

The R.O.P.E./C.O.R. Newsletter

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Who Are We?

Beginning in 2009, the Resource Prayer Outreach Empowerment/Community Outreach Center (R.O.P.E./C.O.R.) began serving our community's citizens by providing assistance and resources to the area's homeless and economically vulnerable population. Having realized the great need and knowing that since we do not reside in a metropolitan area where financial resources are readily available, we have operated primarily on the generosity of individuals, businesses and organizations who have partnered with us.

The resources we provide include a variety of avenues through which the homeless can better their lives. These opportunities include individual coun-

seling, group sessions, shelter, job searches, transportation, provision of meals and food assistance (EBT), mental health resources, budget counseling, benefits assistance, provision of essential goods, bathing facilities, computer usage, payment assistant for bills, and general medical care. Although this list of resources we provide is extensive, it is not exhaustive and only constitutes a portion of what the center provides to the community.

In the past year, the ROPE/COR Center was able to positively impact the lives of over 3,000 clients. In doing so, we have enriched our community and have helped to make the community a better place for us all.



Each time we assist a homeless person, it helps to lower unemployment rates. As a result, the aesthetic and functional nature of the community is improved which, in turn, impacts property values, business clientele, taxes, and the overall efficacy of organizations and businesses.

Michigan College Interns To The Rescue!

In February, nine interns from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan arrived to assist at the COR center. The eight women and one man, along with their sponsor Eriana DeKalita-Mull, came willing to help in any possible way. Throughout the week they worked tirelessly helping the administrative and case management staff reorganize files and archive outdated information. Some interviewed clients and wrote success stories based on their findings. Others created flyers and presentation



materials, others assisted Chef Patrick in the kitchen as he prepared hot lunches.

Pastor Jim and the staff were brought to tears on their final day when the

group presented to the COR center a new 48" TV to be used in the dining room for announcements and other communication with the homeless population served by the center. The students overheard our wish for this communication tool and pooled their resources to make that dream come true.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences at Central Michigan University for allowing this amazing group to bless us for a week.

Let's Take A Look At Homelessness

You may be surprised to find that homelessness is not always defined by race, gender, age, family status or educational background. Did you know that of the fifty states in the US, Florida ranks third for the highest number of homeless individuals per capita. In the State of Florida, only the Miami and Orlando metropolitan areas have a higher percentage of homeless than Pasco county.

According to the 2014 Point In Time Count of homeless individuals in Florida, 65% are men, 35% are women, 18.6% are under the age of 18 years, 8% are elderly (over 62 years) and 16.1% are military veterans.

I doubt if any of those counted among Florida's homeless planned homelessness as their career. There are many situations which cause one to become homeless. Among these



are loss of employment (48%), substance abuse (37.1%), long-term illness (17.2%) and family problems which include divorce and domestic violence (17%).

In Pasco county, there are over 100 homeless encampments (mostly in wooded areas). Many more homeless are couch-surfers, staying with friends and relatives but not having a home of their own. Others are staying in temporary shelters while they attempt to find employment and gather enough resources to live independently. We often see clients who are staying in a backyard or on a porch of a friend or relative. Some live in their vehicles. Others live on our streets.

Regardless of circumstances, the ROPE/COR Center is open to give hope and assistance in a tangible way to those wishing to become self-sufficient, productive citizens.

“Last year we provided services to over 3,000 clients.”

Services Provided at the ROPE/COR Center

You know that the ROPE/COR Center helps homeless men and women, but many are not aware of all the services we provide.

- We offer showers Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- We assist clients with forms and certificates and ID cards
- We help clients sign up for food stamps and cell phones.
- We assist with GED/PADE

- We provide educational assistance for further education
- We provide mail services and a temporary mailing address
- We offer bus pass assistance when indicated.
- We offer resume preparation assistance.
- We serve hot lunches each Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

- We offer Section 8 assistance.
- We assist with Veteran's benefits
- We provide AA/NA Meetings
- We give referrals for eye exams as well as physical and mental medical assistance.

Success Story

Mary (not her real name) is a registered nurse who came to the COR Center in February 2016. While performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a patient, she had suffered a heart attack. Because of the severity of her heart condition, she was unable to get clearance to get back to work.

Although she qualified for disability, the processing of her

claim was painfully slow. As a result, she lost her home, her car and all her possessions.

Upon her release from rehabilitation, she was referred to the ROPE/COR Center. She entered the program and began to have hope for the future once again. The time she spent in the ROPE center was a time of healing for her mind, body, emotions and spirit.

Because of Mary's success in the program she was awarded a donated car with less than 30,000 miles. Through a community development program, she was able to lease a brand new home where she now lives with her son.

Mary continues to inspire others as she volunteers her time to help in our program.



From The President's Desk

Ten years ago the idea of the ROPE Center Transitional Living Facility was launched. Today it is the largest transitional facility and the only emergency transitional living facility in Pasco County.

As the needs of the homeless grow, we are also growing. As we grow, our goal is not just to give the homeless a place to sleep but to change their position in our community from that of a homeless person to one of a positive resident — actively able to function and support our community. In

turn we reduce the number of homeless in Pasco County, making Pasco County a more productive place for all.

The face of homelessness has changed. We are housing and loving some pretty broken people who cannot function in mainstream society without help. This help includes counseling and referrals due to medical, emotional or physical disorders, Our COR Resource Center provides much needed services to the community including bathing facilities, applications

for cell phones, clothing, computer usage, food stamp applications, GED assistance, temporary mailing addresses, referrals for vocational rehab, identification cards, resume preparation, soup kitchen, and AA/NA Meetings.

With your help we will continue to meet needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We will work diligently to provide safe shelter, identify community resources, communicate with agency liaisons, so that the homeless can move to permanent housing.



Pastor Jim Campbell
President/CEO

How Can I Help?

Volunteer:

- Help prepare and serve food
- Help with transportation
- Teach a class
- Help in the Thrift Store
- Administrative tasks
- Assist with job placement
- Help with free clothing distribution

Provide Goods and Services:

- Food
- New Roof
- Air conditioning
- Computers, fax machine
- Phone system
- Washers
- Lockers
- Office supplies
- Paper products
- Necessary repairs

Charitable Contributions:

- Sponsor a resident @ \$250/month
- A one time lump sum
- Check or Money Order
- Mail donations to 7935 Ranch Rd., Port Richey FL 34668
- Pay Pal
- Give Online
- Set up auto pay through your bank.

**“Our
community
has a heart
to help”**

The Repeat Boutique

Although the proceeds from sales at the Repeat Boutique supports programs and services for homeless men and women, this is not your ordinary thrift store. Most customers are pleasantly surprised the moment they first enter the doors to see the great quality furnishings, home décor items and the fashionable clothing and accessories offered for sale.

When Sue Campbell, co-founder of the ROPE/COR

center, opened the doors of the Repeat Boutique a year ago, she wanted to give the community another opportunity to help support the homeless by donating goods, by purchasing items or by volunteering their time in the store.

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10-4, the store has enjoyed success and has increased its sales each month. Word is getting out in the community that the Repeat Boutique is a great place to shop.

If you would like to help us, we need:

- Your good quality used furniture
- Home décor items
- Ladies' clothing and fashion accessories
- Volunteers to help staff the store (men and women)
- A new sign visible from Highway 19



“Not your ordinary thrift store”

“MEETING THE
NEEDS OF
HOMELESS MEN
AND WOMEN
SINCE 2009.”

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Our Mission:

To partner with the Church and Community to provide a Christian Based Program to feed, clothe, shelter and provide essential services preparing the homeless to return to a life physically, mentally, financially and spiritually.

Shares hope and help in Jesus name to move people from homelessness and despair toward personal

Visit our website at
www.theropecor.org



14121 Water Tower Drive
Hudson FL 34667

Watch Us On TV!

Recently we were filmed for an “Engage” television segment which first aired on April 23, 24 and 25, 2017. We feel honored that we were chosen to be featured on the Christian Television Network.

In case you missed the original airing of the program, the segment will be aired on world-wide (replay). You won't want to miss seeing our own Sue



Campbell and some of the staff at Repeat Boutique (the thrift store).

Here are the times the segment is scheduled to be aired:

- **Monday's - 9:00pm EST**
 - o Dish Network CH 267
 - o DirecTV CH 376
 - o Sky-Angel IPTV
 - o Glory Star CH: 117
 - o www.ctnonline.com
- **Tuesday's 7:00am EST**
 - o Channel 22 (Replay)

Thank You For Giving

You are the ones who make it possible to offer hope to those who come into the ROPE/COR Center. A BIG “Thanks” to each of you. Whether you give of your time, your goods, your resources, your talents or your dollars, you are critically vital to the homeless of Pasco County and those up and down the Nature Coast of Florida. Please know that you make a real difference in the lives of many who have little hope.

There are volunteers who work tirelessly to give of their time working in the COR Center, in the Thrift Shop and providing transportation.



Others teach classes or assist residents directly. We have heard many of you say that you are the ones who are blessed when you give of your time to the programs that support the homeless. However, we must let you know what a blessing you are to the ROPE/COR center and to the clients we serve.

Our wonderful donors are invaluable to the homeless program. Whether you write a check for operations, sponsor a resident, donate food or other goods and services; we are grateful for you. You are the reason we can feed the hungry and provide housing for those struggling to get on their feet.