



Women And Youth Center, Inc.

# WAY CENTER HAPPENINGS

## “Leading Lives to the Right Way.”

June 2023

863-422-2309

waycenter@verizon.net

www.thewaycenter.org

Greetings From The WAY Team,

Can you believe it? The WAY Center officially turned the big “20” this year as a nonprofit organization. **To God be the glory, great things He has done!** This past March, The WAY Center Founder, Cindy Gallucci, and many friends from the community came together for an open house celebration at The WAY Home. It was a joyful experience as we reminisced about all the miracles that have happened since Cindy started handing out clothes to women from her garage back in 2002. It took several months of planning and hard work by Cindy and the Board to finally achieve our 501 (C) (3) status in 2003. A tiny seed of faith was planted in hopes of what we see today. Cindy was overjoyed to serve at The WAY Home during her visit while our house manager was recovering from hip displacement. The timing of Cindy’s visit was yet another miracle of God’s provision in a time of need.

In the past 20 years we have outgrown four prior locations and are again bursting at the seams in our current location that houses The WAY Center and WAY 2 Shoppe. Our services have morphed from handing out food, clothing, and household items, to being able to provide classes, workshops and support groups that act as a catalyst for major life transformation in the families we serve. We have also been able to prevent homelessness for many families by providing emergency lodging, rental assistance, transitional housing, and transportation assistance to nearby shelters or to family members.

**The WAY Home**, which was established in 2011, has housed over 40 women and their children who desired to “break the cycle” of chaos and homelessness in their lives.

Residents must commit to a minimum of 6 months in the transitional housing program in an effort to establish healthy boundaries, understand the value of healthy relationships, and gain the skills and resources necessary to live independently with little to no government assistance. It generally takes 12-18 months to complete all programs offered by The WAY Center.



*“God is not interested simply in working with perfect people. He’s interested in working with broken people who can appreciate the contribution of His Grace and His power in the problems, the realistic problems of their lives.” -Dr. Howard Hendricks*





**Our Mission is to provide a variety of spiritual and social services for families in need or crisis.** Our desire is to work with these families for a period of time to help them overcome obstacles that keep them from meeting personal, financial and spiritual goals. We do this by offering a variety of programs strategically designed to help people transition from crisis mode (which is often filled with uncertainty, frustration, and chaos) to a place of confidence, peace and stability.



**Crisis Care** assists individuals and families with immediate needs due to unforeseen circumstances or difficult life challenges. This could be caused by a loss of income, unexpected expense, or other type of tragedy. We offer food, clothing, gas cards, financial assistance, hygiene items, diapers, wipes and other tangible resources from our thrift store. We also offer HOPE, support, prayer, direction and referrals to other organizations that may be able to meet any special needs outside our scope of service.

**WAY 2 Thrive** is a 4-6 month program providing case management, mentoring, biblical counseling, and group support. This comprehensive program is specially designed to help individuals improve their overall health and emotional well-being. This leads to a healthier sense of self, healthier relationships, and therefore healthier communities.



**WAY 2 Work** focuses on goal setting, time management, educational growth, money management, employability skills, and vocational planning that lead to gainful employment or workplace advancement and self-sufficiency. Services offered through this program include case management with a team advisor who helps participants develop an action plan, budgeting, and provides accountability. We also assist with transportation, work experience, and financial assistance as it relates to obtaining and maintaining employment.

**Work Shop & FOCUS Group Schedule:**  
(classes in bold are Lunch & Learn workshops\*)

\*Lunch & Learn workshops are open to men and women.

- June - Faith & Fitness
- **June/ July - Employability Skills**
- July - Self Defense Strategies & Training
- August - Discovering Your Best Self
- September - Overcoming Roadblocks
- **September/ October - Financial Stability**
- October - Domestic Violence Awareness
- November - Building Healthy Relationships
- December - Our Greatest Takeaways
- December - Christmas Party & Program Graduations

**FOCUS stands for:**

Friendly, Open, Comforting, Uplifting, Supportive

*Female guests are welcome to attend any FOCUS group session. Simply call or email us if you are interested in attending or bringing a friend who may benefit.*

**Call or email us if you would like a detailed schedule.**

**The WAY Home** is a transitional housing facility for women and their children who wish to participate in our WAY 2 Thrive and WAY 2 Work programs, but lack stable housing.

**Cup of Compassion & Holiday Outreach** assist families with food and gifts during the holiday season.

**2nd Party Ministry** partners with churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations by providing vouchers from our thrift store or resource pantry for tangible goods to their organizations for missions, special projects, or the people they serve.



**Restoring dignity. Changing lives.  
Transforming communities.**

With smiling faces we successfully completed our 2nd round of Jobs for Life on May 21st. Classes were held at NorthRidge Church in Haines City, FL.

Jobs for Life curriculum is used by hundreds of churches, nonprofits, and Christ-centered ministries around the world. JfL incorporates biblical truths and stories to help people discover their God-given identity and gifts, develop character, and foster a supportive community that will equip them for work and life.

The WAY Center provides internship opportunities for students who desire to gain or broaden their work experience. Students may work in our office, thrift store or with a business partner who is willing to supervise our students.

We asked our interns, "What was your greatest takeaway?" Here are their responses:

*"Before Jobs for Life I was afraid of giving a speech, and Jobs for Life gave me confidence in myself to speak in front of others." Harley*

*"Trust God's plan for my life. Have a good attitude. Remember roadblocks are temporary. Be confident and strong in the Lord and He will guide my path." Frances.*

*"The love and support that was shown to me was so amazing. I thank God for dedicated staff and volunteers." Judy*

## Did you know?

**The WAY 2 Shoppe** (our thrift store) not only provides a place for our interns to gain work experience, but we also host and supervise college and high school students in need of community service hours. Our staff also works along side folks who are doing mandatory community service issued by the Polk County Probation Office. It's unreal how much is going on in our little thrift store. In addition to all this we are able to offer furniture, clothing, and household items to the whole community at affordable prices.



**The growth we saw in these students was astonishing!**



***If you would like to teach or mentor during our upcoming fall classes please contact us ASAP! We are always recruiting new Champions for JfL and mentors for our WAY 2 Thrive and WAY 2 Work programs.***

## Looking for a WAY to get involved?

- **PRAY** for staff, clients, volunteers, & finances.
- **GIVE** monthly partners are greatly needed.
- **SHOP** in our thrift store, The WAY 2 Shoppe.
- **DONATE** new or gently used items to our thrift store, baby resource room, or food pantry.
- **SPONSOR** a lunch and learn, Jobs For Life class, facilities improvement project, or fundraising event.
- **HOST** a micro-event at your place or ours to raise awareness of our mission and programs.

**Give online any-time or set up your monthly gift here.**



Text

**GIVE**

to 863-313-1130





## Invite Your Group to Tea, Brunch or Lunch at the WAY Home

Enjoy food, fun, and fellowship as we share how your group can help with the mission and vision of The WAY Center. Each group has the opportunity to tour both The WAY Center and The WAY Home with a member of our staff. You can also request a special Q & A session with the Executive Director or Board Member.

## Ready to Laugh Out Loud? Save the Date Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities coming soon!

Our Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on **November 2nd** at The Snively Ranch. Join us again under the big tent with comedian, Mike Williams.



## Christmas in July?

No, but we are sure thinking about it already. Let us know if you'd like to help organize, shop, or donate! This year we're planning something a little different and we need lots of help getting prepared.

## Volunteers On Mission:

It has already been an amazing year and we're just halfway through. Much has been accomplished thanks to these incredible volunteers. **Together you make this MISSION POSSIBLE!**



Poinciana Rotary Club



EPCAR - East Polk County  
Association of Realtors



Christ Community Church



Four Corners Jr. Women's Club



Haines City Moose Lodge



Haven Worship Center



See a way you can be on mission with  
The WAY Center?

Call 863-422-2309 or email us at  
[waycenter@verizon.net](mailto:waycenter@verizon.net)

**A Place of HELP, HOPE & TRANSFORMATION**