Volume Celebrating Our



The Herald of Hope

Tel (786) 243-1003 1020 N Krome Avenue Homestead, FL 33030

2022 www.newhopecorp.org Newsletter of New Hope C.O.R.P.S.,



BAPTIST HEALTH SAVING LIVES

Sidney Cotledge is a veteran who said that before coming to New Hope he was drinking beer for breakfast, not taking showers, and not washing his clothes. "Now I have a closet full of clothing. I used to go to feeding centers to eat, now my refrigerator is full of food. My stomach felt like touching my back, now I have a house that is so well put together, I have a gained 75 pounds. I even have many hats organized by color. In New Hope I learned to be organized, and to mop the floor correctly. My floor is so clean you can eat off of it."

Talking about his story as an addict, Sidney said that he began drinking heavily in college, "where drinking felt like part of the curriculum to be socially accepted. Then I went to the Marine Corps where it was ok to drink after work. At 19 I could buy liquor at the PX as much as you wanted. I began drinking every day after work; me and my friends in the Marine would buy

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WE ARE GROWING ... AND SERVING MORE PEOPLE



We are growing, New Hope's highly professional team is getting bigger and better. Big part (but not all) of the members of our staff are pictured above. From left of first row: David Alvarez, Silvio Rodriguez, Stephen Alvarez, Roberto Castro, Vanessa Briceño, Erika Barberi, Kimberlee Sheffield, Maritza Carvajal, Benjamin Alonge, Carmen Alvarez, Nicole Warren, Adam Taveras, Stephen Williams, Arthur Ellison, Scott Collins, Isolde Alonso-Diaz, Douglas Wessels, James Pontillo, Roberto Castro, Herbert Jackson, Renia Medirect, Elizabeth de Armas, Isabel Mesa, Maria Santos, Daniel Alvarez, Tangular Hopkins, Raychel Feldman, Zheng Liang, Arin Fadden, Amaris Hess, Karla Urbina, Stephen Michael Alvarez, Ivan Castellanos, Arjan Gupta, and Dianne Florence

FROM THE FRONT LINES ... C. C. R. P. S. C. MORE THAN 400% GROWTH IN 5 YEARS

By James Dougherty

New Hope has grown by leaps and bounds over the last five years and despite many challenges, we are helping more people, in more places throughout Miami-Dade County, than ever before.

In 2017, we overcame the Housing and Urban Development pivot away from offering transitional housing to the local homeless Continuums by successfully lobbying the Florida Legislature for a special appropriation for treatment beds. At the same time, we also came together with hundreds of other communitybased organizations and received funding for both outpatient and residential treatment services for the indigent population in South-Dade and submitted a successful application for funding of Peer Support services and Residential Treatment beds from the local DCF Managing Entity – South Florida Behavioral Health Network – for the first time ever.

Looking to diversify our funding sources further still, in 2018 we were again successful in our application to the Department of Veteran's Affairs to implement 25 clinical treatment beds under their Homeless Veterans Grant and Per-Diem Program. Later this same year, we partnered with Baptist Health South Florida to fund two direct-placement treatment beds for individuals discharging from their local ERs and Hospitals as well as, to establish a new position designed to assist all our clients receive linkage to medical homes in the community and provide a supply of bridge medications in situations where they would be



Message from the President

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Mohammed Ali

The team at New Hope works diligently each day to achieve the organization's mission and light the path to recovery for each client. The team continues to improve the lives of others each and every day. Their dedication and accomplishments are recognized by peers in the marketplace and appreciated by all; especially clients and their families.

The past couple of years have been a challenge due to the pandemic but you would have not noticed a blip in the performance and outcomes of New Hope. The organization's leadership has been unwavering in their commitment to help as many clients as possible and do the "right thing" well. New Hope receives support from local county and city governments as well as the Ocean Reef community, including but not limited to The Protestant Congregation of Ocean Reef, Patrick P. and Cynthia Lee, Shirley Shipley, Candace Sutfin, and Gail and Joyce Guyton, among others. These philanthropists that donate to us on a regular basis are truly special and their gifts do not go unnoticed or come without sincere appreciation.

New Hope continues to grow significantly and demands for the quality service the team delivers is at an all-time high. We continue to make progress in the development of a larger facility to meet the increasing community need. New Hope has leveraged its long-standing relationships to draw up state-of-the-art architectural plans and renderings for a facility soon to be presented to the City of Homestead for zoning and site plan approval. This new expansion would greatly increase operational efficiencies and allow for the doubling of access for new clients. This is truly a historic time for New Hope and its mission. The past goals could not have been achieved without the philanthropic nature of supporters; future goals are dependent on the same.

If you or someone you know would be interested in making a difference, please contact us to arrange a discussion and site visit. Your time and interest would be received with sincere appreciation.

Proudly serving to make a difference,

Keith Young, Chairman

DONORS THAT We 💚

We love all our donors, but the following donors constitute a special group that supports 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







NEW HOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Young President/Chairman **Bill Mchale** Member Cynthia R. Lee Member Michael C. Compo, PA Member Lonnie Richardson, Esq Member Ann Cumbie Member **Dave Meredith** Member **Kenneth Spell** Member Rosa Paulino, ARNP Member **Brad Copeland** Member Joe Web Member

NEW HOPE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Stephen Alvarez, MBA-HSA, CAP Executive Director Amaris Hess, LMHC-QS, CAP Clinical Director Maritza Carvajal, MBA, MCAP, BHCCMS Director of QA and HR James Dougherty, BS, CRPS Director of Operations Arthur Ellison Finance Director

Five-Year Strategic Plan Priorities Updates

Strategic Priority 1

Increase Revenue through funding diversification to provide sufficient resources to support and sustain New Hope CORPS' programmatic and administrative operations. In this area our annual budget has increased from \$1 million to \$4 million, and we have added 6 major funders across the Federal, State, and local levels.

Strategic Priority 2

Program enhancement and expansion of continuum of services. In this area we have expanded our MAT program for opioid users, added an Outreach Team to engage and serve the homeless population with substance abuse treatment and rapid rehousing services. We have also added a Child Welfare Program.

Strategic Priority 3 Develop a FACILITIES business plan to expand bed capacity: New Hope has completed the plan and rendering for a new state-of-theart facility that will be built on the recently acquired plots of land, adjacent to main facility. We are preparing presentation to request the City of Homestead approval.

Strategic Priority 4 BOARD DEVELOPMENT & REJUVENATION New Hope CORPS' Board is now comprised of diverse 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.

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's Mission

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

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Revised during the Annual Strategic Planning Board Retreat

Celebration-of-Life

We are sad to report the pass away of our long term Board Member and cheerful supporter Rev. Aída Meléndez Diego, She served as our BOD's Secretary for several terms. She was also a Pastor at Pan Americana Presbyterian Church in Miami. Our condolences to her family and our deepest gratitude for her contributions to New Hope.



NEW HOPE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM OUTCOME OBJECTICVES SUCCESSES... THE GRAPHIC TELLS MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS

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Another Opioid Recovery Success Story

Success Story: Fabio Recalde is only 25 years old, but he had already experienced lows and despair to a level that most people will never experience in their lifetime. "Right before I came to New Hope I was homeless walking all over Naranja, around abandoned buildings where drug dealers roam. I was sleeping in those abandoned houses and wandering from place to place, being out there in the rain and in the hot without a shower or clean clothes, just being addicted. I was doing heroin and for a while I could not eat because I would Throw it up. I would go to churches or get something to eat from other homeless people. At one point I was seriously thinking about suicide. Honestly my mentality was I didn't have hope and in my head I didn't see myself living, I never thought I was going to pass 25, It is funny that this place is called New Hope and hope is exactly what I needed back then and what I received from New Hope."

I was sleeping on bus stop, he said, "one day my mom recognized me and contacted Central Intake, and they referred me to New Hope. That was the best, there is really no



words to explain what New Hope has done for me, I am super happy, my life have completely flip around, I have a job. It is now hard for me to wrap around the idea that I have come this far. Before I came here I was on a limb, deep down I really did want to change because I was tired of everything and the way that I was living but I didn't know how to. Thank God, there was a lot of good things in New Hope, the staff supported me in a way that I could not really support myself, I didn't think it was possible but Ed and Herbert told me that it was possible, that they did it and so could I. There were many instances in which I wanted to leave but they talked me out of it. Their support was invaluable on my recovery. The other clients helped me too, we bonded and it was nice knowing that we all came from the same place, we became like a supportive family among ourselves. In the beginning your emotions are so imbalanced, I was just a mess, the emotions were so out of composure, I couldn't see happiness again in my life, I didn't see a light at the end of the tunnel. I was really frustrated, especially because I choose not to do the Seboxen. I didn't want anything to with drugs any more. Now I have plans, I want to see if I can become peer services specialist. They made me see the light that I could not see possible, I would like to help others the way New Hope have helped me. My therapist James helped me overcome serious traumas from my pass. I don't think I would have gotten this far without his help. I always suppressed myself and just having a friendly ear to talk to made a huge impact in my life, even today, I still ask him for advice when something is bothering me.

Baptist Health Foundation Raised Allocation for Substance Abuse Treatment Services in New Hope

Baptist Health South Florida Community

Benefit Program increased its allocation to provide Substance Abuse residential treatment beds for Baptist Hospital referred clients in need of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment from \$150,000 to \$175,000.

This funding provides for 2 fully funded SA residential treatment beds serving an average of 10 people per year, mostly homeless. In addition to treatment therapy, case managements and housing assistance, all clients served under this grant are linked to a primary care doctor, in an effort to reduce the number of unnecessary visits to hospital Emergency rooms.

In addition, this grant allocates funding to provide outpatient mental health treatment services for up to 72 low income adults who meet the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for Outpatient treatment.

The increase in funding was the result of a combination of factors, not the least of which include the Baptist's satisfaction with the results achieved by the clients they have referred to New Hope. The additional funds will help us cover for increase in the cost of living expenses, and the increase in salaries of the agency's staff.

Our deepest gratitude to the Baptist Health Foundation staff and Board of Directors.

A COUPLE'S OPIOID RECOVERY SUCCESS STORY

SARAH HURST AND EDUARDO ARMAS met each

other in a convenience store, and it was love at first sight. They had a lot in common. Some of those things, like their love for nature, gave them a positive activity to enjoy together. However, there were other, darker things, like their drug addictions, that were self-destructive, and led them to graduate together from cocaine to opioids. This plunged them into a downward spiral of hopelessness and took them to the brink of homelessness. "We got addicted to heroin for about 3 years and it got to the point that whenever we didn't have it we were sick and could not even get out of bed," she stated.

Sarah added that when New Hope's outpatient therapist learned she was being evicted NH Outreach and Housing staff stepped in. At that point "I didn't want to be sick anymore. I didn't want to depend on a drug to be normal and I wanted to change, but this was the 4th time that I was in treatment". When asked about her outlook for the future she added "this time is different. In the past I was able to achieve being physically sober but psychologically I was still in addiction. I didn't see myself living a drug free life for long time, but this time I can honestly say that I am also psychologically free from drugs, my mentality has changed. Drugs are no longer something in the back of my mind. I know for a fact that I don't want to ever go back to that life style. Sarah received outpatient and housing Continue on Page 6

assistance services in New Hope, and Edu-

CELEBRATING RECOVERY



Sarah Hurst and Eduardo Armas "New Hope brought us back from a very dark place. We have achieved body sobriety and mental freedom"

SECRET TO NEW HOPE'S RAPID GROWTH IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS:

FOCUSING ON STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Continue from front page

unable to pay for the medications on their own. New Hope's expan-

sion continued with yet another successful application in 2019 to provide residential treatment. This time, we successfully applied under the Health Resources and Services Administration Request for Application for Ryan White Part A Substance Abuse Treatment Beds. Our expansion continued not just in the depth of our services but in the diversity of our services; New Hope is now contracted by the Homeless Trust to offer targeted street outreach and rapid re-housing to those suffering from substance use disorders that migrated into tent encampments during the Pandemic.

Even as New Hope C.O.R.P.S., Inc. achieved a key strategic priority in diversifying its funding sources across Federal, State and Local levels, what awaited the Agency in March 2020 had the potential to close New Hope's doors. The COVID-19 Pandemic, if not addressed in a strategic and conservative manner, may have meant that many more of our staff and clients could have suffered far worse outcomes. But

SAFE COMMUNITIES tion GRANT CHANGING LIVES

New Hope was awarded \$30,000 by the Miami Foundation's Safe Communities program to support comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment to individuals through our Back On Track (NH-BOT) DUI Treatment Project, which provides free of charge or low cost services to low income individuals who had been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

New Hope rose to the challenge, recognizing very early the severity of the Pandemic that was to come. Early on, we implemented a testing operation in partnership with Larkin Hospital that allowed us to utilize Quarantine & Isolation Beds set aside for our target population. The Homeless Trust of Miami-Dade County which afforded us the needed flexibility to keep our staff and clients as safe as possible. Unfortunately, we did not make it through this Pandemic completely unscathed; we did lose to COVID19 our beloved board member Reverend Aida Diego in December of 2021. We mourn her loss but she would undoubtedly encourage us to look forward with our heads held high, ready to carry out our mission with great care and compassion.

Continue from Front Page Sidney Cotledge,,,

a fifth of liquor (half gallon) and a case of beer, then we would drink all night. Eventually I got out. The VA helped me get a good job, I was making good money in a health care facility, working with elderly, but my drinking problem continue to worsened; I later graduated to cocaine and ended up losing the job and my apartment, living in the streets. By the time I entered New Hope I was homeless helpless and hopeless, but not anymore."

Continue from a Couple's Recovery on Page 5

ardo went through our Substance Abuse residential program. "What I have achieved is mental freedom" she said. "All the other times that I was on rehabs before I always knew that I would still do drugs again, now I don't ever have that thought in the back of my head, and I can honestly say that I don't want to live that live style anymore, my life is getting better in all areas and I don't want to go back to having to use drug to feel normal. "

Eduardo said that the same is also true for him, "I'm done with drugs. New Hope has helped us get housing, get treatment with Suboxone, and therapy. And those things made all the difference in our lives."

Continuation of Alexander Ward story on the right

Like many other drug addicts, Alexander, who is now 24, began using drugs in middle and high school as a way to fit in with peers in a place where his friends were also using drugs. Then at 16 he was diagnosed with severe anxiety and doctor prescribed him Xanax, a drug that carry a high potential for addiction, especially when taken incorrectly or misused, like Alexander did. "One ended up being too many and a thousand not enough." he said, "from there I went into an ever moving downward spiral where one traumatic event lead to another even more traumatic one. Most of my friends are now in jail or dead. My best friend killed himself 30 minutes after he had sent me a text saying I love you and will always be there for you. That really messed me up. I felt overwhelmed by guilt, thinking that maybe I could have done something to prevent him from doing it. I stop caring about anything, nothing mattered to me. I put tattoo on my face in an effort to drive people away from me. I was in so much pain that I didn't want to be close to nobody."

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 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

including linkage to health care providers and support services.



From a Life of Sorrow to a life of Service and Joy

Alexander Ward ended up in New Hope after a series harship events. He

was arrested, overdosed inside a police car on his way to jail, and waked up intubated in a hospital. He was given the option of going to jail or going to treatment. He chose the latter for what he though was the most convenient option but not because he was thinking about quitting drugs, as that was something he did not think was possible. "I knew I was really messed up and I didn't want to change, but when I got to New Hope I saw that the guys there were trying to be better people. It was so inspiring to see those grown up men who like me had been through so much pain, working on



Alexander Ward

their recovery. I started to journal to write five things I was grateful for every single day. I began to write goals that seem impossible at the time. I would go to groups and to outpatient treatment, and little by little the thought that a life of recovery was possible for me began to sink into my mind. It was a hard process but so worthy."

He added that "one day" he said "I was desperate because I didn't have a job. I cried and said "God I don't know what to do but I do know I don't want to go back to my old life, please help me." I surrendered to God and like a miracle my phone ran. I could not believe that the person on the other side of the call was offering me the job of my dream. I accepted it with so much gratitude. I saved up all the money I could until eventually I was able to buy a car. When I wrote in my journal that I wanted to have a job where I could help others and to buy my own car those things seemed so far away, as if they were on another planet, but I have them now. I have a good place to live, I eat well, I exercise, I have a personal relationship with God, the anxiety is gone. I found a new family of friends in New Hope and a support system in NA. The most important thing is that I feel so much joy and gratitude in my heart. I am thinking about studying to become a nurse. I see hope in the future, I know that even if things get hard I will be able to face them. That is the complete opposite of the place I was in when I first came to New Hope."

Continue in the column on left side of this page

WE LOVE OUR DONORS

\$100 to \$499

Fidelity Charity Mark A. McFarland Family Reed Family Foundation Richard & Paul Shopiro

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MAJOR GIFTS OF 2020



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.

\$5,000 to \$19,999

Stephen Alvarez Patrick P. & Cynthia Lee

John M. Timken, Jr. & Polly Timken

Vanguard Charitable

Over \$20,000

City of Homestead The Miami Foundation The Protestant Congregation of Ocean Reef The Shipley Foundation

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! WE NEED **\$5,000** FOR AWNING





If you have the means to, our clients would very much appreciate **a donation of \$5,000** that we will use to build a shaded area in the indoor patio of our main facility to protect it from the elements. The area is frequently use clients receiving residential substance abuse treatment as a wellness and relaxation place, where they bring their food to eat or share leisure time, which helps them build a sense and community.

HELP US GET **\$30,500** TO BUY TWO OF-FICE SHEDS FOR COUNSELING SESIONS



New Hope is asking our friends to please consider donating money for us to buy two office sheds. Space is our biggest commodity. We have grown considerably when it comes to adding programs and services. We have also added new staff members to our team; however, our already crammed space facility is still the same. We have more than one therapist sharing the same office, and they need privacy when they are conducting individual sessions with their clients.



Bringing Awareness of Substance Abuse Struggles







The Shipley Foundation

for their \$31,250 donation



New Hope CORPS staff and alumni clients participated in school presentations alongside the Homestead Police Department during Red Ribbon Week last October. The program alumni and staff had the opportunity to share their stories and experiences with students, bringing awareness to the struggle of substance use and the hope of recovery.

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