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Homestead, FL 33030

2020

www.newhopecorp.org
Newsletter of New Hope C.O.R.P.S.,

THE DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES: NEW HOPE FOR VETERANS PROGRAM IS DRAMATICALLY IMPROVING THE LIVES OF MANY MEN HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES...



"NEW HOPE SAVED MY LIFE"

Wayne Sullivan arrived at New Hope in a state of despair "I had already given up on me; I was mad at the VA, I was mad at myself, I was mad at the world, I thought I was a lost cause", he said.

New Hope, he added, "gave me a second chance and believed in me when I didn't believe in myself".

Wayne said that after he lost his right leg and saw himself in a wheelchair he stop taking care of himself, "I didn't care if I lived or die. I just kept relapsing, I had no hope".

He said that even though he was technically considered an IV heroine addict, in reality a "more addict" would better describe his addiction as he would drink alcohol use cocaine or whatever mind altering substance he could find.

"I just couldn't stay clean", he said, I think I can do it now though, one day at a time as I have been

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Gus Demopoulos: "New Hope saved my life, my health was deteriorating fast, I was very skinny, under nourished"



James Monk: "New Hope saved my life; I was suicidal when I first came. I thought that I was a hopeless case"



Michael Lamb: "New Hope brought me back to life... My addiction had robbed me of everything".

These men are all veterans served by New Hope's VA Grant Per Diem (GPD) program who, in their own words, came to the agency at the lowest point in their lives, when they thought that all was lost.

Their Stories begin on page 4

EXCITING NEWS ...

FROM ...



THRIVING MINDS & ADULT DRUG COURT ARE HELPING ADDICTS GET A SECOND CHANCE

The partnership between **Drug Court**, **Thriving Mind**, and **New Hope** has been yielding positive results. Miami Dade County Adult Drug Court is now referring cases like Kevin Vlearbones to Thriving Mind funded treatment beds at New Hope and the changes in those who benefit from that program are nothing short of miracles.

Kevin Vlearbone was arrested in 2018 and elected to participate in the Adult Drug Court program. He said he chose New Hope because it was faith based, "and

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PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

New Hope is pleased to announce that it was successful in its grant application to the Baptist Health South Florida Community Benefit Program. The grant award provides for two fully funded residential treatment beds for Baptist referred clients in need of substance abuse treatment, up to 72 slots for substance abuse outpatient treatment, and a full-time Patient Health Navigator.

With these additional resources NHC and BHSF are committed to working towards reducing wait times for treatment services in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and reducing the incidence of repeat ER visits for behavioral health-related concerns. With the addition of the Patient Health Navigator,

Continue on page 6



Message from the President

"Nothing brings me more happiness than trying to help the most vulnerable people in society. It is a goal and an essential part of my life – a kind of destiny".

Princess Diana

Like the dedicated team at New Hope, many of us seek to improve the lives of others each and every day. The team's commitment coupled with the support from the City of Homestead and the Ocean Reef community, have allowed our facility to make great strides over the past year. The steps taken have brought many improvements to the team, the facility, and the delivered services all of which strengthen the ability to meet New Hope's mission.

This past year is proof that the rewards from donating your time, expertise, and money are truly boundless. The outcomes of our philanthropy will live well past ourselves and the value of current support. The lives of 200+ individuals, their families, their employers, and their communities each year are changed for the better; the single gift extends to astonishing reach. The recent accomplishments are making true marks in the historical timeline of New Hope and instill a strong sense of pride for the team.

For the future, our challenge is to address the growing demand for the quality services delivered by New Hope C.O.R.P.S. Our current 1980's facility is at capacity and we are seeking to build a new building that will allow for more than double the access to services. At a cost of \$3.5 Million, this is a serious endeavor required to meet a serious need and the team at New Hope is ready for the challenge. They are ready to bring their steadfast commitment to heal their community with strength, integrity, respect, and a sincere appreciation for those that support their "destiny."

We value your interest and time; please contact us with any questions or to arrange a site visit.

Proudly serving to make a difference,

Keith Young, Chairman



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DONORS THAT We ❤️

We love all our donors, but the following donors constitute a special group that support New Hope every week. We receive donations from many other organizations and individuals and we are very grateful to all of them; however, those listed below deserve special recognition because they donate to us every week.



Miami Rescue Mission
Broward Outreach Centers
Serving the Homeless since 1922



Five-Year Strategic Plan Priorities

Strategic Priority 1

Increase Revenue through funding diversification to provide sufficient resources to support and sustain New Hope CORPS' programmatic and administrative operations, including 1) Establishing a foundation 2) Recruiting a program development officer and 3) Pursuing federal and private funding opportunities

Strategic Priority 2

Program enhancement and expansion of continuum of services including outpatient service, peer services, permanent/aftercare housing, and other housing and treatment services for special populations

Strategic Priority 3

Develop a FACILITIES business plan to expand bed capacity for New Hope CORPS' services and begin by pursuing the acquisition of adjacent properties

Strategic Priority 4

BOARD DEVELOPMENT & REJUVENATION to ensure that New Hope CORPS' Board is comprised of individuals who share a passion for NHC's mission and effectively dedicate their skills, resources, and community affiliations to help NHC achieve its mission

Strategic Priority 5

Implement Year-Round Marketing and Public Relations activities to raise awareness of New Hope success and outcomes and build support for New Hope CORPS' programs and services among all of our key audiences, including prospective donors and funders in Miami Dade County; and local, state and national opinion leaders and funders.

New Hope's Faith-Based Programing Outcomes

New Hope's program includes Christ-Centered activities in which clients have the option to participate. Throughout the years many of our clients have made a profession of Faith and many more rededicate their lives to help others.

New Hope Mission

"To assist individuals re-enter society who are struggling with substance use and mental health disorders, utilizing a faith- and evidence-based approach to treatment."

Revised during the Annual Strategic Planning Board Retreat

CITY OF HOMESTEAD CDBG AND THE PROTESTANT FOUNDATION OF OCEAN REEF HELPED RENOVATE NEW HOPE KITCHEN

New Hope's main facility is located at 1020 N Krome Avenue, Homestead, Florida 33030 in an old but beautiful building that used to be a Bed and Breakfast hotel. We take pride in keeping the structure in good shape. Thanks to funders like the City of Homestead CDBG program and The Protestant Foundation of Ocean Reef, among others, we have been able to make important renovations in the last few years.

Renovation works have included, but are not limited to, new roof, bathrooms, rooms and parts of the building itself. We even acquired an industrial strength generator that would allow us to remain operational in the event of long power outages, like the ones that usually follow major hurricanes.

But until recently the kitchen remained in need not only of structural renovations but also in need of major appliance replacements. Renovations are almost complete thanks to a

\$40,000 CDBG grant from the City of Homestead and a **\$20,000 grant** from The Protestant Foundation of Ocean Reef for kitchen equipment. Out heartfelt thanks goes out to both of them. **We are still in need of \$10,000 to buy a restaurant style industrial dishwasher.** Believe it or not we are still washing dishes by hand.



New Hope Clients are captured while eating in our newly remodeled kitchen



New Hope CORPS Founder Manuel (Manny) Alvarez favorite Verse, Philippians 4:6:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

Veterans Whose Lives Changed in the Last Year

THESE ARE THE STORIES OF VETERANS who all have two things in common: 1) they arrived at New Hope when they were feeling that their lives were “at the end of the rope”, and 2) their lives have drastically improved for the better thanks to the services they received in our residential treatment program. They are living proof that recovery is possible when people have access to the right tools.

Gus Demopoulos is a veteran; an opioid addict who, before coming to New Hope, thought of himself as a lost cause. Right before entering treatment, he said, “I had been to detox for five days, I was a heroin addict for 35 years, since the mid 80s. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired, I wanted to get back to my sons and daughters. I was tired of giving all my money to the drug dealers, my head was all over the place and I did not like any of those places, but I did not know how to get out of it”. New Hope saved my life, he added in a calm and reflective tone, “my health was deteriorating fast, I was very skinny, under nourished and I have health issues that I was not addressing, wasn’t taking my meds. I was rapidly going down hill mentally, physically and spiritually”. Gus explained that he had been in other programs without the Substance Abuse treatment “and they did not work for me. I am glad I came to New Hope, it took adjusting. I have never been in a Rehab like

New Hope, but their system is what worked for me. I had been in the VA rehab 5 times, but I always relapsed. I never relapsed in New Hope, I think that the environment was different.” He said that New Hope not only provided him with treatment but also with the tools that he needed to stay sober after he completed treatment. “Even though I finished the residential program, I now go to 5 NA meetings a week. I also go to one individual and one group outpatient therapy per week and that works well for me.” To illustrate how he had changed he said that he even learned to manage his VA check well, “I used to be broke all the time, I hadn’t saved since the 80s but now I have been saving a big part of my check and it feels great to know that you have cash available in case of an emergency.”

Stories Continue on page 5

How The Miami Foundation State Attorney Program is Improving Lives & Keeping Our Community Safer

New Hope is very grateful to the Miami Foundation. Over the years, we have received several grants that have funded positions, bought an SUV, and provided needed program services for homeless/low income clients. Recently, and for the third year in a row, we have been awarded a State Attorney grant in the amount of \$50,000 for our Back On Track (NH-BOT) DUI Treatment Program, which provides **out-patient substance abuse treatment** for men and

women referred from the Miami Dade County Back On Track DUI Diversion Program.

Thanks to last year’s grant, the funded program provided participants with comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment that resulted in 92% (55 of 60) of participants having no alcohol or drug use in the 30 days prior to successful completion of the program, as evidenced by consistently clean random urinalysis test results.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY



James Monk “I was suicidal when I came to New Hope”



Michael Lamb “New Hope brought me back to life”.



Gus Demopoulos “I was rapidly going down the hill mentally, physically and spiritually.”

Miami Dade County Office of Management and Budget

Program Making a Huge Difference

Success Story: Jorge was in a bad place when he came to New Hope, he had gotten out of a relationship and was not doing well in any area of his life. In his own words, "I didn't like the person who I was or where my life was going. I was in active addiction, I didn't even feel like a person, I felt really sad".

When he entered New Hope's residential treatment program he was looking for a place to rest, "I thought that it was going to be easy, like a hospital kind of stay. Boy was I wrong! The program has a full day of activities scheduled one after the other. Staying there was difficult at the beginning. It was not what I wanted but it was exactly what I needed."

He said that "New Hope pushes you out of your comfort zone. The program includes a lot of personal development and links you to the AA/NA recovery community." Looking back, he added, "I really do think that treatment is necessary if you want to do recovery the right way. I wish there were more awareness about this, that more addicts knew about the existence of this program." Jorge said that he is very grateful that New Hope was able to offer a longer stay program. "Other places offered a two-weeks program, but I knew that I needed at least a month".

This interview was made over the telephone because at the time of this dialog Jorge was vacationing in Hawaii from his office manager job. He is also preparing himself to soon transition into a more fulfilling job as a case manager. New Hope ended up being a blessing in disguise for me."



Jorge Pintado

Continuation of Veterans Success Stories

Gus believes that "If it wasn't for New Hope I might be dead, I am very grateful, especially of Mari and Amaris, Mari number one. And Mr. Herbert; at one point, I was ready to leave and Mr. Herbert took me in his car and drove me around, counseled me and helped me change my mind and for that I am grateful."

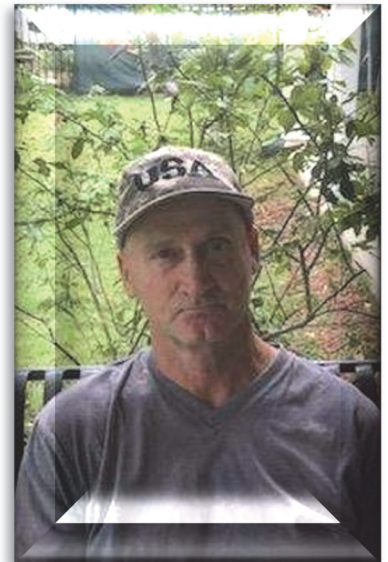
Michael Lamb is a veteran in recovery who is grateful of New Hope. "when I first came to new hope," he said "I had no idea what I was going to do with my life, I was a mess; I was losing everything. My social worker called the police on me when she realized that I needed help because I had people in my house that were not supposed to be there, they were company that were pushing me down."

The way I looked at it, he added, "New Hope brought me back to life because I was down. My addiction had robbed me of my self-esteem, of my self-respect, I wasn't taking care of myself, I had lost a lot of weight. New Hope showed me how to learn from my mistakes, and I will not let that happened to me anymore." Nowadays, Michael added, "the word that best describes me is happy, I am enjoying my house and my own company, I am attending VA meetings and NA meetings and I am not around the wrong people anymore, I have gained 50 pounds, I got new furniture, I kept my house, I feel good and I am not going back. I owe it to New Hope. They have a lot of rules but I have nothing but good things to say about them"

James Monk said that when he came to New Hope he was suicidal, "I felt hopeless because I was drunk all the time, I could not stop and I could not do anything else just drink and then drink some more."

He said that he tried to stop several times but then every time he felt lonely he would end up in a bar or drinking with somebody. One day he realized that he could not continue living like that anymore. He thought that his options were either to commit suicide or get help. "I was tired of drinking and then dealing with the hangover and blackouts on a daily basis. It was a vicious cycle that I could not stop." He went to Jackson Memorial Hospital and asked for help. They put me in detox for five days and then referred me to New Hope.

"Coming to New Hope was the best decision ever, I leaned here that I cannot drink anymore, period. I needed help and New Hope gave it to me; I could not do it alone. I am confident that I will make it this time. I do have a good support system to go to when I feel lonely."



James Monk

Continue from Front Page Wayne Sullivan ...

doing it for the last eight months.”

Wayne explained that his hopelessness and anger began to subside shortly after he entered New Hope. “When I saw that the love and the smile in the guys here were real. I saw that they had a second chance and I wanted that for me”.

He said that his turning point was when Silvio Rodriguez (a former client who is now part of New Hope staff) invited him to read a Miami Herald article that is hanging on the wall, featuring an interview New Hope’s founder Manuel (Manny) Alvarez. “Mr. Manny’s story,” he said “just gave me a lot of hope and inspiration. It made me believe that I could recover.”

Wayne said that now he tries to help newcomers as much as he can “because many people helped when I first got here and it is because of that help that I am still here and that I haven’t used in eight months.”

Talking about his transformation, Wayne said that “something happened to me while in the military, I suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). Here I learned that I felt an emotional emptiness that I was trying to fill with drugs. Now I try to fill that void with God instead and I feel a freedom I really cannot describe with words.”

When asked what advice would he give somebody who is still in the active phase of addiction but considering treatment, he said without hesitation “Don’t give up on God because God hasn’t given up on you. He has a plan for each of us if we only allow it to unfold.”

Continue from Front Page Baptist Partnership...

we aim to link all our residential clients to a medical

home during their episode of care to further reduce unnecessary ER visits.

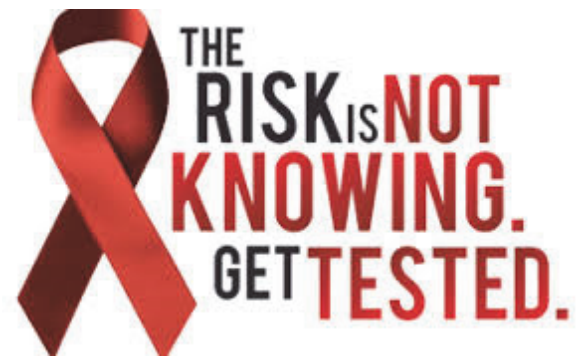
We are grateful for Baptist Health’s willingness to partner with us and look forward to serving our mutual clients.

New Hope now provides HIV-AIDS Services that include:

Free HIV Pre-Test Counseling to high-risk groups, designed to encourage, educate, and engage clients who are at risk, emphasizing on the reduction and or elimination of risky behavior.

HIV Testing it is important to know your status; early detection and treatment lead to better outcomes and reduction of HIV spread.

HIV Post Test Counseling



Continue from Front Page Thriving Mind & Adult Drug Court Story

it worked for me, but not without effort. The first thing was adjusting to the structure, every day we woke up at the same time, made our beds, went to groups. If you don’t follow rules, you get a dish pan (sent to help clean the dishes). The whole program was about order and discipline. It did not take long for me to recognize that I had a problem and that I needed to correct it if I wanted my life to be different, to realize that if nothing changes then nothing will change, that I could continue to live the way that I was and things would continue to get worse or I could change to become the person I wanted to become. There was a big difference between those two persons and I had to choose between two very different roads.”

Kevin said that If you count alcohol, he had been using almost all his life, “maybe 25 years and I am only 37 now, 36 when I got to new hope.” Truthfully, he added, “I gained everything from New Hope: before arriving to the program I felt reduced to an animalistic thing, people didn’t want to be around me, I went through years that I don’t think that anybody even asked for my name. When I got to New Hope it felt like a blessing to be treated like a human being for the first time in a long time and everything above that was just a bonus. Today, I am around nothing but people in recovery, and it feels good to be accepted just the way you are, to be hugged in meetings.”

He believes that the most important step for people to recover “is truly to surrender; you cannot keep fighting and get your life back. Surrender varies from one person to the next, but you have to give up your ways.” He explained that now he not only attends AA/NA meetings on a regular basis, but he also brings AA/NA meetings to New Hope every other week. He added, “and most importantly I am grateful for everything, I am grateful for what I have and for what I don’t have while before I thought I deserved everything or that I was owed something. I didn’t know what gratitude was and learning that concept made all the difference.”



Kevin Vlearbones

WE LOVE OUR DONORS

\$100 to \$499

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Stanley Pinder
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MAJOR GIFTS OF 2019

*Thank
you*



YOUR DONATION IS
GREATLY APPRECIATED

Note to Donors from the **Ocean Reef Community**: please donate to New Hope CORPS Designated Fund; checks must be written to Ocean Reef Community Foundation with New Hope in the memo line.

\$20,000

The Ocean Reef
Community Foundation

\$5,000 to \$10,000

Patrick P. Lee Foundation
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The Protestant Congrega-
tion of The Ocean Reef
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\$500 to \$4,999

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! WE NEED **\$25,000** TO BUY A NEW TRUCK TO PICKUP SUPPLIES

Every year New Hope provides Substance Abuse residen-
tial treatment services to more than 200 men who are
homeless and struggling with addiction and mental ill-
ness. We buy program supplies or pick up donations on a
daily basis. The problem we are facing is that our
old Ford F-150 pickup truck needs to be replaced be-
cause it spends more time with the mechanic than on the streets. If you are able to do so,
**please consider sending a donation to help us buy
this much needed truck.**



Your contribution is needed

Make a donation

HELP US GET A COMMERCIAL DISHWASHER! WE NEED **\$10,000**

New Hope is asking
our friends who can to
consider donating
money for us **to buy a
restaurant strength
industrial dishwasher.**
Our kitchen was re-
cently remodeled and
most of the appliances
replaced. No dish-
washer was replaced
because we never had
one. Even though we
house 60 men in our
Substance Abuse Residential Level 2 treatment pro-
gram our volunteer clients are still washing dishes
they old way, by hand. An industrial strength dish-
washer is being long due and will be much welcomed.





Online
newhopecorp.org



Via store manager
Shawn Gibbs, they have
donated brand name cloth-
ing for our clients.



New Hope CORPS has a dedicated staff of Behavioral Health care professionals that is second to none. From left *Maria Santos, Maritza Carvajal, Silvio Rodriguez, Rachel Broche, Renia Medirect, James Dougherty, Dianne Florence, Stephen Alvarez, Melissa Roche, Mariaisabel Negron, Paul Bennett, Dominik Luciano, Daniel Fadden, John Nickell, Carmen Alvarez, Isabel Mesa, Edward Arenado, Elizabeth De Armas, Melvin Haywood, Arthur Ellison, Adam Taveras, Amaris Hess, and Herbert Jackson.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME OF OUR MAIN SPONSORS



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