

# THE *Hope* REPORT

from Hope Villages of America Addressing Hunger + Housing + Abuse

DECEMBER 2023



## *Gibson Consulting Volunteer Group*

We are incredibly thankful for the Gibson Consulting Team who donated 600lbs. of food and hygiene items for those in need. The team also rolled up their sleeves and volunteered their time by sorting, organizing, and preparing family-sized boxes and bags of food. We salute you for being true community champions. Your generosity radiates hope, and your actions exemplify the positive change we can create when we come together.



## *Clearwater Lions Club Partnership*

In the spirit of giving, we joined hands with the Clearwater Lions Club to contribute to their Annual Christmas Adopt-a-Family project. Thanks to this collaboration, we were able to provide essential food items to families facing the unique challenge of having visually impaired children. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on this meaningful project! The joy of giving is multiplied when we unite for a common cause.



## *Hispanic Outreach Center Partnership*

Hope Villages of America is overjoyed to share the spirit of giving during the recent holiday season. We had the privilege of providing hams to 150 wonderful families from the Hispanic Outreach Center. A heartfelt thank you everyone who made this initiative possible. Your support ensures that these families can enjoy a festive Christmas meal, creating lasting memories and spreading joy.



## *Staff Holiday Party*

We recently transformed the spirit of the season into a strike of joy at our Staff Holiday Party. Amidst the strikes and spares, the real gift was the opportunity to come together, share joy, and express our gratitude to each and every member of our incredible team. Our staff is the backbone of Hope Villages, tirelessly providing help and hope to individuals and families in need. This holiday celebration was a small token of appreciation for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the year!



## *The Oaks Youth Life Skills Class*

A BIG round of applause to the students of our Life Skills class at The Oaks. Our incredible students poured their creativity and compassion into making Christmas cards and ornaments. Each creation was not just a piece of art but a heartfelt message of love and warmth, intended to bring smiles to the faces of young ones spending the holiday season in the hospital. At Hope Villages, we believe in education that goes beyond textbooks. Our Life Skills class is not just about academics; it's about nurturing empathy, kindness, and the understanding that small gestures can make a big difference!



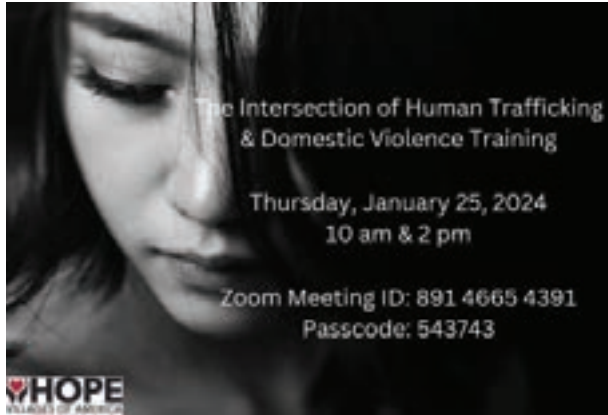
## *St. Petersburg Housing Authority Holiday Party*

We were honored to be part of the festive cheer at the St. Pete Housing Authority's Holiday Party! We embraced the opportunity to connect with families in this wonderful community, providing essential information and resources. From educational materials to support services, we aimed to contribute positively to the well-being of the community we serve. Thank you, SPHA for allowing us to be a part of this special event!



# CURRENT EVENTS

*Join us for a new year of providing hope to Tampa Bay!*



## The Intersection of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence Training -

We invite you to a crucial and enlightening training session as we delve into the complex and intersecting issues of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence. Understanding the intersection of human trafficking and domestic violence is pivotal in creating awareness and fostering proactive solutions. Our training will equip you with insights, knowledge, and tools to make a positive impact in our community.

**Thursday, January 25, 2024**

10:00am - **OR** - 2:00pm

Zoom Meeting Link: 891 4665 4391

Passcode: 543743



## CANstruction Contest

Calling all families, businesses, organizations, clubs, churches, sports teams, or anyone in Tampa Bay:

Start assembling your team and help us stock the Hope Villages of America Food Bank with canned goods for our neighbors in need while you CANstruct a cool design!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**January 1-21:** Gather your team/canned goods

**January 22-26:** Construct your design

We'll schedule a visit to each team's creation, take photos, and choose a winner at the end of the month. Good luck!

Contact us for more information:  
[events@hopevillagesofamerica.org](mailto:events@hopevillagesofamerica.org)



## 15th Annual Chapel by the Sea's Beachwalk Week

*Join us for a day of sun, sea, and solidarity!*

A scenic walk along the shore, community camaraderie, and the chance to make a positive impact.

**February 3, 2024**

Registration: 7:30 AM | Walk Begins: 8:30 AM

Palm Pavilion

Ready to join the fun? Ticket options and sponsorship opportunities are available. Let's come together for a day of joy and giving back! <https://www.chapelbythesea.net/beachwalk/walk>



# STAFF & VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



## *Meet Felipe Hernandez*

We are delighted to cast the spotlight on one of our invaluable team members, Felipe Antonio Hernandez, also known as Tony. Tony's journey is marked by a rich background, unwavering dedication, and a profound commitment to serving our community.

Tony, the eighth of sixteen siblings, hails from the vibrant island of Puerto Rico and spent his formative years in the small town of Moca. Family is at the core of Tony's identity, having been happily married for nearly three decades and blessed with three remarkable children.

Beyond his professional commitments, Tony finds solace and joy in his passion for working on cars. It's a hobby that not only showcases his mechanical prowess but also provides a creative outlet for him to unwind.

Tony is not only a dedicated family man but also a well-educated professional. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an Associate degree in Accounting, a testament to his commitment to personal and professional growth.

For the past twelve years, Tony has been an integral part of Hope Villages, serving as our dedicated USDA Warehouse Manager. In this pivotal role, he oversees the crucial processes of receiving and distributing USDA food commodities in Pinellas County. Tony's meticulous approach and leadership have played a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless flow of resources to those who need it the most.

Tony finds immense satisfaction in his role, noting that his greatest accomplishment lies in being able to assist thousands of families in meeting their basic needs. His passion for making a positive impact shine through in every aspect of his work. As we shine the spotlight on Tony, let's collectively express our gratitude for his hard work, dedication, and the positive influence he has had on both our team and the community. Tony, your commitment to service and your warm spirit truly embodies the values of Hope Villages. Thank you for being an inspiration to us all!



## *Meet Christine Kelley*

In this edition of our Volunteer Spotlight, we are thrilled to showcase the exemplary contributions of Christine Kelley, a devoted volunteer at Hope Villages of America (HVA). Christine's commitment to serving our community reflects the true spirit of altruism and compassion.

Christine plays a vital role in the afternoons at the Food Bank, engaging in guest intake at the drive-thru, providing essential community resources, and distributing food to those in need. Her warm and welcoming presence is a source of comfort to our guests, making the process not just efficient but also compassionate.

Christine has been a dedicated volunteer since September 2020. In her time with us, she has consistently demonstrated a genuine passion for making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Retirement didn't slow Christine down; instead, it opened a new chapter of community service. Witnessing the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Christine felt a deep calling to contribute to the well-being of her community. Her decision to volunteer with Hope Villages of America was driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference during these challenging times.

Outside of her volunteer commitments, Christine finds joy in the simple pleasures of life. Gardening, long walks, and reading are among her favorite pastimes, showcasing a well-rounded individual with a zest for both community service and personal fulfillment.

Christine is a proud retiree who seizes the opportunity to travel and spend quality time with her adult children and grandchildren. Her love for family is echoed in her dedication to building a stronger, supportive community for everyone.

For Christine, giving back is a fundamental responsibility. She recognizes the prevalence of food insecurities and the pressing needs within the community. By dedicating her time and energy to HVA, Christine is actively contributing to the collective effort to alleviate these challenges.

Christine Kelley's selflessness and dedication exemplify the values that define Hope Villages of America. We extend our deepest gratitude to Christine for her outstanding contributions and for inspiring others to join in our mission of creating positive change within our community. Thank you, Christine, for being a beacon of hope and compassion!

# Advancement & Communications

**97%**

Grants awarded vs. goal

**\$2.5M YTD**

DECEMBER 2023



**3.9K**

Followers



**1.9K**

Followers

**4.7K**

Impressions

**490**

Impressions

**1,151**

Volunteer Hours

**11**

Media Placements

# Mission Impact

## YEAR-TO-DATE

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION and BASIC NEEDS

**73,493**

individuals served

**1,040,375**

lbs of food given directly to people

**4,010,933**

lbs food given to area agencies

**599,931**

lbs of fresh produce distributed

### ABUSE SERVICES

**8,436**

safe nights for women and children  
at the Safe House

**3,595**

individuals helped with services  
provided though the Outreach Center

**1,775**

hotline calls received

**4,240**

participants in Peacemaker and  
Youth Advocate presentations

### HOMELESS PREVENTION PROJECT + HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES

Homeless  
Outreach Services

**1,545**

Goldsmith Gardens  
+ The Oaks

**63**

adults and children living in affordable housing  
operated by Hope Villages of America  
(households)