

CORNERSTONE RESOURCE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

2020 HOLIDAY SEASON AT KOTS



Cornerstone Resource Alliance

Wednesday

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November 2020 was the kickoff to the first holiday season for CRA. Thanksgiving was a multi-agency effort; Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina donated 20 turkeys, Metropolitan Community Church's "Cooking with Love" team dressed and baked the turkeys, and The Basillica of St. Mary Star of the Sea St. Martha's Ministry team provided all the traditional side Dishes for the Thanksgiving meal served at KOTS by Volunteers and staff. A big THANK YOU to all who helped make this meal happen.



THANKFUL GIVING!



Photos by CAROL TEDESCO/The Citizen

ABOVE: Susan Hinkle Mitchell, left, a volunteer for Cornerstone Resource Alliance, the nonprofit organization that recently received a three-year Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter management contract, and Melissa Anderson, a manager for Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina, load Mitchell's car on Tuesday with 20 turkeys donated by the resort to provide Thanksgiving dinner for homeless individuals currently sheltering at KOTS. In a coordinated multi-agency effort, Metropolitan Community Church's Cooking with Love team will dress and bake the birds, and The Basillica of St. Mary Star of the Sea Martha Ministry team will provide the side dishes. On Thursday morning, staff and volunteers from CRA, MCC and Martha Ministry will transport the feast to the KOTS shelter to be shared among the 120 clients residing there.



RIGHT: Lynn Obringer, left, coordinator for the Cooking with Love program based in the Metropolitan Community Church kitchen, and volunteer Terri Sterns begin the process of preparing the turkeys that will be served with all the fixings on Thanksgiving Day at the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter.

"We're Bombas.

We believe a more comfortable world is a better world. Everyone, no matter their circumstances, deserves to put on clean clothes that feel good. So, we perfected socks and t-shirts you'll want to live in. Created apparel you'll never want to take off. And for every item you purchase for yourself, we donate an item to someone affected by homelessness."

- **Bombas.com** -

Bombas Donates 2,000 Pairs of Socks!!!

In December 2020, St. Martha's Ministry (formerly St. Mary's Soup Kitchen) provided 18 turkeys, mashed Potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, cranberry sauce, and pies for Christmas dinner at KOTS. This special holiday dinner was served, and socks donated by Bombas were given to 121 clients at KOTS. Bombas is a company who is dedicated to helping those experiencing Homelessness, by donating an item for every item purchases. Bombas has donated more than 40 million items to more than 2,500 community organizations to date.

CRA in the News:

"We provided 18 cooked turkeys, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls and assorted pies to be served," said Mary D. Leen, director of St. Martha's Ministry. "We could not have done it without the help of about seven volunteers in preparing the meal."

- Keysnews.com



SHELTER AND SERVICES

KOTS

SHELTER OPERATIONS

In December 2020 of CRA's operations, the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter had a total number of 229 unduplicated clients with an average stay of 124 clients per night, and an average stay of 17 nights per client. The Shelter is a 24-hour facility. Under the direction of Shelter Manager, Lottie Bowe chop, the database shows that Shelter staff did 68 New Enrollments/Intakes. There were 3,853 bed nights during the month of December.

Additionally, SHAL's hardworking Shelter staff served, roughly, 100 breakfasts, 50 lunches and 120 dinners per night. Providing, roughly, 7,595 meals during December 2020. Since the shelter is 24 hours, Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, is served to CRA Shelter residents. Dinner is provided by the volunteers at St. Martha's Ministry (formerly St. Mary's Soup Kitchen). Breakfast is provided by CRA and lunch is provided by Star of the Sea Foundation (SOS) through a partnership which will continue into 2021. Thank you all for your help!

A BIG THANK YOU!

On behalf of all the shelter staff and residents, we would like to say thank you to ALL who made our holidays a little brighter. The holidays are some of the most trying times for most and for those who already are struggling, it means a great deal that you are here helping! From our hearts to yours, Thank you!

COVID AND KOTS

The evolution of the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter over the Covid-19 pandemic has not been an easy feat. The Shelter went to a 24-hour facility almost overnight. KOTS staff had to expand the footprint to accommodate the necessary social distancing for the roughly 120 people that stays per night. Each night, Shelter Staff utilize two large tents that have had to be taken down and put back up depending on threatening weather. CRA is grateful to the City of Key West and especially their Community Services Department for all of their ongoing help through these transitions.



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Elicia Pintabona runs the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter on Stock Island, where changes were made earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

CRA's Case Management Team

CRA'S CASE MANAGEMENT

CRA's Case Management team, Teresa Wallace and Anne Barnett, provided 215 services to 118 Unduplicated clients in the month of December operations. CRA Case Managers provide services to both sheltered and unsheltered clients, with an average of 2 service per client during December. CRA Case Managers did 36 new client enrollments/intakes. Additionally, CRA's Case Managers helped 4 clients with obtaining their birth and/or marriage certificate and they assisted 23 clients with getting a Florida ID. These type of ID services help in client's establishment of supportive services, jobs and housing. CRA's Case Managers were also able to provide 2 new client's with a 7-day bus pass for the purposes of making it easier to look for jobs and/or making it easier to get around due to a disability (acute or chronic).

Case Managers provided 30 clients assistance in obtaining shoes/clothing that were necessary for their new jobs or job searches. 29 of these clients were given clothing vouchers for them to use at the Salvation Army. This voucher allows clients to pick out a few clothing items, a backpack, and shoes (if they have them). CRA was able to help purchase work clothing for 1 client that had promise of employment and had no other means of obtaining these items.

Rental & Utility Assistance

Through a very generous grant from the Continuum of Care (COC), CRA's Case Managers, Teresa Wallace and Anne Barnett, were able to launch their first Housing Rental Assistance and Utility Assistance Program. The program will help reduce the amount of Homelessness. Rental assistance sharply reduces adults in homeless families, studies find, likely in part by easing the stress related to the risk of evictions, homelessness, and other housing instability. In addition, it connects these adults to other wrap around services to aid in the help to keep these persons housed. So far two clients/families have been assisted with rental assistance. To inquire about this program please contact Rental and Utility Case Manager Mecaya Underwood at m.underwood@keyscra.org or 305-797-7691.

Relocation Assistance Program

Thanks to grant funding from the Monroe County Continuum of Care (COC), 1 client was successfully relocated, during December to a better situation, where they have housing, support and/or employment waiting for them. CRA Case Managers, collaborate with client's friends and family to ensure the best possible scenario for the client. This collaboration sometimes ends up in a relocation. The Florida Keys are not always the best place for people struggling with homelessness to overcome their own personal battles. Whether it be health issues or overcoming the high cost of living in the Florida Keys, our relocation program helps to overcome these hurdles. By providing a one-way bus ticket via Greyhound, clients can relocate to a better living situation.

Jump Start Bike Program

The bike program continues to be a great success, with many donations of bikes coming in over the past couple of months. During December, the program was able to provide 8 bikes to clients. Anyone wishing to donate bikes or bike equipment to the program can contact Anne Barnett at 305-240-4226 or email anne@keyscra.org.

LOCAL RESTAURANT AND ARTIST JOIN THE CAUSE AND DONATE PROCEEDS TO CRA

“In this way I may give back to the community that is so dear to me.” – Dan Leatherman, Artist

On Monday December 21st, CRA partnered with local artist **Dan Leatherman and Sarabeth's Restaurant** for a premier showing and wine tasting event. Dan says: “Living on the island of Key West for 15 years, I have realized how difficult it is to be successful whilst being creative. Fortunately for me, I have endured. In the midst of a global pandemic, I have noticed that others are not as fortunate and do need help. I'd like to help. On December 21, 6-8PM, I will have a premier showing of some of my photographs that are displayed at Sarabeth's Key West. They are all for sale with 100% of net proceeds going to Cornerstone Resource Alliance Inc, a non-profit, to help those in need of shelter. In this way I may give back to the community that is so dear to me.”

This was a great event and we were so glad to meet community partners who share a passion for our cause. CRA would like to thank Dan Leatherman and also Ann Jonas owner of Sarabeth's for their generosity and help. This was a great way to support a local artist, restaurant, and non-profit and we had a wonderful night!

Meet the Staff

Teresa Wallace has been working for CRA since before it was CRA. She started working for SHAL, who formerly ran KOTS and Case Management alike, in August 2017. Previously, Teresa worked for a few well-known doctors in Key West, in a secretarial position. Teresa has a passion for helping people. Teresa has a husband of 20 plus years and a son that recently left for college. She has been an integral part in many fundraisers, to include a “Tuesday Glamour Session with Headlines hair salon”. This event was planned, coordinated, and executed by Teresa Wallace. She understood the importance of feeling your best while doing important things in life, like getting a job or applying for housing. She works closely with Project Lighthouse and their youth homelessness initiatives. Thank you so much Teresa for all your hard work and dedication! Keep up the excellent job!

Teresa Wallace CRA Case Manager (Picture Below)



VOLUNTEER – DONATE - ADVOCATE

www.keyscra.org

CRA is always in need of helping hands! If you're interested in helping us out, please visit our website. <https://www.keyscra.org/volunteer-2>. Homelessness is a hot topic and largely misunderstood. CRA is always in need of support. However, if you feel led to support our mission, we want to meet you there, and provide ways to get you involved! Whether it's volunteering at an event, being a part of our community advocacy group, or a monetary donation, please click below to see how you can be part of the social justice advocacy that we are providing in our community. Visit us at our website: www.keyscra.org for more information.

