

More than a Shelter – Because of YOU!

What comes to mind when you think about St. Francis House or Port in the Storm? For many, the answer is “homeless shelter”.

There are numerous ideas of what to do to address homelessness. One of the most common ones is “build more shelters” or “add more shelter beds”.

But is shelter enough? Or does it need to be more than a shelter? Shelter alone cannot solve homelessness. Only housing can solve homelessness. But shelter can be the start of the journey to housing.

Thanks to you and your support St Francis House and Port in the Storm are “more than a shelter”.

More than a shelter means case managers who work with each client to identify what caused their homelessness, to form a plan to escape homelessness and to create the tools each client needs to avoid being homeless again.

More than a shelter means referrals and access to resources that can help address medical or mental health and substance abuse issues.

More than a shelter means access to a computer and assistance with resumes or job applications.

More than a shelter means help finding housing that a client can afford and guidance getting through the layers of forms and paperwork required to rent or lease an apartment.

More than a shelter means help with food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, Disability or other program applications.



More than a shelter just means more.....

Because YOU care St. Francis House and Port in the Storm are more than a shelter. But without you, without your investment in the lives of others, we would be hard pressed to be anything more than a shelter.

Your gift TODAY can ensure that the miracles continue this holiday season and into our 40th anniversary year - 2024. Please send your gift today or go to our website at www.stfrancisshelter.org to donate online!

Your kindness has the power to transform lives.

Christmas Wish List By far the best thing we could wish for during this wonderful time of the year are \$10 gift cards to Walmart and Target. They allow our staff to buy special and specific items for clients staying with us over the holidays. Especially those who come to us at the last minute. But we are always in need of the following.

- Non-perishable food
- Travel-sized hygiene items
- Bike Locks/Lights/Pumps
- Cool Weather needs:**
- Socks, Gloves, Beanies, Light Jackets, Hoodies
- Underwear – men’s boxers
- Underwear – women’s sports bras & panties



For all other donation opportunities or questions please contact Sarah Del Cid, Development/Volunteer Coordinator at sarah.delcid@stfrancisshelter.org.

Visit our website at stfrancisshelter.org

St. Francis Housing Crisis Center

70 Washington Street | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-829-8937

Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center and Administrative Offices

1375 Arapaho Ave | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-824-8987

St. Johns County's only comprehensive housing crisis and homeless youth center. Providing housing-focused solutions for homeless men, women, children and youth in St. Johns County.



Visit us and Like us on Facebook

WINTER 2023

GLIMPSE
Through Our Door

Compassion
Shelter
Opportunity



ST. FRANCIS HOUSING CRISIS CENTER and
PORT IN THE STORM HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER
Programs of St. Augustine Society

Santa needs your help!

Up at the North Pole Santa is busy checking his list to be sure that no one is forgotten this year. It has been a hard year for some. He is not worried about the homeless children in St. Johns County, Florida. Santa knows that he has many helpers who will make sure that the children and the adults in our shelters are remembered on Christmas Day.

Thanks to YOU, this Christmas miracle happens every year.

But Santa knows that of all the wishes on all the lists, he can't fulfill the most important one of all – the wish for a “home”. Without your help that Christmas wish will not come true.

It's a BIG wish. The individuals, youth and families in our shelters are working hard to be self-sufficient again. They just need a chance to

catch up. They need access to the resources that will prepare them for a new life and support from people like you.

Will you be Santa's helper and make their wish come true?

Your gift of \$100 or more will help pave the way for men, women, families and youth to leave the shelter and find a home! YOU can make sure



that they don't spend another holiday in a shelter. YOU can help Santa and grant their Christmas wish!

What better gift could you give this year?

Please mail your gift for Santa's Wish List today or give online at www.stfrancisshelter.org.

YOU can make Christmas miracles come true!

Give the PERFECT Gift!

Do you need a gift for someone special without having to worry about size or style or color?

How about a gift that will not only bring a smile to the recipient but will give hope to a homeless youth. Who wouldn't want to help a homeless youth?

We have the perfect gift! Purchase a personalized brick, which will be engraved and placed in the patio at

Port in the Storm creating a lasting legacy for someone special. A card will be provided for you to give or send to the recipient of the gift brick to let them know of the gift made in their honor.

Do something different! Do something amazing. Buy a Brick – Save a Youth.

Deadline to purchase to ensure recipient notification is December 15th.

Visit www.stfrancisshelter.org and



click on the “Buy a Brick” button or contact Lindy Deyto at lindy.deyto@stfrancisshelter.org to make an impact in the life of a homeless youth.

2023 Festival of Trees

The 3rd Annual Festival of Trees will take place from December 4th – 7th at the Lightner Museum.

If you like decorating for the holidays this is the event for you! You are invited to sponsor a tree or wreath, decorate it and submit it for auction at the event. Proceeds from the trees and wreaths will support individuals, families and youth facing homelessness in our community.

So, join us as a sponsor or just come and enjoy the holiday fun and festivities December 4 – 7th. Admission to Festival of Trees is free.

Visit our website at

www.stfrancisshelter.org

to sponsor. For more information contact Joy Burton, Marketing/ Special Events Coordinator at joy.burton@stfrancisshelter.org.

Happy Holidays!



Ted's Christmas Wish

For Ted, Nights of Lights brings back good memories. Memories of seeing the lights that turn our city into a Christmas wonderland through the eyes of his children and his grandchildren.

But that was another time. Ted never thought he would end up homeless. "Homeless" is what happened to other people. He worked hard and always had a job. His kids were all grown up and he had 2 grandchildren. Ted always said that he was rich in all the ways that counted. But everything changed when he got hurt. A stupid accident that was no one's fault changed his life. Before he knew it, he lost his job, went through his savings and was on the street with nowhere to go.

But because of your support, St. Francis House is here to give Ted a chance to reclaim the life he lost.



Ted dreams of Christmas's past. His Christmas wish is to get his old life back and once again see the Nights of Lights through the eyes of his family.

It's not easy. He needs your help – a hand up. Your gift WILL bring the magic of the season to Ted and help his wish come true.

Mail your gift today or visit www.stfrancisshelter.org to donate online.

Rachel's Memories of Christmas

"My memories of Christmas aren't all bad. When I was little – 5 or 6, life was good. My mom and dad were happy. Our place was small, but we had everything we needed – which as a 5-year-old meant that I had food, toys and people who loved me. Christmas was a magical time.

By the time I was 10 that had changed. Dad was gone and mom was struggling to take care of me and survive. I guess it was too much for her cause she got into drugs and our lives went downhill. We spent some time at St. Francis House back then. That was the last time I remember celebrating Christmas. My mom's drug use was out of control so as a teenager I spent most of my time on the streets and couch-surfing at friends' houses. Mom really didn't miss me. Somehow, I graduated from high school and found myself on my own."

Luckily this is not the end of Rachel's story. Rachael learned about Port in the Storm from some kids on the



street. Because YOU care, Port in the Storm is here for Rachel. Rachel is one of many youth who have found safety, hope, purpose and direction at Port in the Storm.

And this year she will also find Christmas again.

Your gift for the youth of Port in the Storm this season will help keep Christmas and hope alive in the lives of young people who have nowhere to go. Please mail your holiday gift today or go to stfrancisshelter.org to give online.

Masquerade Ball

PRESENTED BY



This October Friday the 13th took on a new look as St. Francis House and Port in the Storm hosted their annual Gala with a Masquerade Ball at Tringali Barn featuring the romance and intrigue of the Phantom of the Opera.

A special performance of "Phantom" music and historic period entertainment including a fire dancer and acrobat transported guests back to the time of Phantom of the Opera.

Traditional dance music was provided once again by Skillzmatic along with axe throwing, a photo booth, silent auction, and hayrides. Continuous offerings of heavy hors d'oeuvre's by Late Risers, beverages provided by Ancient City Brewing and a special evening signature drink from Iron Order Motorcycle Group capped off a perfect evening.

Donors, sponsors, and guests helped raise funds to support the men, women, families and youth facing homelessness at St. Francis House and Port in the Storm.

Special thanks to Chris Shee, Mastercraft Builder Group for the use of Tringali Barn and our major sponsors Rich O'Brien and Lauren Ringhaver of Fiesta Falls Miniature Golf and UF Health St. Johns. Additional sponsors for the evening included Local IQ/The St. Augustine Record, Smiths Farm, Solar Stik, Inc, Ameris Bank, Harbour Island Tennis, Endless Summer Realty, Best Bet, Amara Med Spa, KC Enterprises, Bryan the Builder, RockIT Solutions and Obscure Rides Bike Shop.

Thank you to all the guests, donors and sponsors who made this year's event an amazing success. Make plans to attend our 2024 Gala next October to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our agency.

