

**EMBRACE BECAUSE YOU MATTER**



# June '21 Newsletter

Discover the power of community



## **Embrace of Celebration – This Month's Victories**

*Embrace of Celebration continues making a great impact on the community surrounding Celebration. Thanks to our dedicated residents and volunteers who give of themselves to bring food, support, school supplies, and open doors to those facing homelessness, we have stories of victory every single month!*

In the month of June, Embrace launched its youth program in which local teens gather at Town Hall to create artistic notebooks filled with encouraging notes for students who will be stepping into the new school year. Embrace was invited by Commissioner Peggy Choudhry to participate in a Kissimmee event where students will receive these notebooks. Embrace continues collecting donations of backpacks and school supplies for the children living at Backlot Apartments and other hotels along 192. These gifts help inspire them to approach academics with confidence, knowing they are loved and championed. We will also partner with the Salvation Army's back to school event. When organizations come together, the impact multiplies!

Not only will these donations help those outside of Celebration, but also our local high school students. Embrace of Celebration continues helping to direct families to resources, happily assisting them as they settle into Backlot Apartments. We are preparing to expand as Backlot Apartment's One Stop Housing is close to finalizing a deal to open more affordable apartments in Kissimmee hopefully soon. This means more families finding hope and having a launching pad from lack to thriving and living well.

Embrace desire to help families succeed led us to a recent tour of the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. Bettina had the opportunity to shadow staff members as they walked a family through the intake process which led them to receiving a key to a family dorm where they would receive shelter, three meals per day, toiletries, and help with jobs and resources. Families who can provide four weeks of pay stubs are assisted with rapid housing location and/or first month's rent and a deposit. Day care and youth programs are provided for the children.

Coalition for the Homeless provides crisis intervention, relocation, and a bridge during the transition. Their 240-bed women's facility and their 250-bed facility for men are stewarded with excellence. It's organizations like this that inspire others to partner together to bring change.

As we are well into summer, Embrace looks forward to continually making an impact on people to let them know they have a hope and a future. Thank you for your donations and support that make this possible. May you have a wonderful summer.

To participate with Embrace, contact [embrace.celebration@yahoo.com](mailto:embrace.celebration@yahoo.com).  
Or visit our homepage [Embraceofcelebration.org](http://Embraceofcelebration.org)

*Written by member of Embrace of Celebration Traci Vanderbush.*

