

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

Greetings from our Executive Director

Joseph Elibri

Welcome to the Annual Sanctuary Newsletter. First, we would like to say thank you to each and every one of you for your prayer and unending support. Many of you are aware of what we do here at the mission but to those who are less familiar I would like to take a moment and share our program with you.

The Sanctuary Mission provides shelter to our homeless community. Our model is a 9-month Christ centered program for people with all types of life controlling issues/addictions. We believe that Jesus Christ has the power to break every chain and set our hearts free. The men and women who God has entrusted us with participate in bible study, church attendance, 12-step programs and our work therapy program.

The Sanctuary Mission consists of our Men's House, The Women's (Grace) House, and The Sanctuary Thrift Store. In the following pages are encouraging testimonies of what God has done and continues to do in the lives of our men and women.

Sanctuary Mission Team





Resident Testimony by: Charles Perkins

My name is Charles Perkins. I came to the Sanctuary approximately two months ago after my last battle with drug abuse. I made a commitment to the staff and my brothers before God to complete this program and transform myself to be one like Jesus Christ. This change has not been easy, and I still have a long road ahead, however knowing that Jesus calls me His own makes each day in this battle possible.

I am thankful for the opportunity that has been graciously given.

1 Corinthians 15:34

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not, for some have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”



Greetings from the Men's House



Richard Torres

I pray that all who read this newsletter are well. My personal wish is that the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may continue to bless you and yours, and meet all your needs as they may arise at any unfolding moment.

For those that I have not had the pleasure to meet, my name is Richard (Rick) Torres. I have been given the responsibility and pleasure to become the Men's House Administrator.

My responsibilities vary and are at times challenging, but with God's grace we become over-comers. Here at the Sanctuary, we are able to see God's amazing grace in action, We witness how spiritually broken men arrive at our doors without any hope to the point of not wanting to continue living. So many men whose families have discarded them due to hopelessness and helplessness find their way to the Sanctuary Mission where hope is restored and where they can become once more useful citizens. Here at the Sanctuary Mission, their hope is restored and healing takes place after many year's of toxic living.

The “Amazing Grace” is that God is able to knit us together again in spite of our differences. All of us need to apply the tools we receive to experience help and victory.

Our Men For Hire Program

Need Work Done?

**Our Men For Hire Program
supports our mission.**

**Call (352) 601-8025 for more
information.**

My Testimony - Jill Tobia

My name is Jill and I believe through the mercy and the grace of God, the Grace House saved my life. I came here (fighting it the whole way) over 4 months ago. I was living in a tent and had lost everything (my pets, job, home, and car) due to alcohol (my addiction). I can honestly say that when I walked through the Grace House door, I could feel the presence of God and I knew I was safe. My life has changed immeasurably in this short time. Mr. Joe, Miss Jessi, Miss Antoinette and all the staff and volunteers have taught and guided me through some difficult, but mostly wonderful experiences. They have opened my eyes and heart to Christ, given me shelter and a purpose in life. At 50 something - this New York transplant is sober and grateful!



My name is Jessi Laytart and I am the Women's House manager for The Grace House. This opportunity is a complete blessing and I'm honored to be here with The Sanctuary Mission & The Grace House.

I am a recovering addict who loves Jesus and will continue to spread the Gospel. I AM UNASHAMED. Each and every one of these ladies inspire me to go deeper with the LORD. Here is where I know God has placed me.

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."



Testimony by: Jenni Toms



My addiction had controlled my life, my decisions for so long. My life was completely spiraling out of control. My breaking point finally came when I witnessed the death of my best friend, I loved this man so much. It completely broke me. My parents had mentioned this place called The Sanctuary Grace House a few times over the years. I was full of fear, but I knew I could not keep living this way. I was sitting at this lake, watching the sunset, I was praying to God for help and for something amazing to happen. I received this overwhelming peace come over me, then my phone rang and there was a message and it said "Its time Jen". I knew in that instant that it was time for me to change my life. As soon as I walked through those doors of the Grace House 4 months ago, I can stand and say that it has been a habit breaking, mind changing, relationship building experience. God is in this place, from every volunteer to everyone who works here. I have come to discover that God has a plan for my life Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hop and a future." Thank you for The Grace House for a safe place to heal and recover.

Volunteer Testimony - Karen Widmark

My name is Karen Widmark and I am a transplant from Minnesota since 15 months ago to Homosassa. I was born and raised on a farm in a little community of 350 in North Dakota. I was trained as an RN and worked in several capacities, but my love was in geriatrics. I have a daughter, Jen, who lives in North Dakota and works as a med aide there. My second husband, Lowell and I have been married for 9 years and he is my best friend. I love gardening and just being out in God's creation. I came to the Sanctuary because of a conversation with a member at my church who talked about her volunteering at the store. I had always wanted to do something like that, so she gave me the phone number and I called and I started work this past January. I started out doing the linens and some clothing. When Antoinette became the manager, she handed over the Christmas room to me. I still do the linens frequently, as well. I am at the store 4 days a week and love it.

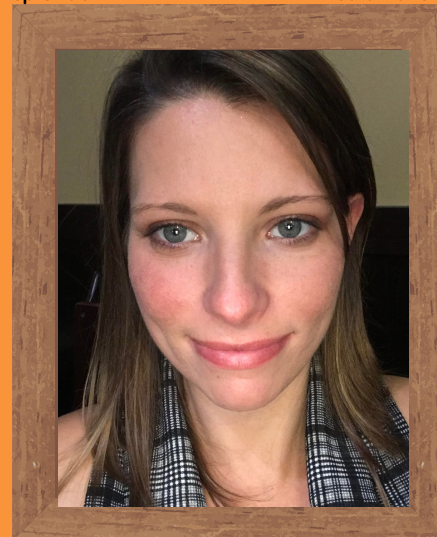
Why did I start volunteering? I wanted to do something for someone who is less fortunate than I and just do as we are directed by Jesus, to love our fellowman. I have found all of that and more here at the Sanctuary. The staff and residents have become to feel like family to me.

Joe had the idea to include the residents, mostly the women, in running the store back in May and it has worked out beautifully. These guys and gals find a purpose and can grow and have a feeling of belonging. It is wonderful to watch these people just come alive and grow in their faith in God. They come to realize they are a child of God and have worth, and self-respect. As the oldest person working here, I look on these people as someone who could be my child or even grandchild. I see my daughter's face, who has been an alcoholic for over 20 years, and it is my way of paying back all the people who have tried to help her over the years. I have shared this with the residents and staff that what ever good I do here to help, I receive much more from the residents and staff.



"...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor."
Isaiah 61:3



Hey guys a little about me, my name is Jena and I graduated the Grace House February 2017. The Lord led me to the Grace House in November of 2015 after a lifetime of bad choices.

At the Grace House is where God gave me my new beginning. I have been clean ever since. Jesus restored my sanity and my family. Since then my heart has been with the Sanctuary Mission, speaking hope and life into the broken women who come in.



Sanctuary Mission Thrift Store

BY ANTOINETTE PERILLO



Hi, the name Antoinette Perillo. I started with The Sanctuary Mission in 2007 as a resident and never would have thought all these years later I would be working and giving back to the place that changed my life. I was offered a job working in our Christmas department about a year and a half ago and now I am the store manager. Not only am I learning new skills, but I am able to pour into the lives of our residents and customers. I share my story; my struggles and all God has helped me to overcome with them. I let them know that God has done more for me than just keeping me clean. He has shown me how to grow up, deal with whatever life throws my way and most importantly how to love. Psalms 20:4 "May He give you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed." My desire is to see His movement and glory in the lives of others and I am blessed to be a part of this ministry.



Thrift Store Team Praying Before Work

Volunteer Testimonial - Pat Consol

How the time flies. My name is Patricia (Pat) Consol. It has been over 8 years since I made a commitment to volunteer at the Sanctuary Mission. As a cashier I enjoy working with people, and the staff and clients. Working as a team we start each day with group prayer and give glory to God. Our mission is to see lives changed. As I encounter people and end each transaction, I bid them with "Have a blessed day, or have a lovely afternoon, etc." And I will say it again, "Have a blessed day". ~ Love in Christ, Pat

"Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us." Isaiah 26:12

Testimony



BY DEE ANN HALE

Hello, I'm DeeAnne Hale. The Sanctuary Mission has been a rock in my life. I started as a resident in 2017, graduated the program and became an employee. I have been working at the Sanctuary Mission Thrift Store for over two and a half years. I went from cleaning the store across the street to Head Cashier.

The Sanctuary is my other family. They have been through my struggles and my loss of my husband. I love working here. I get to encourage, love and laugh with the residents and customers, and I get to send them away with Jesus and a big smile. I get to share my story and show how God has taken hold of my life and working on an "Old Gal" like me!



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Staff Testimonials

A WORD FROM BRIAN O'CONNELL

Since the opening of the Sanctuary Mission back in 1997 by founders Paul and Vicki Genz, the Lord opened a door for me to teach Bible Studies and minister into the lives of the men and women who came through these doors. In its early days, the mission only had one building which is the current men's house. It was more of a homeless shelter then, people came and went quickly. But it has grown to become a 9 month rehab program where lives are building structure, and people are graduating having hope of living productive lives. I cannot even guess how many thousands of people have come through the program in these past 23 years. My Joy, is seeing the changed lives of those whom have continued to fall deeper in love with Jesus and lead productive godly lives free from their former addictions.

I rejoice to see the next generation, continuing the mission for other people to come. Joe Elibri, once sat in my Bible studies, now he is the Executive Director and doing a wonderful work. Antoinette and Jena, both former residents, now Manager and Assistant Managers of the Thrift Store. Jessi Ann, also a graduate, now managing the women's house. And there are so many more. I rejoice to see the work that God is doing through this mission, the lives He has transformed by the power of His love and the direction of His word! I was in awe, during the shutdown of our store during the virus epidemic to see the overwhelming support of our community to bless the ministry with the funds needed to keep the ministry going! Our needs were met, the residents are fed, clothed and have a bed. We tip our hat to each of you! Thank you!

Blessings in Jesus Christ our Lord,
Brian O'Connell,
Assistant Pastor Crystal River Assembly of God.



For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3 : 9 - 11



Hi, I am Sherry Inscoe and I have the joy and privilege of serving at the Sanctuary Mission as the Office Administrative Assistant. I credit God for my coming to work and serving at the Sanctuary Mission.

As a volunteer Florida State Representative for CR-Inside which is the jail and prison component of Celebrate Recovery, I had been praying and asking God to provide the community with needed support systems for people transitioning from incarceration back into the community. I was also praying for a job at the same time. God answered both prayers when I received a call from the Sanctuary Mission. I had submitted a volunteer application at the Sanctuary earlier in the year. I was asked if I might be interested in a job opening that had just become available. I was overjoyed and submitted my resume immediately. Praise God I was hired! What a testimony to God's faithfulness to answer our prayers and order our steps according to His purpose and plans for our lives.

I am so thankful to serve and work here at the Sanctuary Mission. It is a perfect fit in so many ways! I have a social services career background, as well as office administration. and I get to utilize my creative web and graphic design experience here at work too. Seeing God transform lives is such a blessing to witness and be a part of. Praise and thank you Jesus!



Brian O'Connell
Witnessing on the Streets

"Only one life, will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

C.T. Studd

Message from Joe

I trust you have been encouraged by our newsletter thus far. We are so honored to see God working in the lives of our residents. When we hear testimonies from our residents, volunteers and staff members and see how they have allowed God to grow them, we are all reminded this is why we do what we do.

My name is Joseph Elibri. After the retirement of Mike Awe I accepted the position of the Executive Director of The Sanctuary Mission. Mike alongside his wife, Judy, laid a firm foundation for The Sanctuary Mission through their hard work and commitment and as we go forward we will continue to build and expand on that foundation.

When I started this position back in February 2020 little did I know what the year had ahead of us. Just around the corner came uncertainty to our whole world with Coronavirus which impacted everyone in different ways and brought disruption to normal routines and societies to a standstill. Although Coronavirus took us by surprise, I am encouraged to say nothing takes God by surprise. He has sustained us through these uncertain times in a mighty way and continues to do so. One chapter I have been leaning on greatly is 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 which recounts the story of King Jehoshaphat when he was faced with unexpected opposition and uncertainty while being attacked by an army.. His men reported to him that a “vast army was coming to wage war against him”. When Jehoshaphat heard the news he stood in front of the people and prayed to God. During his prayer he was professing and reminding the people (and himself) of how God had given them the land to possess. He cried out calling to remembrance all of God’s goodness and placing his trust completely in his Creator. Jehoshaphat came to a place in his prayer where he said “ vs12- we don’t have the strength to face this large crowd that is attacking us. We don’t know what to do but our eyes are on you.” I can relate to this. There have been many days I just remind myself and our team of what God has already done and that He will never leave us or forsake us.

I would like to take this moment to ask you to reflect with me. I would like to call you to pause in remembrance and reflection. Remember where you were when God called you? Remember all the things God has brought you through? Remember when you did not have the strength, but God brought you through? Remember when you finally looked up and said “God my eyes are on you?” I remember and I am convinced that He who began a good work will complete it.

I pray we all get to that place where Jehoshaphat came to because this is the place of surrender and the place where God speaks to Jehoshaphat and reminds him “do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, the battle is not yours but the battle is the Lords.” Today, I want to remind you that whatever you are facing, whatever trouble may come against you, never lose sight that the battle is not yours, it belongs to the Lord.

We want to thank you for reading our newsletter. As we continue to do God’s work at the mission we are well aware that we cannot do it alone. On the last page there is information on how you can partner with us. I would like to leave you with one last scripture and please know this is our prayer for you, your loved ones and for our great nation.

Numbers 6:24-26

**“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
and lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”**



Joe and Judy Elibri

