



Southernmost Homeless Assistance League, Inc.
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MAY 2017 SHAL NEWS

SHAL Shelter Clients, Volunteers and Staff Clean Under Riviera Bridge



Shelter Director **Mike Tolbert**, Volunteer leader **Jamie Snediker** (Southernmost Tattoo and Gulfstream Fishing) and a group of about 25 homeless Southernmost Homeless Assistance League Shelter residents, volunteers and SHAL

staff gathered under the west side of the Riviera Bridge on South Roosevelt on Sunday and removed over 100 bags of trash for pickup on Monday morning. The site had been used for



quite some time as a haven for vagrants and illicit activity.

The results were quite impressive and the area now looks almost pristine. SHAL thanks everyone who got up early on Mother's Day and were able to make a part of our community much cleaner and more sanitary.

Next Opportunity! SHAL plans to repeat this effort on the other side of Riviera Bridge on **Saturday, June 24** starting at 9 am. If interested, you can just show up. Bring work gloves and comfortable old clothes that might get a little dirty. Contact SHAL Executive Director John Miller if you need more information.



Methodist Church again brings out Breakfast



First United Methodist Church Pastor Rev. **Terri Hill** and a dozen church members again got up very early on Memorial Day and brought a wonderful spread for breakfast at the SHAL Shelter. SHAL normally provides a simple breakfast each day, but this was the full deal: casserole, eggs, sausage & bacon, juice and more. Nutrition is vitally important to homeless clients, and this kind of contribution is exceptional!

The Church also brought out 100 care bags,



which included socks,

hygiene and shaving items and the like. This type of care bag is very important to homeless clients to support their day-to-day journey toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency. SHAL also appreciates the support of our mission, making our jobs working with clients a little easier.



SHAL Success Stories

Among a number of successes this month:

A longtime SHAL Shelter resident who had found a job and his own place encountered dwindling hours and possible return to the shelter—Shelter Director **Mike Tolbert** found him a new job and he started work (with some SHAL clothing assistance) during the first week of June.

SHAL Outreach got a male client a Birth Certificate, ID, Phone and Food Stamps, which let him find a full time job at a locally owned restaurant.

Another client, a female, got a job after SHAL Outreach helped her with Food Stamps, phone, birth certificate and her Florida ID.

SHAL Outreach 's **Amy Yancich** helped a male client with his application for retirement by getting his Birth Certificate, Florida ID, Social Security Card, food stamps and help drive

him around to the various offices. The client has found housing, and his SHAL Case Manager already got him on the Senior Housing wait list.

The long and tedious process of applying for Social Security Disability was completed and the client was approved in May, thanks to many hours of support and assistance from his SHAL Case Manager.



SHAL Case Manager **Channing Lamar** made a presentation to the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida Daisy Troop 1823 on the importance of helping the homeless and what necessary items are needed to donate. The troop helped to put together 35 "Care Kits" for the homeless. The Care Kits consist of deodorant, wet wipes, Q-Tips, pads, tampons, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissue, hand sanitizer, sunblock, lip balm and zip lock bags.



SHAL coordinated with **Jai Summers** at **Project Lighthouse** (Florida Key Children's Shelter) to help 21 people with bus passes, relocations and help paying for an MRI with Lower Keys Medical. Project Lighthouse was able to buy 17 bus passes for our clients who are in need of getting help around the island. Project Lighthouse relocated three SHAL clients: to Colorado, New York, Georgia and paid for a MRI with Lower Keys Medical Hospital for a mutual client who may have torn her ACL.

Channing also is helping to coordinate with members of Cornish Memorial AME Zion Church to provide Outreach Bible Study for Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter.

SHAL works...

...to provide support in four basic areas to help our clients escape their homelessness. We concentrate in rest, nutrition, health and income, because it is very difficult to move into permanent housing and self-sufficiency when you are **tired, sick, hungry or have limited income.**

SHAL OUTREACH

Service Summary Report

SHAL's hard working **Outreach** staff provided **510** services to **134** different clients in May. Director **Elicia Pintabona** and SHAL Case Managers **Amy Yancich** and **Channing Lamar** worked hard to provide services to **78** Sheltered and **56** unsheltered homeless persons in Key West, the Lower Keys and Marathon. Among May's General Services were **19** Birth Certificates, **35** IDs and **35** cell phones. SHAL Outreach provided **42** Income Services (EBT Cards, Food Stamps and Social Security assistance); and **36** Health Care Services (Referrals to providers like Rural Health Network, Key Bridge Counseling and included mental health referrals.) SHAL did Coordinated Assessments on **30** new or existing clients, helping to direct them to other service providers in the community as appropriate.

SHAL SHELTER OPERATIONS

There were again about **99** clients sleeping in the Shelter on an average night in May. During May there were **272 different** individuals staying at the SHAL Shelter. That number of clients means that nearly 6,000 meals were provided to SHAL Shelter residents—dinner prepared by the wonderful volunteers at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, and SHAL food "schleppers" who pick up the pans and bring them out to the Shelter on Stock Island. Breakfast, provided by SHAL, is prepared by SHAL Shelter residents each morning so that our homeless brothers and sisters can start a long day on the streets of Key West (or in jobs, which many have) with a little food on their bellies.

There were no EMT calls made for SHAL Shelter clients in May. Clients with non-urgent medical needs are transported via automobile, saving the City the cost of an ambulance run.

SHAL Shelter Director **Mike Tolbert** continues to network and find jobs and affordable housing for Shelter clients. One a client recently credited the SHAL Workers Dorm with his ability to find and maintain a job and subsequently move out on his own. Mike reports that the client was already working 2 jobs and then got on at a restaurant with a better, full time job. Mike commented, "... really we did nothing but make him feel better about himself!"

Donations of clothing for the clients to use in their job-hunting and their new jobs are always welcome. Feel free to leave the items at the Shelter gate during afternoon hours when there is no staff on site.

