

JOY NEWS – NOVEMBER 2015

Thanks to everyone for understanding and recognizing that an ‘oops’ sometimes happens. When the ‘Lunch and Learn’ invitation was transferred from one program to another for the purpose of printing, important information was lost. Even so, we are pleased the event was well attended, with accolades for Dr., Rev., Chaplain Brook Bello’s presentation.

STORIES*

about how your help means so much to at-risk youth

Tom found his way to a youth shelter after his mother left with her boy friend, leaving him behind *and taking all of Tom’s belongings with her*. Jim, a counselor, knew about JOY’s Trendy Threads shop and brought Tom there one Saturday afternoon. He found dress shirts, khakis, ties, and even a pair of shoes. He really wanted the dress shirts because he is determined to make an appropriate appearance for school and job interviews.

Carol is making a home for her young son who needs special education classes. Her dream is to obtain a GED and eventually well-paying employment. Her journey has been difficult, but she has persevered. She is the victim of brutal beatings; *one beating nearly took her life while she was pregnant*. A Housekeeping Kit and tutoring are making life a bit easier for her and her very well behaved child.

*Not actual names

ACTIVITIES

JOY has provided over one hundred twelve hours of individual tutoring for qualified students since January of this year.

Six young folks obtained driving permits, instruction, and ultimately a license to drive.

JOY’s 52-piece Housekeeping Starter Kits have been in demand this year. We are pleased that twenty out-of-foster care and at-risk youth have moved into independent living for the first time. The kit is especially helpful because their monthly stipend from the State of Florida is only about one thousand two hundred dollars. They live singly, so there is no roommate to assist with the cost of rent, utilities, food, tuition, transportation, etc.

STATISTICS, FACTS, AND INFORMATION

Statistics tell a story and emphasize **why JOY is needed**.

Less than 50% of Florida foster kids graduate from high school.

30% of former foster kids are more likely to be substance abusers.

Up to 85% of youth in foster care have mental health issues.

40% of former foster care youth become parents within 2 years of leaving foster care.

25% of former foster care kids will be homeless within one year.

75% of former foster care kids experience unemployment.

One in four foster care boys, and one in ten girls end up in prison.

SPECIFIC NEEDS BEFORE OPEN HOUSE AT TRENDY THREADS ON DECEMBER 4, 2015

- Men’s khaki pants: Waist Size: 29, 30, 31, 32 - - Length: 30,31
- Monetary, or gift card donations are always appreciated. It gives the Trendy Threads volunteers an opportunity to shop for specific items for specific youth.

November is ‘membership month’ on JOY’s calendar of activities. Information may be found on our web site. You will note that Pay Pal is now available. Membership does not require attending meetings. Membership and donations are our main source of income.

Also, as a reminder, a newsletter is not sent on a scheduled basis. You may, however, expect one after the holidays. JOY will report on Trendy Threads Open House and the annual Holiday Buffet and Party. Keep watching for news on our web site.

Joysarasota.org

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving and December Holidays,
JOY’s Board of Directors

