

The Vineyard Transitional Center

Clay County

Mission: The Vineyard serves to exist as a haven for individuals who seek to rebuild their lives, through the provision of essential programs which foster self-sufficiency, by sharing the love and compassion through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 "If there is any among you who a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs."

Location

- *518 Pine Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Fl.*

Purpose

- *Multi-agency community for families and individuals facing housing and economic crises.*
- *Opportunity for churches to provide meals and engage homeless people in community and with services*
- *The first housing resource in Clay County Florida- taking leadership role to partner with churches*
- *Providing palpable tenacities which foster community partnerships and church involvement*

History

John Sanders had a vision to begin a haven for individuals in Clay County the opportunity to regain self-sufficiency through the provision of workforce solutions, partnering with local businesses to help individuals to become gainfully employed and through the provision of offering housing and food to anyone in need that resides in Clay county. Through his community outreaches, and networking activities John met Amy Houston, Joseph Smith, Rebecca Vanderwater, Rhonda Ali, and Kris Kessler and what would become the team of The Vineyard Transitional Center. The Vineyard has been operating in the interest of the community members by providing clothes, purchasing hotel nights for families and individuals at The Green Cove Springs Motel, In Town Suites, and the Motel 6, as well as referral services to Mercy Support services, and local food bank agencies .

We have helped individuals obtain employment, and obtain self-sufficiency through counseling efforts, driving individuals to doctors

appointments, food banks, and waiting in the car while they apply and interview for jobs. We believe it is through the love and helping to meet someone's basic needs, that we can encourage when someone is discouraged. By sharing the love of Christ, they may see a hope and a future for themselves.

Additionally, we have had the wonderful opportunity to partner with one of Clay counties school social workers Rebecca Owens and providing shoes to Charles E Bennet Elementary. In August of 2018 through the donation of the Cancer Institute of Jacksonville, we had the opportunity to have a back to school drive to the community of Penny Farms children. Many of our Saturdays have been filled with passing out lunches, backpacks and clothes to Clay county homeless, who we found through what we call "Backpack Outreaches". Last year, we partnered with Orange Park Methodist church, and St Johns River Community College to provide blood pressure checks, and survival kits.

As you can see, it is our desire to help those members of our community who may need a little love, and care.

- 2014 beginning with Truly Divine Treasures, a Clothes closet operating as an Outreach through True Vine Fellowship Church, where John Sanders was the pastor. John has worked diligently, and tirelessly, developing community relationships with agencies in both Clay County and Duval County. Those who know him, know his love for God, and the members of his hometown of Green Cove Springs, Florida and surrounding counties of Clay to include, Orange Park, Fleming Island, and Middleburg.*

Mission Statement

The Vineyard Transitional Center seeks to build community and self-sufficiency through mentoring relationships. The power of mentoring is that it creates a one-of-a-kind opportunity for community, goal achievement and problem-solving.

*(As stated by Ruby K. Payne, author of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*) “When students who have been in poverty (and have successfully made it into middle class) are asked how they made the journey, the answer nine time out of 10 has to do with a relationship—a teacher, counselor, or coach who made a suggestion or took an interest in them as individuals...For students and adults who move from poverty, the primary motivation for their success will be in their relationships.”*

On-site Services

- *Providing housing solutions for up to 16 individuals (families families) who have an economic loss ie; job loss, disaster victims*
- *Counseling services either through on-site staff or contractual services*
- *Partnering with local agencies ie; Clay Behavioral, local churches, and local food banks*
- *Public computer use; offering those who need internet, printer, to seek employment, conduct homework, apply for benefits (social security, food stamps, Medicare, social security card).*
- *Clothes Closet*
- *Providing meals to the community 4 times a month*
- *Lease & rent out office ie; Penny Farms*
- *Career source HUB*

Truly Divine Treasures Clothes Closet

- *Hours of Operation:*
- *Monday, Wednesday Saturday from 9am -12:00 (operating 3 days a week)*
- *Providing community service hours opportunities to individuals in our community ie; Clay High school students.*
- *We want to adopt 2 local nursing homes: Governors Creek; providing gowns, socks*
- *Accepting referrals from local agencies*
- *Measurements of the building _____x_____ length = SF*

Large Building

- *The large structure will serve as 4 Studios – House up to 16 people (families)*
- *No smoking facility*
- *Block Wall Outside Smoke lounge*
- *Security cameras and alarm system*
- *Fire Extinguisher*
- *Building will be brought to City Code Enforcement standards*
- *Food permit*
- *Sprinkler system*
- *Day term of occupancy to any residents*
- *Will sign a waiver of liability – Intake form*
- *Hotel Sponsor (to provide furniture for our facility) we will name one room in their honor*
- *Seeking a grant writer to help establish funding sources*
- *Allowing us the opportunity to give back to Clay County*

Phase 1 Project

Resource Center and Hours of Operation

Monday -Thursday 8am-4:00p.m.

- *Will be the space for mental, nutritional and life skills, family, counseling services*
- *Partnering with Mercy Support Services, Clay Behavioral, churches and other local agencies*
- *Resource Center for individuals who need assistance with applying for social security cards, benefits, food stamps, and Medicare*
- *Will provide tutoring services for at risk youths and young adult in the community*
- *Career source HUB*

Statistics of Clay County Population

Individuals who the homeless population is heterogeneous and is comprised of all ages, ethnicities, religious backgrounds and political affiliations.

- *Gender: Male ___ Female _____*
- *Median age: _____*
- *Race / Ethnicity:*
 - *White _____*
 - *Black _____*
 - *Other _____*
- *Hispanic Ethnicity _____*

Outreach and Community Efforts

We have strived to increase community awareness through conducting weekly, monthly, and annual events. The Vineyard has received tremendous support from local business as well as personal donors. Below is a list of some of our partners.

Clay County Council on Aging

Benefactors- Peter and Constance

PayPal monthly donors

Buffalo Wild Wings

LDI Reprographics

Texas Roadhouse

Red Lobster

Pancake Breakfast – Dees Bar and Grill

The Lunchbox Deli

Tropical Smoothie Fleming Island

Weekly Car Washes

G's BBQ

Sonny's BBQ

Big Dawgs

Soul Food Festival

Annual Silent Auction 2017 and 2018

Annual Kickball Tournament 2018 and 2019

Many homeless individuals are disconnected from healthy friendship and the encouragement of community. The Vineyard Transitional Center seeks to build community and self-sufficiency through mentoring relationships. The power of mentoring is that it creates a one-of-a-kind opportunity for community, goal achievement and problem-solving. As stated by (Ruby K. Payne, author of A Framework for Understanding Poverty) "When students who have been in poverty (and have successfully made it into middle class) are asked how they made the journey, the answer nine time out of 10 has to do with a relationship—a teacher, counselor, or coach who made a suggestion or took an interest in them as individuals...For students and adults who move from poverty, the primary motivation for their success will be in their relationships."

www.claycountyhomelesshelter.com

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