

RESCUE & RECOVERY **MAY 2023**



LUZ – FOUND HOPE THAT CHANGED HER LIFE

After 35 years of struggling in an abusive marriage, Luz had just about given up.

Luz had worked at another thrift store but went to shop at Lighthouse Ministries Thrift Store in Brandon.

"While I was shopping, I heard in the back of my mind, 'go ask about a job' I kind of brushed it off and kept shopping and again I hear 'GO ASK ABOUT THE JOB!' and I remember saying to myself, okay!"

Luz started working at Lighthouse Ministries in May of 2022 and noticed things change in her life. It started while applying for the job.

"I came in for an interview, and Ms. Genifer told me one of the requirements was no smoking, and I looked at her and said, 'Well I smoke.' She kindly looked at me and said, 'Well we need to do something about that.' She prayed over me and I've been more than a year smoke-free, praise God!"

When difficulty in her home brought crisis in her life, she packed her car and left, not knowing what to do or where to go. Instead of her former pattern of getting cigarettes and a beer to feel better or listening to her inward thoughts to go drive off a bridge because no one wanted her, she reached back out to Ms. Genifer.

"She asked me to pull over and if I wanted for her to call the Women's Center at Lakeland. I said yes, and she prayed for me before hanging up."

While Luz was able to have a safe place to stay she began going to a local church where she gave her whole heart to God and asked Him to take charge of her life.

"I was baptized and have so much joy in my heart, I learned to manage my money to be able to save up for a place."

With help from Lighthouse Ministries, Luz was able to find an affordable place to live only five minutes away from our Plant City store where she works.

Luz is so thankful to everyone who helped her reach this goal. That includes the many partners who pray for, give to, and volunteer at Lighthouse Ministries.

"I couldn't have done it without you and God's love, compassion, and mercy. I love you all!"

JOSHUA – FROM SATAN TO JESUS

When I first came to Lighthouse I believed in Satan. I believed he knew what I wanted in life: women, alcohol, solitude, and anger.

After getting into conflict with my mom, I needed a safe place to stay, so I came back (Yes, this is my second time here).

When there was an opening in the program, I talked with Mark, a resident, and Joe, the Mission Director. Mark explained the rules of the program and that I would have

to go to Bible classes.

While I did not want to go to those classes, I was willing to go so that I could get home. After the first day of doing outside clean up I was beat, but felt like I had accomplished something for the day.

Through the classes and nightly chapel speakers, I began to change. Finally, Steve from Lighthouse was preaching, and it's like Jesus was telling me, "come to me and I will take care of you." I talked with Mark



Steve, Joe, Joshua, and Mark

and Steve. I said the Lord's prayer and meant it with my heart.

I now have joy, happiness and peace with Jesus in my life.



YBOR CITY ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Blanca and Luisa are our first students doing the GED training in Spanish. They are also ESOL students and enjoy the interaction with others learning English. They believe that these classes and what they provide will help them improve their future for themselves and their families. Cheryl Hart at the Ybor Adult Learning Center is now hosting students for Faith and Finances, Parenting, English and Spanish GED Preparation, and English for Speakers of Other Languages!

Like the other Hope Centers at our Thrift Stores, The Ybor Hope Center also provides food box assistance and the ability to shop for clothing for students needing that extra help. We are even preparing to have a couple of baby showers for our growing families.

It is a privilege to provide critical care and educational courses that are significantly changing the lives of people coming to the Ybor Campus.

CELEBRATING EDUCATION AT LIGHTHOUSE

Education is one of Lighthouse's Four Pathways to Success along with Spiritual Growth, Community and Work Life.

Congratulations to the graduates of the **Certified Maintenance Technician Intro Course**. Special thanks to

Paul Flynn from Ferris Energy who has done a great job of not only maintenance training, but also tying in spiritual lessons to advance in the workplace.

These students have been very engaged. As they move forward in the Life Learning Program, they have the opportunity to earn their EPA Certificate and will have a solid platform to advance if they decide to move forward to a Tech school.

Congratulations to *Anita, Judy, Samaria, Brittney, Brittany, Lacey, Alex, Dana, and Eric!*

We celebrate with our Interns who completed the latest **Work Life** course! Work Life is a job readiness class that we offer in conjunction with The Chalmers Center to provide participants with an understanding of how to write a resume, an elevator pitch, and a cover letter. Most importantly, they are reminded that they have God given dignity and have an opportunity to explore the gifts and skills He has designed them to steward in order to earn a living wage! Adult Education Director, Scott Turbeville and staff, Steve Ogle are thankful for volunteers, Charles Lee and Justin Reuter for their faithful support!

Congratulations to *Mark, Greg, Keith, Robert, Sarah, and Bianca!*



CELEBRATING YOUR IMPACT IN 2023

THROUGH APRIL 2023

51,905

Nutritious Meals Provided

366

Homeless Sheltered (Non-Duplicate)

2,053

Individuals Served

1,575

Gospel Communications

13,612

Nights of Shelter

58

Life Learning Residents Served

40

Community Homeless Housed or Stabilized

38

Faith Decisions

Get your FREE copy of the devotional book "Adventures of a Lighthouse Keeper"

An exciting ride through the history of Lighthouse Ministries.

You'll be inspired to believe God can use you to be a Lighthouse in our community!

Scan the QR code to request your copy.



For more information on the ministries of Lighthouse go to

www.lighthousemin.org

863-687-4076



Your generosity creates Rescue and Recovery environments for at-risk people where they can experience dignity and a better quality of life through the power of the Gospel!