

Rotary 

## **THE SUNRISE CIRCUIT**

**Newsletter of the  
Stuart Sunrise Rotary Club, Florida**

Attendance was light today - we miss you when you are not here!

Meeting called to order by Jenney Esler at 7:33 (hey - it is a rainy day!) Pledge by Ellen Peitz; Prayer by Jane Mills

Announcements:

Rotary Leadership Institute is October 17 from 7 am to 3:30. The club has some money to offset the \$95 fee. Anyone currently in or interested in future leadership should attend at some point. Contact Jenny if interested.

GRANT TRAINING will be held in October. We have representatives from our club attending but others are welcome.

Board meeting next week after the regular meeting

November 19th our meeting will be held at The Flagler Center at the 8th Annual Festival of Trees and Lights. We are hosting the Palm City Chamber breakfast that morning and having a combined meeting.

Rock Fiore announced that volunteer beer pourers are needed from 1 to 5 pm on Sunday, September 26th at Martin County Fairgrounds

Tom Be A Tourist In Stuart announcements:

Round of applause for Ken Furcron; we ran out of the first 100 tickets; Ken printed 100 more. Hap & Jane secured lunch in Okeechobee to go with their flight; Rex and Hap have donated flights so all three prizes will include a flight. Butch secured gift card from Maneros. KEEP SELLING THOSE TICKETS - WE ARE IN THE HOME STRETCH!!

Brian Moriarty stood in as Sergeant At Arms for John Gonzalez and collected various happy and a few sad bucks. We traumatized Jane Mills with a Happy Birthday song and big checks were collected from birthday girls Jane and Sue Whittington

Gary Damen threw Jenny under the bus and Sue threw Ellen and Elmira under the bus for pics in the paper.

Elmira introduced our speakers from LAHIA (Love And Hope In Action) Mike Stetson, Donor Relations Coordinator, Brenda Hendershot, Executive Director, and Ken Coolidge, Board Chairman.

Mike is a third generation Floridian, UF Gator, grew up in WPB, and worked with John Gonzalez' dad on Loblolly. He formed Stetson Realty and Investment Corp, and has held many influential positions in our county as a member of the ad-hoc committee to write the original comp plan, code enforcement board, Economic Council and more. He is currently active with the Center for Constitutional Values.

Brenda, a Martin County resident for 43 years, was an Editorial Assistant at Pratt Whitney until she formed a Medical Transcription Business that allowed her, as well as the people who worked under her, to be at home with their children and still work. She worked in Elder care before she became Executive Director of LAHIA in January 2015, have started in May 2007 as a volunteer.

Presentation Highlights:

- . There is a growing population of homeless in Martin County, including a large percentage of women and families who are homeless (families comprise 1/3 of homeless population in MC)
- . There is an annual one day count in county of homeless. This year the count was 500 homeless, just men who were willing to be counted. The true population is much higher as this does not include women and children.

. Top 5 Reasons for Homelessness

1. Lack of employment
2. Lack of affordable housing
3. Disabilities (mental, emotional, physical) 4. Family problems 5. Substance abuse

LAHIA Started 8 years ago (May 2007) when volunteers hosted a cookout and gathered homeless people, which then grew into a practice of feeding the homeless (with a cookout, encouragement and other emotional and social support) every Saturday for several years, serving homeless as well as indigent people.

When LAHIA first began to feed people regularly in their new site, there were 30 people to start; now they serve 60 or 70 people for lunch each day.

Mike shared a story about college students went out to live with the homeless for a project and wrote a book called "Under the Overpass," which he recommends.

After they finished their project, one student went back out to try to find some of the homeless men he met. He was in a suit and couldn't find anyone he had met, but he did see a guy by a building and bought tacos which he offered to the man.

He sat and talked with him, at the end said goodbye and God bless you to the homeless guy, and he said, "Thank you. You are the first person who has spoken to me in two weeks."

If you encounter a homeless person whether you give something to them or not, say hello.

LAHIA operates out of a building at the SW corner of Salerno Road and Willoughby - please visit. An elderly couple came in one day and were so moved by the operation that they bought the building. In this community there are many people who are philanthropic and generous, including this anonymous couple.

Unique services offered:

- . Open 6 days a week
- . Daily safe haven - smiles, hugs, encouragement, prayer
- . Knowing everyone by name
- . Family style meal served 3 times a day 5 days a week; breakfast and lunch on Saturday
- . Daily showers and laundry facilities
- . Haircuts
- . Bicycles

Support comes from 32 churches, many businesses and individuals, and over 500 volunteers. LAHIA has become a home and a family to these homeless people.

They need funding for:

- . A larger kitchen, and to expand shower and laundry facilities
- . Transportation and medical needs
- . Addiction recovery
- . Job training and skills development
- . GED prep
- . To provide access to Information highway
- . Enlarge on-site garden to supplement feeding, training and marketing

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Service all of Martin County

LAHIA focused on establishing a men's shelter

May and June they placed 11 people under a roof; in the last 2 weeks 5 more.

The local labor pool has provided some job opportunities and LAHIA Partnered with Salvation Army for specific needs for several clients.

They stressed that what LAHIA does is not a handout but a hand up.

50/50 sold by Jim Horstman and won by Gary Damen.

