

# CORNERSTONE RESOURCE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

## CRA AWARDED 3 YEAR CONTRACT FROM CITY OF KEY WEST



Cornerstone Resource Alliance



Cornerstone Resource Alliance founder Elicia Pintabona (center) is pictured with CFFK fund advisors for the Marion Stevens Fund, the Rev. Sarah Fowler (left) and the Rev. Steve Torrence (right).

## UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR CRA

On September 21, 2020, Cornerstone Resource Alliance was awarded a 3-year contract, with a unanimous vote, to run the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS) and Supportive services. On October 1st, the City will enter a three-year agreement with Cornerstone Resource Alliance, Inc. to manage the homeless shelter. The previous management organization – the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League – had managed the shelter for several years. In July, the City and SHAL agreed that their management would conclude at the end of September. There were two organizations vying for the contract and a selection committee rated Cornerstone highest. Adding continuity to the contract, Elicia Pintabona, who has served as executive director of the shelter for several years, will continue in that role.

CRA exists to provide shelter through KOTS and supportive Case Management services to adults experiencing homelessness. KOTS is a 120-bed 24-hour shelter, that provides three meals a day. We believe that an individual's basic needs must be met for them to be motivated to attain a better quality of living, therefore our low barrier shelter is available as a safe place to find rest and safety. Photo ID is required for entry. No contraband or weapons of any kind are permitted on property, and there is a behavioral policy that must be adhered to.



Picture above: Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter

## CRA's First Donation

During the transition from SHAL to CRA, the COC granted CRA the remaining balances of the SHAL ESG and Challenge grants. These monies have gone towards client services provided by CRA's Case Management team.

Our case managers offer a variety of supportive services to facilitate our client's abilities to overcome homelessness. Our case managers work with clients to navigate the best course of action that will allow them to obtain the resources and skills necessary to move forward on their journey.

CFFK Makes Historic First Grant to New Nonprofit! The Marion Stevens Fund at CFFK has awarded a grant to Cornerstone Resource Alliance Inc. to support the operation of Key West's homeless shelter and case management services. It is the first grant to the new nonprofit, which received the city's contract to manage the shelter. Grant funds will be used to purchase computers, data collection equipment, and other electronic equipment needed to provide and record client services.

The grant from the Marion Stevens Fund, created at CFFK in 2001, is in keeping with causes the late activist championed, including improving quality of life, advancing those improving humanity, and creating change in our community. Congratulations!

### CRA in the News:

"The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys has provided the first grant to Cornerstone Resource Alliance, a new nonprofit that received the contract to manage Key West's homeless shelter. The \$5,000 grant is from the Marion Stevens Fund at CFFK and will support the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS) and case management services. Grant monies will purchase computers, data collection equipment and other electronic equipment needed to provide and record client services." – Keysnews.com

**SHELTER OPERATIONS**

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During the first month of CRA's operations, the Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS) had a total of 185 unduplicated clients with an average stay of 19 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 59 New Enrollments/Intakes. There were 3,614 bed nights during the month of October.

Additionally, SHAL's hardworking Shelter staff served, roughly 75 breakfasts, 50 lunches, and 120 dinners per day equaling roughly 7,595 meals during October 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. Mary's Soup Kitchen and delivered by SHAL volunteers who pick up the pans and bring them out to the Shelter. Breakfast is provided by SHAL, and lunch is provided by Star of the Sea Foundation (SOS) and will continue through November 2020. Thank you all for your help!



**A Special Thank You**

Cooking with Love is a group that is simply amazing!!! Their generosity and kindness are appreciated by our staff and clients alike! They provide lunch every Saturday and find time to send "extras" whenever they can. THANK YOU!!!



Signs designate parking for the city of Key West's overnight homeless shelter on Sept. 24, 2020. GWEN FILOSA FLKEYSNEWS.COM

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**CASE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES**

## *CRA's Case Management Team*



**From trash to transportation - CRA recycles bikes for those in need**

### **CRA'S CASE MANAGEMENT**

CRA's Case Management team, Teresa Wallace and Anne Barnett, provided 206 services to 99 Unduplicated clients in their first months operations. CRA Case Managers provide services to both sheltered and unsheltered clients, with an average of 2 service per client during October. CRA Case Managers did 21 new client enrollments/intakes. Additionally, CRA's Case Managers helped 7 clients with obtaining their birth and/or marriage certificate and they assisted 12 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 1 new client 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 19 clients assistance in obtaining shoes/clothing that were necessary for their new jobs or job searches. 18 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.

"We're thrilled that through our "Jump Start" program we are able to promote the beautification of our island, improve recycling, and provide transportation assistance to those most in need," said Barnett, "and of course we always welcome donations to the program."

### **NEW BIKE PROGRAM CREATED OUT OF NEED OF COMMUNITY AND OUR CLIENT'S**

## **Rental & Utility Assistance**

Through a very generous grant from the Continuum of Care (COC), CRA's Case Manager Mecaya Underwood was added to our team, and CRA was able to launch their first Housing Rental Assistance and Utility Assistance Program. The program will help work towards prevention and reduction 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,

## **Jump Start Bike Program 2020**

CRA case manager Anne Barnett, with the support of local activist Dr. Shirley Freeman, initiated "Jump Start" after Barnett noticed an abundance of abandoned bikes around town. Sensitive to her clients need for transportation, Barnett has obtained bikes from the Key West Police Department in the past, so she put in a call to the KWPD, who referred her to Bill Garner, security provider at the Key West Bight

## OCTOBER // 2020 Rental & Utility Asst. Cont'd

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.

**Relocation Assistance Program** Thanks to grant funding from the Monroe County Continuum of Care (COC), 2 clients were successfully relocated, during October, to better situations, 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 homeless individuals 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 are able to relocate to a better living situation.

### **Things to come....**

CRA President, Elicia Pintabona, has been working with the City of Key West, Shelter Manager Lottie Bowe chop, and project manager Peter Bennett regarding needs for a new facility which is on the horizon.

We are also Preparing for Thanksgiving at KOTS! Anyone wishing to volunteer or donate, please contact Elicia by emailing her at [keysra@keysra.org](mailto:keysra@keysra.org)

### **Bike Program Cont'd**

Marina for the City of Key West. With Garner's help, Barnett, along with other CRA staff and clients, collected more than 75 abandoned bicycles from both Bight area and the Old Town Parking Garage.

Currently, CRA clients are working on repairing the bicycles in a space provided by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. "Once repaired, the bikes will be distributed through our case management program to clients needing transportation for work or due to medical issues," explained CRA founder/president Elicia Pintabona. "Tools, bike locks, and repair materials like inner tubes have been provided by CRA, and the KWPD is providing lights for the rehabbed bikes. We are so grateful for the collaboration of multiple agencies and the hard work of our staff and clients that makes this possible," she said.

During October 2020, CRA was able to provide 10 bikes to clients. Great job Team!

Anyone wishing to donate bikes or bike equipment to the program can contact Elicia Pintabona at 305-393-2972 or email [keysra@keysra.org](mailto:keysra@keysra.org). For additional information on CRA and its programs visit [www.keysra.org](http://www.keysra.org)

CRA is always in need of helping hands! If you're interested in helping us out, please visit our website.



Homelessness is a hot topic and largely misunderstood. CRA is always in need of support. However 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.keysra.org](http://www.keysra.org) for more information.