

Calling all Businesses, Church Groups, Organizations and Creative Minds!

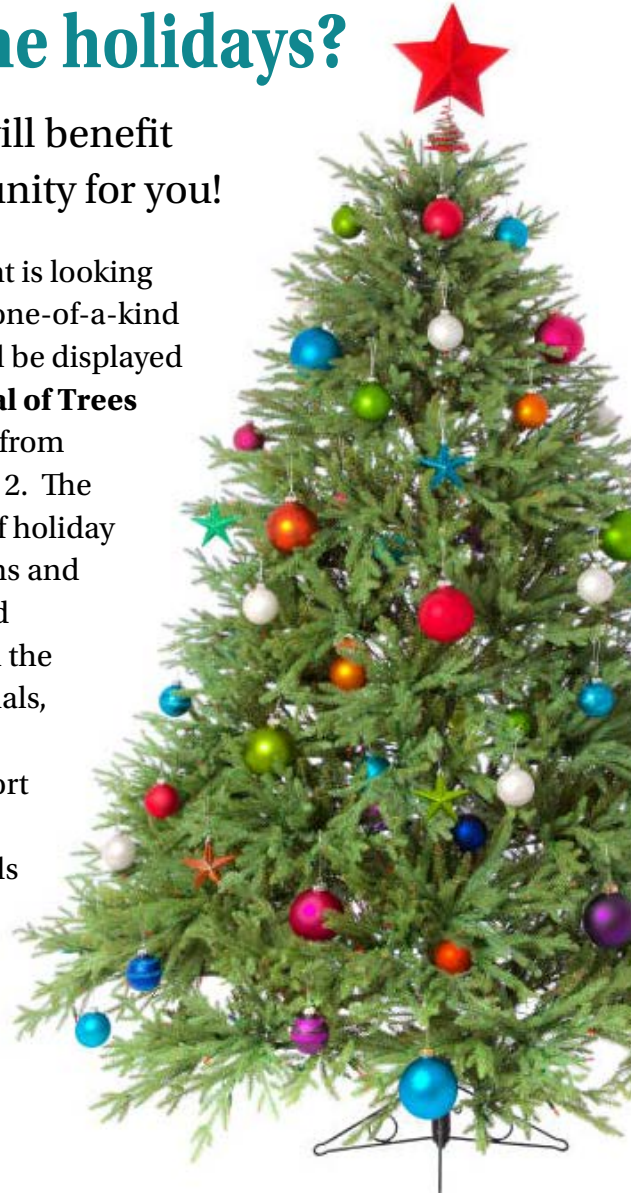
Do you like decorating for the holidays?

Are you looking for a great team project that will benefit others? Well, we have the project and opportunity for you!

The Light the Way Home – Festival of Trees event is looking for 25 people, groups, or businesses to create and decorate a one-of-a-kind wreath or tree. The trees and wreaths will be displayed at the **Light the Way Home – Festival of Trees** at the beautiful Lightner Museum from November 29 through December 2. The event will feature 4 festive days of holiday music, beautiful trees and wreaths and visits with Santa Claus. Trees and wreaths will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to support individuals, families and youth experiencing homelessness at St. Francis House and Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center.

So, call a meeting, send an email, gather your creative, minds and make a difference. Pick your theme or go traditional with your choice of 8 different kinds of trees and 4 kinds of wreaths that are available for sponsorship.

To join in the fun contact Joyce Duffy at joyce.duffy@stfrancissshelter.org or go online to www.stfrancissshelter.org/events for more information



Van or Large SUV Needed

Do you or your company have a **late model, low mileage** van or large SUV you are thinking of getting rid of?

Would you like to help homeless youth AND realize a great tax deduction? Port in the Storm needs a vehicle. Since opening in 2017, Port in the Storm has been using the Street Outreach Team van to transport youth to medical

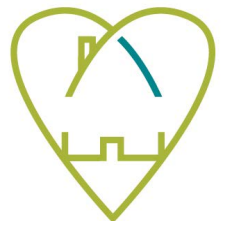
appointments, court dates and other critical activities. When that happens, the services of the Street Outreach team are taken off the streets.

A local foundation has provided us with a small grant toward funding a vehicle, but it is hardly enough to purchase one. Your help is needed to help us get the perfect vehicle for our youth. It will get a lot of use, so the age, condition and mileage are important. Contact Robert Harris at robert.harris@stfrancissshelter.org if you can help!



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

Joshua is 8 ... going on 20!

He has been the man in his house for over a year. Things were never great at home between his mom and dad. But the stress of the pandemic put his dad over the top and he left.

Joshua became his moms everything. He helped around the house and tried to be very quiet when she slept late. Even though she had a job, when the rent on their apartment went up and they had to move they were not able to find anything they could afford. St. Francis House was the only place they could go to get back on their feet. Joshua is trying to be brave. But at 8, a stable home and your own bed and toys are important.

This is the fate of many families living on the edge. Yes, there are jobs. Many in the service and hospitality industry. Our town depends on these hard workers. But the housing in St. Johns County does not meet the need of these families. More workforce, affordable housing is on the way.



But Joshua needs your help now!

Joshua and his mom are hoping to get in a new home before school starts. Please send your gift to help Joshua and families like his today!

Visit www.stfrancissshelter.org to give online or mail your gift today.

Visit our website at stfrancissshelter.org

**St. Francis Housing
Crisis Center**

70 Washington Street,
St. Augustine, FL 32084

904-829-8937



Visit us
and Like
us on
Facebook



**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.

YOU are the light!

Homelessness is a dark place for many of our clients. YOU are the light that helps lead people out of homelessness with your generous support.

This year we have 2 event opportunities for you to shine light in the lives of the individuals, families and youth who are experiencing homelessness.

You Light Up the Night Balloon Glow Gala

October 23rd / Tringali Barn

Sponsored by Flagler Health and in its second year, *You Light Up the Night* is the most exciting event of its kind featuring axe throwing, cigar bar, casino, valet parking, photo booth, games, horse drawn carriage rides, great food, signature drinks, a stage band and of course a Hot Air Balloon. The event will be held at Tringali Barn from 6:30 – 10 pm. All-inclusive tickets are \$125 pp. (balloon rides are weather dependent and an extra charge) Sponsorships on every level are available. Attendance is limited to 300 and tickets are going fast!



To register visit www.stfrancisshelter.org/events or contact Joyce Duffy at joyce.duffy@stfrancisshelter.org

Light the Way Home Festival of Trees

**November 29th – December 2nd
at the beautiful Lightner Museum
in downtown St. Augustine**

Enjoy holiday music, lighted trees and wreaths, photos with Santa (when available) and Santa's mailbox. Vote for your favorite tree and wreath and bid on these one-of-a-kind creations sponsored by local businesses and groups. All proceeds will help light the way home for local individuals, families and youth experiencing homelessness. Event and Tree or wreath sponsorships are available now.

Nov 29 – 1 to 5 pm,
Nov 30 & Dec 2 – 9 am to 5 pm,
Dec. 2 – 9 am to 2 pm.



For more information visit

www.stfrancisshelter.org/events or contact
Joyce Duffy at joyce.duffy@stfrancisshelter.org



No one wants to think about kids being homeless. No one wants to picture young faces and associate them with horrific reality. Sweet, syrupy fantasy is easier to swallow than hard, bitter reality. But homeless kids do exist; I exist.

Since I was young, my mother has struggled with addiction. Her choices and the consequences of her addiction directly affected me. We were homeless a lot. We stayed with family and friends at first, until my mother burned those bridges. But staying in shelters was the hardest. It's not easy to be a kid and be homeless. You worry what friends will think so you keep it hidden, so no one knows.

Being homeless made me ashamed and angry. Angry at my mother, angry at myself, angry at the world—and I lashed out in every way I knew how. Homelessness ate away at me until I no longer cared about anyone or anything, until I became hardened to life and the things that happened to me.

What I didn't realize then was that I shouldn't have been angry or ashamed, and what I realize now is that I am not less than others just because I was homeless.

Rachel's spirit is broken. Her mother failed her. Other adults in her life failed her. But YOU can help! This is the state of mind for most of the youth who come to Port in the Storm. YOU can change the trajectory of their lives with your support. Visit www.stfrancisshelter.org to give online or mail your check today.

Send your gift today... for Rachel and others.

Wish List

- \$10 gift cards for grocery stores/ Walmart/Target
- Bug spray / Sunscreen
- Men's underwear, sizes large to 2xl
- Ponchos
- Wash cloths
- Men's shoes sizes 8 - 13
- Small bags of chips
- Granola Bars
- Reusable Water bottles



School is around the corner and our shelters have requested the following:

- Backpacks (adult)
- Spiral notebooks
- Folders
- Pencil sharpener / Erasers
- 3 ring binders / Loose-leaf paper
- Pens / Highlighters
- Lunch bags (reusable) with ice packs to keep cool
- Clothing for school age kids; Shirts/ polos/tshirts/hoodies/jeans
- Coloring markers and pencils
- Calculators
- Hand Sanitizers
- Reusable water bottles

Contact Robert Harris,
Marketing/volunteer Coordinator at
Robert.harris@stfrancisshelter.org

Today at



- Over 50% of are employed!
- 50% are struggling with alcohol or substance abuse.
- 50% have been impacted by domestic violence
- 1 is leaving for college – 2 are enrolling in Job Corps
- 15 or more receive safe shelter, life skills classes and day programs every day