

Love and Hope in Action

2024 Spring Newsletter

Jason and Amanda—On the Road to a Better Life

Having transportation can mean getting to work on time. But not having transportation, in many cases, might mean not getting a job at all.

Jason and Amanda know this well. Jason was born in Stuart and lived in Martin County for all but five years of his life. Amanda was born in West Palm Beach and raised just over the St. Lucie County line. Previously, they operated a lawn maintenance company in Martin County, but health issues and a decline in business forced them both to get jobs to bring in a steady income.

Hard times put them on the path to homelessness. They were forced out of their rental home when it was put up for sale. In August of 2022, Amanda was hospitalized which led to Jason losing his job at the local feed store. Without the up-front money to move into a new home, they took to camping at state parks. Fortunately, this was familiar to them—they were, and continue to be, heavily involved in the Boy Scouts.

Through prayer and help from LAHIA, things began to get better. In February of 2023, Jason started working at Walmart. LAHIA then helped them pay overdue rent on a room they had been staying in; part of this was provided in the form of a no-interest loan.

Transportation continued to be a problem, however. Their beat-up pick-up truck had been T-boned in an accident, and along with numerous dents, their driver's side door no longer opened. The truck smoked heavily and was extremely loud. The air conditioning had not worked for more than a year. The transmission was on the way to a major problem. In late 2023, LAHIA received a generous donation of a 2007 Chrysler Pacifica minivan from a woman in Stuart. Jason and Amanda rose to the top of our list and received the vehicle in February.

They are thrilled to now have reliable transportation to get them to church, work, school, grocery shopping, marching band, and Boy Scouts. Jason no longer needs to ride his bicycle to work.

And their son, who is growing up in Martin County schools (and, of course, a Boy Scout) is particularly excited about their 'new' minivan. "It's great," he said.

"I don't have to risk walking home in the rain. My parents are happier, and it helps us get around. Both front doors work, and I don't bang up my knee when I get in— the a/c is great too!"

Other good things are happening. On May 1st they will move into an apartment and be reunited with their belongings—the things that make a place a home. With a dependable vehicle, Amanda is now able to deliver for Instacart.

Amanda shared that she recently ran into a woman she met while on a youth group mission trip in Detroit—in the laundry room of the building where they have been renting a room.



"God has been putting good things in our path," said Amanda. "All these things that are happening are mind-blowing to me. "

Peggy—A Celebration of Success!



LAHIA celebrates those who are succeeding on their path out of homelessness.

Peggy came to us in February, broken after fleeing an abusive living situation.

The Lord (plus a little luck) was on her side almost immediately. In days, we were notified of a room for rent in Hobe Sound. Peggy was a perfect match for the homeowner. We moved Peggy in the same day and paid her first month's rent.

Peggy was determined to find a job as quickly as possible. Almost immediately she lined up interviews with Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) agencies and other employers. She joined a church in Stuart and began to make friends at one of their Bible Study groups.

Peggy eats at LAHIA daily and makes a point to befriend women who are new to LAHIA and help them find their own right path out of homelessness. She is grateful for what LAHIA has done for her and recently sent us a heartfelt letter. Here is an excerpt:

"Thank you for everything your awesome team and volunteers have done to make me feel like a valued human being, rather than a homeless transient, that I sometimes feel.

I am doing my best to become a stable upstanding citizen, and hopefully, in the near future, to support LAHIA rather than be a user of your services.

God bless you and your families."

Finally—Our President Has an Assistant!

Jean has joined us as our Assistant to the President. The position was open for months while we searched for the perfect candidate.

Jean originally came to LAHIA as a volunteer, which is also how Carla, Joe, Leslie, Donna, Sharon, Judy, and Peggy joined us. All our volunteers form a connection with our clients and get an introduction to the important work we do here for our community.

Jean joined us with a background in administration, management, and communications. She has already hit the ground running (the normal pace here at LAHIA) and says she enjoys everything about the job. "Literally, everything," she confirmed. "The tasks, the staff, the ability to engage with the clients and volunteers. I'm enjoying it all!"



Jean grew up in Miami and lives in Stuart with her two teenagers, one at IRSC and the other in high school.

She is a Behavior Technician with certification in Early Childhood Education from Miami Dade College.

In her spare time, Jean loves to scrapbook and cuddle with her dog, Butter. We are thrilled to have Jean join the team!

We welcome you to share this newsletter with your family and friends. New volunteers and supporters are always welcome to join our mission in assisting our homeless neighbors!

Learn more at www.lahia.org, call us at (772) 781-7002 and "like" us on Facebook for updates.

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