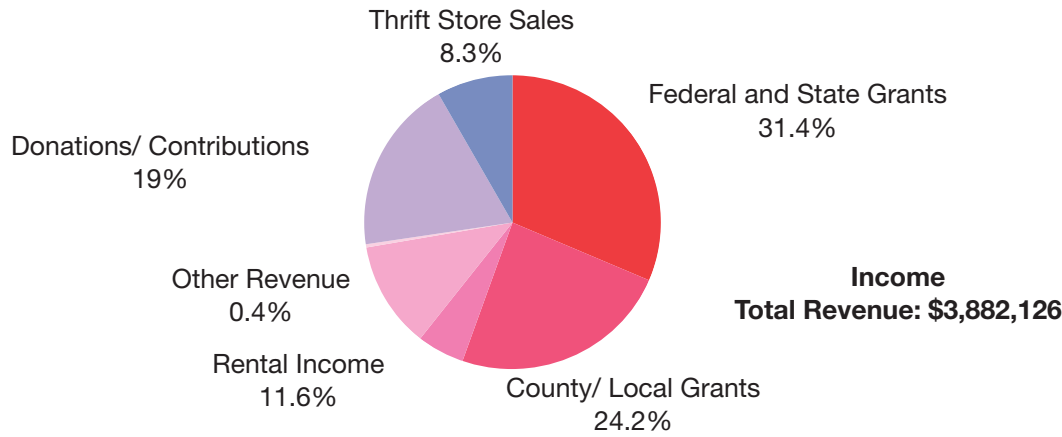


Walmart





## 2024 Year in Review



FEMA



Mears Wealth Management Group  
Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice



## 12th Annual Wine to Water - A Night of Community and Inspiration

A fantastic event indeed on Monday, March 4th, 2024! Featuring a meticulously curated menu by The Elusive Grape, the Downtown DeLand Rotary Grill Masters, and Sonny's BBQ, as well as thrilling gift basket raffles and exclusive items at our silent auction. Set against the rustic charm and ambiance of Granville Farms, this event was an unforgettable experience. In total, we raised over \$80,000 to assist vulnerable local families and individuals facing homelessness.

Initially, the primary aim of this fundraiser was to assist vulnerable local families and individuals struggling to cover their water bills. Over the past decade, this signature event has garnered immense support from the community, evolving to provide financial aid not only for water bills but also for utilities and other essential services aimed at preventing homelessness. By aiding families and individuals in maintaining their homes, the event has effectively saved significant amounts of money and countless hours that would otherwise be required to stabilize them in new living arrangements.

This annual fundraiser has united the community for over a decade, offering crucial financial aid for rent, utilities, water, and homeless prevention services. Thanks to all for this support, which directly contributes to tangible and positive change, alleviating the challenges faced by those in need and ensuring they can remain in their homes.



## Delicious and Impactful! Sixth Annual Empty Bowls

The event took place on Thursday, November 14, 2024, in the cafeteria at DeLand High School. Doors opened to nearly 450 guests, and a heartwarming meal with soups generously donated by local restaurants was underway.



It is a memorable community gathering, a time to connect with others and remember those in our community facing hunger and food insecurity. This annual fundraiser brought in over \$31,000.00 to fight hunger in our community.

Each participant received a beautifully crafted ceramic bowl as a token of appreciation for their support, along with a serving of soup, bread, dessert, and beverages, including water and tea and a raffle ticket for door prize baskets.



## Robed in Love: Celebrating Generosity and Community

First presented in 2018, the Robed in Love event and the Love Local Award were established to honor Ed and Pauline Lacey, whose generosity and significant financial contributions have impacted the DeLand community. The Neighborhood Center operates a transitional housing program for women and children in the Lacey family's name, and they are also the namesake of the Spring Hill Boys & Girls Club in DeLand. Ed and Pauline were the first recipients of this prestigious award, recognizing individuals whose tireless efforts and exemplary character inspire others to support the mission.

Over the years, the **Love Local Award** has also been presented to DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar, Boulevard Tire CEO Earl Colvard, City Manager Michael Pleus, and dedicated volunteers Tanna Gartside and Gery Walker.

As the event has grown, two additional honors have been introduced:

- *The Humble Heart Award* – Celebrating passionate volunteers who make a difference
- *The Ed Lacey Big Heart Award* – Honoring those who provide generous financial support

## 5th Annual Robed in Love – A Morning of Gratitude

On February 16, 2024, the community gathered at the Sanborn Center for a heartfelt breakfast celebrating those who help advance *The Neighborhood Center's* mission: feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and preventing homelessness. Guests wore their favorite cozy robes over business attire, symbolizing the fundamental need for safe and secure housing for all.

The event featured inspiring speakers, including *Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown*, President of the National Coalition for the Homeless, and *Eric Gray*, Executive Director of the Christian Service Center for the Homeless.

This year, two new recognitions were introduced: *Corporate Champions* Duke Energy, VyStar Credit Union, and AAGO were honored for their outstanding support, while *Christine Murphy* received the inaugural *Spirit of Home Award* for her dedication to inclusivity and community impact.

### 2024 Honorees:

- **Ed Lacey Big Heart Award** – *Jay & Karen Keller*
- **Humble Heart Awards** – *Alice Balben* (Individual), *St. Barnabas Episcopal Church* (Group)
- **Love Local Award** – *Victoria Gardens Women's Club*

It was a truly special morning filled with gratitude, inspiration, and a shared commitment to making a difference. We are deeply thankful for our incredible supporters, whose generosity continues to brighten lives and strengthen our community!



*AAGO, Duke Energy, VyStar*



*Jay & Karen Keller*

*Alice Balben*



*Christine Murphy*

*Saint Barnabas*



*Victoria Gardens Women's Club*



## The Bridge Shelter: Providing Critical Support

In 2024, the Bridge Shelter served twice as an emergency weather shelter, opening its doors to provide refuge during Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Neighbors in need found safety, warmth, and support, receiving essential services such as a secure place to sleep, showers, laundry, and meals.

Throughout the year, more than **4,448 services** were provided in response to extreme weather events, ensuring that individuals facing crisis had access to life-sustaining resources. This vital assistance would not be possible without the dedication of our employees and volunteers.

The Bridge also operates as a **cooling shelter**, welcoming individuals into the Community Room daily from **12 to 4 p.m.** to escape the heat.

Expanding our outreach, the Bridge Shelter now offers a **day center** from **1 to 4 p.m.** each day. The center features **life skills and enrichment classes** led by community partners and volunteers.

Additionally, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and staff:

- 682 haircuts** were provided
- 866 laundry services** were completed
- 2,725 showers** were offered
- 60,836 meals** were served

On Christmas Eve, The Bridge Shelter opened its doors to 31 individuals seeking warmth, safety, and hope. On Christmas morning, they woke up to thoughtful gifts as our incredible team and volunteers came together to serve breakfast to 90 community members creating fellowship, nourishment, and joy. Moments like these show the power of community and compassion to truly change lives.

Daily lunches remain open to all, served at noon on weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends at the Bridge. To learn more about available services and activities, contact the Bridge at **(386) 734-8120 ext. 601**.



## Expanding Access to Nutritious Food

In February 2024, we expanded our food distribution efforts by offering bi-monthly food drops on each month's second and fourth Tuesdays. This primarily drive-through initiative, made possible through our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, has significantly increased our community's access to fresh and nutritious food.

In 2024, a total of 3,008 households—impacting 9,940 individuals—benefited from this program, receiving a variety of fresh produce, baked goods, meat, and dairy products.

To make food more accessible, no identification is required to participate, and individuals are welcome to attend both monthly food drops and utilize our food pantry. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on upcoming distributions.



## 2024 Was an Inspiring Year Celebrating Champions!

The year was filled with celebrations showcasing the impact of our volunteers and leadership.

- Honoring Our Volunteers:** On February 19, 2024 two NHCWV volunteers were recognized at DeLand's City Commission meeting. Chanel Gerena was named the **Under Forty Volunteer of the Year** and **Tanna Gartside** was named **Volunteer of the Year**. Tanna shared inspiring words to encourage others to volunteer. Several additional NHCWV volunteers were also nominated, and we are grateful for their dedication and service. Thank you to the **City of DeLand** and our supporters for celebrating them with us!



Tanna Gartside



Savannah-Jane Griffin, Chanel Gerena and Debra West



Savannah-Jane Griffin 2024 Young Professional of the Year and Wade Hunter 2024 Most Charitable Young Professional

**Celebrating Leadership:** March 14, 2024, at the Cici & Hyatt Brown Museum of Art in Daytona Beach. Savannah-Jane Griffin, CEO of the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia, was named "Young Professional of the Year" for the Volusia-Flagler area at The Daytona Beach News-Journal/LocaliQ's "40 Under Forty" awards event. In front of a crowd of 150 community leaders—she expressed gratitude and reflected on the collective impact of those in the room—reminding everyone that leadership is about lifting others up and inspiring more people to give back.

**With incredible volunteers and outstanding leadership, 2024 was a year for the record books!**

## Building Pathways to Stability: Housing Opportunity Program

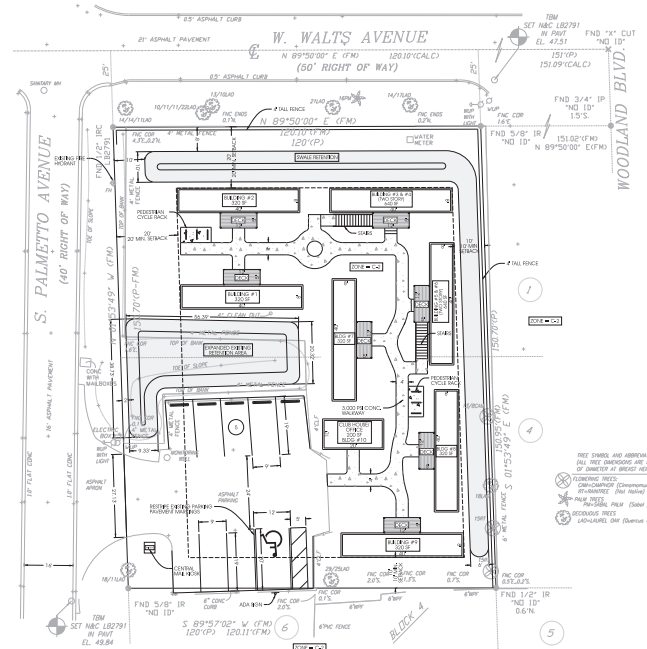
We are thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative as part of our ongoing efforts to address homelessness and expand housing in DeLand. As part of our commitment to creating sustainable and inclusive solutions, we are moving forward with the development of a **Recycled Container Home Community**—a forward-thinking project designed to provide transitional housing and pave the way toward achieving permanent housing stability.

In partnership with Goldberg Construction and Innovar, a leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions, the **Housing Opportunity Program** will transform eight recycled shipping containers into thoughtfully designed homes. This community will cater to diverse needs, with two units designated for families, two ADA-accessible units for residents with disabilities, and five units configured as separate apartments for individuals.

We are pleased to share that we have already secured a portion of the funding to launch this project, thanks to the generous support of the Lacey Family Charitable Foundation and an anonymous donor. Their contributions have given us a strong foundation, but we will need additional partners to help bring this project to fruition. By working together, we can ensure that this innovative housing solution becomes a reality, creating new opportunities for those in transition.

We are proud to share that plans are in place to break ground on this project in 2025. As we work toward finalizing designs and securing approval through city zoning, we invite businesses, organizations, and individuals to join us in supporting this critical initiative and expanding housing options in our community.

This initiative represents more than just a housing project—it is a symbol of hope, opportunity, and the power of collaboration to transform lives. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and invite you to join us in bringing this vital project to life.



## When a Community Comes Together

COME Together – Our 55th Anniversary and the grand opening of the “Heart House” Family Emergency Shelter.

On June 18, 2024 we launched something truly special. With a huge wave of generosity, in 22 days, we reached our initial goal to raise 55K in 55 days and ended up with a stellar total of over \$83,000.00! Donations to this campaign sustain our essential programs, such as the Bridge Shelter, the Food Pantry, and our Center for Neighbors in Need. It also helps us bring new projects to life, including the Recycled Container Home Community and our new Family Emergency Shelter.



As we reflect on our incredible 55-year journey of compassion and service, we are filled with gratitude for the overwhelming support we received. With over 100 people in attendance, Tuesday, August 27th, we began another new chapter with the grand opening of the “Heart House” Family Emergency Shelter now providing a safe haven for up to five families. Many came out to the ribbon cutting hosted in part by the DeLand and Greater West Volusia Chamber, dressed in the spirit of 1969, rocking their hippie vibes for the contest. We did “Come Together” to celebrate like it was 1969 with peace, love, and gratitude!

We are grateful to our community for their unwavering support and thank you for being such an important part of our story and for helping us make our 55th anniversary a momentous occasion. When asked, this community comes together—and you’ve proven that once again.



## A Lifelong Inspiration

Remembering the Legacy of Ann Colwell - July 1, 1932 - December 25, 2024

Ann was an extraordinary woman whose legacy will forever be woven into the fabric of The Neighborhood Center.

Ann was more than a supporter; she was a guiding force, a steadfast presence, and a compassionate advocate for those in need. From the very inception of The Neighborhood Center 55 years ago, Ann played a pivotal role in shaping its mission and impact. She stepped up as Executive Director during a crucial transition period, volunteered in nearly every capacity, and became the welcoming face at our front desk—a beacon of kindness and hope for every individual who walked through our doors.

Her generosity knew no bounds. Ann’s transformative donation helped establish the Heart House family emergency shelter, providing refuge and stability for countless families in crisis. Beyond this, her quiet but powerful financial support sustained our programs over the years, ensuring our mission could continue uninterrupted.

But more than what she gave, it was how she gave—with humility, unwavering dedication, and a heart full of love for this community. Ann embodied the spirit of service; her legacy will continue to inspire us.

We are honored to recognize Ann’s incredible contributions by presenting her family with a plaque commemorating her 55 years of service. This plaque will be a lasting tribute to a woman whose kindness, generosity, and commitment changed lives. In addition, to ensure that Ann’s legacy of service and compassion continues to inspire future generations, we proudly announce that we will be naming an award in her honor at our annual Robed in Love event. This award will celebrate individuals who embody Ann’s spirit—those who give selflessly, uplift others, and impact our community, just as she did.

We deeply thank Ann’s family for sharing her with us. To Ann, we honor you, we miss you, and we will carry your legacy forward.



Memories



## 2024 Board of Directors

Derek Mears, *President*  
 Susan Hall, *Vice President*  
 Giovanni Fernandez, *Treasurer*  
 Sonni Stover Wimer, *Secretary*  
 Sundria Ridgely, *Executive at Large*  
 Mario Davis | Kenneth Harley | Will Hollis  
 Marla Rawnsley | Rick Rintz | Nancy Shayeson  
 Elizabeth Skomp | Gery Walker



## 2024 Leadership Team

### Executive Leadership:

Savannah-Jane Griffin, *Chief Executive Officer* | Waylan Niece, *Chief Operating Officer* | Christine Green, *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Debra West, *Chief Development Officer* | Amber Homberger, *Chief of Staff and Community Engagement*

**The Bridge Shelter:** Kimberly Noel, *Director of Operations* | Erica Rainey, *Director of Community*

**Community Engagement:** Madelyn Rivest, *Director* | **Facilities:** Jacob Rainey, *Director*

**Family Emergency Shelter:** Alexa Urbina, *Program Manager* | **Housing:** Sofia Rivas, *Director*

**Prevention Services:** Lara Poertner, *Director* | **Thrift Store:** Jenna Famiglietti, *Manager*

## 2024 Staff Awards

The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia employs compassionate, skilled professionals who are committed to excellence, enjoy teamwork, and contribute daily to our mission and culture of caring. Starting in 2022, staff awards were selected from a collection of peer nominations open to all Neighborhood Center team members. The 2024 recipients are truly outstanding, and we are excited to spotlight their contributions!

*Celebrating the team that brings our mission to life!*

### Outstanding recipients of our 2024 employee awards:

#### Above and Beyond Award

Recognizes an employee who has gone above and beyond to demonstrate initiative, teamwork, and leadership in their support of the mission.

2024: **Shawn Bell**, *Thrift Store Customer Service Assistant*

#### Collaborator of the Year

Recognizes an employee who has partnered with another department, staff leaders of another program, or with a partner agency to support the mission in new and creative ways.

2024: **Madelyn Rivest**, *Director of Community Engagement*

#### Shirley Tousley Employee of the Year

First awarded in 2017, this highest employee honor highlights the work of an employee who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the mission and embodies our values of respect, integrity, and collaboration through their thoughts, words and actions.

2024: **Kimberly Noel**, *Bridge Shelter Director of Operations*



Shawn Bell



Madelyn Rivest



Kimberly Noel



# 2024 Impact

- **374,355 meals served** through our Food Pantry—a 20% increase from the previous year.
- **37,355 prevention services**, including financial assistance, groceries, hygiene products, and baby supplies, were provided, equal to a 17% increase over last year.
- **887 households received financial assistance** for utilities and rent—a 15% increase in support.
- Volunteers and staff at The Bridge Shelter served **60,836 meals**—a 35% increase from 2023.
- The Emergency Weather Shelter **provided refuge for 4,448** (duplicated) individuals in 2024.
- 884 volunteers **dedicated 14,412 service hours**, making a lasting impact.
- Over **800 children received gifts** and toys during the 2024 Christmas season, spreading holiday joy!

## A TESTIMONIAL TO THE POWER OF YOUTH MAKING AN IMPACT AND INSPIRING OTHERS

As founder of DeLand Hope, Mark Higbee's dedication to service proves that one person's passion can inspire an entire community. From organizing fundraisers to serving meals, the organization's efforts have provided thousands of food items and vital support to Neighborhood Center and community clients. More than just numbers, Mark's work has sparked a movement—encouraging his peers to step up, give back, and create lasting change. DeLand Hope's compassion and commitment to volunteerism are a powerful reminder that young people can be a driving force for good, leaving a lasting impact on those they help and inspire.

## “ HIGH FIVES FROM OUR HELPING HANDS

“It's very rewarding to work with the volunteers and staff in Prevention Services. Thank you for the opportunity to serve those in need.”  
– Carol Curry, March 5, 2024

“It felt great to be able to give back and serve the community! I'll be back to volunteer for the next one!”  
– Lashawn, September 24, 2024  
(Mobile Food Drop)

“The staff was warm, welcoming and informative on the process and expectations. The other Volunteers were excited to help and it was a wonderful experience. I am glad to be a part of such an impactful event for so many people that are struggling. It was great to hear them say how appreciative they were for the Volunteers.”  
– Kelly Forsythe, November 28, 2024  
(Thanksgiving Day lunch)



For More Information Visit:  
[www.nhcwv.org](http://www.nhcwv.org)

Email: [info@nhcwv.org](mailto:info@nhcwv.org)  
Or Call: 386-734-8120

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