

HOMEtown News

The Official Newsletter of the House of Mercy and Encouragement

Spring 2015



From the Director

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." – Mother Theresa

The last couple of months at the House Of Mercy have been phenomenal! Since our move in early September we have had a wonderful show of support from our families, friends and community. We are deeply indebted to all who have supported us financially, uplifted us with kind words, and sustained us through your prayers.



On occasion, I have had people who come for help say that they feel a sense of peace after entering our doors and spending some time. I believe **all of you** have helped build an atmosphere of peace. Through your generosity, you have remembered that "we belong to each other."

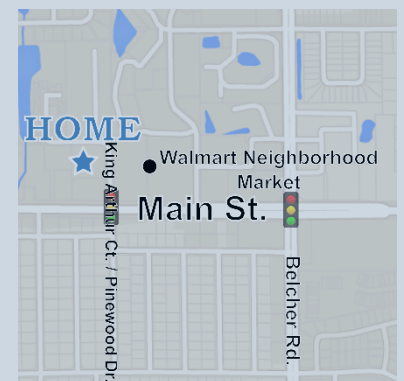
Mother Teresa once gave a reflection on peace. She said, "Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families." It is a blessing to be able to work with children and families and try to promote a sense of peace. I often ask even very young children, "Would you like to have a more peaceful home?" Always the answer is "yes." Thank you for caring. Thank you for helping us to promote a sense of peace and well-being for the families in our community.

In His Peace,
Dolores

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Our NEW HOME at
2030 Main St.
Dunedin, FL 34698



My Story

Throughout my life's journey I am grateful for my early introduction to a relationship with Christ, which has been the underpinning of a life dedicated to service to God, Family, Country, and Corps. As I reflect on this journey, I am able to identify, through successes and failures, and present and past challenges, the unmistakable presence of God. His presence has been constant not only in the life enhancing experiences and successes, but also in weathering the disappointments and personal failings of my life. Having had life experiences that have been beyond anything a young Cuban refugee would have imagined as he was torn from his third-world place of birth and transplanted into a new culture, society, and of all places, New Jersey and its weather; in my 9-year-old mind it might as well have been Alaska.

There are multitude of situations and life events that have shaped my journey and that I attribute to divine intervention. One such event took place on one of my deployments to Iraq in 2005. My responsibilities in Iraq during that deployment took me to places throughout the country where there were ongoing insurgent attacks. Most often, the team I worked with traveled by helicopter, however there were a handful of trips that required movement by ground transportation – a situation that made us more vulnerable to direct attack. It was during one of these trips just as our convoy crested a bridge connecting Habbaniyah and Fallujah, an incredible life-changing moment occurred. We were hit by a roadside Improvised Explosive Device. Time appeared to be suspended as we were engulfed in a black cloud of smoke. In those moments, we were shaken yet uninjured, pushing through and communicating in a panic to ensure no one was left behind. It was only after arriving at our destination as I attempted to put logic to our “great fortune,” that I was certain that God’s hand was at work in protecting us.

I am grateful for God’s continued work in my life and the way He allows me to serve His purpose as a therapist.

– Sam Lima

“My Story” is a true story written by someone who found inspiration through HOME. Our deepest gratitude to the author!

Our Volunteer Angels...

We would like to acknowledge two very special individuals who have helped us tremendously. Christine Foley volunteers every week to arrange our library and to help with many other office tasks. We look forward each week to her positive attitude and smile!



Dan Borba has also helped tremendously with writing grants. He also has a very positive attitude and is willing to help in any way he can.

Thank you, Dan, you are **greatly appreciated!**

Thank You!

We are proud to announce we were awarded a \$6,000 grant through **Pinellas Community Foundation**. We have been able to offer tutoring, individual and group counseling to those who would otherwise be unable to receive help. We are very grateful for being selected.

Our deepest gratitude is also extended to Dan Robison at the Neighborhood Walmart. We were selected for a \$400 grant to be used to help children in need. Many parents visit our neighbor, The Neighborhood Walmart on SR 580, while waiting for their child to complete their therapy. They are happy to get a little shopping done while their child is being helped at HOME.



A big thank you also to everyone who made our 2014 fundraiser a success!
We couldn't do it without you!

Albanese, Marcia	Flitcraft, Carlene	Naclerio, Frank
Allbritton, Margaret	Foley, Christine & Stephen	Nash Lou Ann
BayCare Health System	Fulford, Darrell	Ostrom, Guy & Kathy
Boitmann, Robert & Alyje	Gardner, Mark & Sharon	Peebles, Frederica
Borba, Dan	Gildea, Sharyn	Pitt, Charlie & Dee
Bosco Elizabeth	Harkins, Riley	Porthouse, Lisa
Brown, Neal & Dee	Kirst, Joe & Ann	Salemi, Toni
Brown, Terry & Jean	Kushner, Pamela	Schroder-Kiesel, Tara
Buck, Jim and Judy	Mansfield, Family	Shilling, Carolyn
Cappiello Family	Marr, Pat	Signore, Phil & Cindy
Carignan, Gladys	Marte, Idelfia	Stronski, Frances
Castorino, John and Linda	McCann, James and Angela	Visalli, Doris
Covington, Ronda	Michaels, Thomas	Warner, Bob & Judie
Donovan, Lynn	Milliken, Susan	Warren, Jim
Faith Lutheran Church	Milnes, Sherrill	Worobec, Dave
Faw, Jill & Rob	Moldal, Steve and Evelyn	Wrech, Kristrine
Felt, Chuck & Janice	Mortimer Allen & Dolores	Zimmer, Jane
Fisher, Bob & Rose	Mortimer, Ryan & Syreena	

Besides the generous monetary donations we receive, we would like to thank Ann and Joe Kirst, Nancy Nolan and Karen Stewart for donations of snacks, paper products and items for our treasure box. If you would like to help we always need:

- Reams of copy paper
- Paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Individually wrapped crackers or cheese for snacks
- Small toys for the treasure box
- Box of Kleenex
- Bottles of water

If you don't see your insurance please contact us. We also offer a sliding fee scale and scholarships. Please call for more details.

- Children's Medical Services (CMS)
- BayCare
- Cigna
- CompSych
- Humana (Lifesynch)
- MHNnet Behavioral Health
- New Directions
- Sunshine State Health Plan
- Tricare
- ValueOptions
- Vocational Rehab

Currently a Provider for:

Need Help??

Our vision is to compassionately serve as a resource for those children and families who are affected by mental health, learning, emotional, or behavioral issues. We are a faith-based provider who believes in the God given dignity of every child and family. All families are treated with respect and kindness.

HOME is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and families.

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2030 Main Street
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*play therapy, counseling, tutoring
help for children and families*

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