

Tales of a foster kid

Kevin's story!

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of homelessness? A down-and-out middle-aged person asking for change to buy liquor or drugs? Well, there is another less-visible population – teenagers leaving the foster care system.



Often, I am asked how it happened, where my support systems were. At age 12, I was taken from my biological family because I was abused. This began a long list of foster homes. Not all of them were bad. I attended five different schools. But I graduated from high school. In the foster care world, a high school diploma is like a Ph.D. I hardly had any friends. Each time I got comfortable in a foster home, I had to leave. I hated my life. I never got a chance to be a kid. I know many foster kids have great families. But the truth is that once you reach 18 the party is over – it sure was for me. Last week I met a couple of Street Outreach workers and they told me about Port in the Storm. So here I am. I know how lucky I am to be here. They tell me that people who don't even know me give money and food and everything to give us a future. Without you I don't have a chance.

It's true. You are the only thing between Kevin and the streets. Please give now to give him and others like him the opportunity he deserves. Kevin is counting on YOU. YOU can change his life. Please give today!

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Visit our website at stfrancisshelter.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

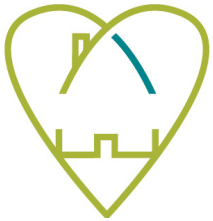
904-824-8987

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.

GLIMPSE

Through Our Door

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

Saving Christmas

Christmas is a magical time when you are 6. But not for Emmy. Emmy and her mom are homeless. She is scared that Santa will not be able to find her this Christmas.

Jake is 19 and on the streets. Jake gave up thinking that something good would happen for him long ago. Even at Christmas.

This is homelessness for our children, families, and youth. YOU are the only one that can save Christmas for them.

Thanks to your support, Emmy and her mom are staying at St. Francis House. There they have found safe shelter off the streets and access to the programs and opportunities that will help them be self-sufficient and find housing. Next year Christmas will be better.

Jake has worked with the Street Outreach team and is going to

Port in the Storm. He is finally starting to believe that someone cares. That person is you! Your gift to St. Francis House or Port in the Storm Homeless Youth

Center will save Christmas for Emmy and Jake and provide a path out of homelessness.



YOU can make Christmas shine for them. Send your holiday gift today.

When the Stars Shine Bright

Stars have led us since the dawn of man. They lead us to amazing discoveries. And they can lead us home.

This year our two major events, *You Light up the Night-Balloon Glow Gala* and the *Light the Way Home Festival of Trees*, focused on the light that stars like YOU bring to lives. Yes, YOU are the stars – YOU are the light in the lives of those we serve. They may never know your name. But they know that the opportunities provided are made possible by people like you.

Each of us yearns to be the star in someone's life. This holiday you can be a STAR in the life

of an individual, a family or a youth who is experiencing homelessness.

The stars are aligned, and *YOU can light the way home*. Choose your star and be the light this holiday season by sponsoring an individual, family or youth. Visit www.stfrancishelter.org and click on the star to give online.



Your help is needed today!

You Light Up the Night – Balloon Glow Gala

October 23 – Tringali Barn

By the time you read this the Balloon Glow Gala will be over for another year. For those of you who came or sponsored or donated, thank you! If you missed it, we hope that you will plan to attend next year. Watch our Facebook page and our next newsletter for more pictures and recognition of our sponsors.

Thank You!



Come to 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.

Admission to Festival of Trees is Free. Regular Lightner Museum admission will be charged to enter museum exhibit area.

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



From the Suburbs to Homelessness Steven's story!

We were living the life. Two cars and a nice home in one of St. Johns County's pretty developments. But I became homeless when my marriage broke up. I lost an income and then I lost my job.



I fell further and further behind with my bills. I couldn't cope and began drinking too much. I imagined I would quickly find another job, but it didn't work out that way.

My home was repossessed. More than that, the will had gone. When you get hit by a few things at once it affects your ability to think clearly. Depression saps your energy: it makes it hard to get up in the morning and put together a rational plan. I needed help!

It was unbelievably embarrassing to go to St. Francis House. And yet here I am. I donated here before myself. I know that a lot of people support this shelter so that people can have a chance at a new life. Well, I need that chance now! Please ...

Steven's story is sad and scary. It reminds us that there are so many just a crisis away from homelessness. Steven needs your help today. He's strong. He's working hard and with your help he will be on his feet soon. But without you his future is bleak.

Please help Steven today. Visit www.stfrancishelter.org to give online or send your gift today!

St. Francis House & Port in the Storm

Holiday 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. It allows our staff to buy special and specific items for our clients staying with us over the holidays.

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

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

Do you shop on Amazon?



Did you know that every purchase can help homeless individuals, families and youth? Here's

how you do it!

Go to smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon.com. Select **St. Augustine Society, Inc.** as the organization you want to support. (this is our legal name recognized by the IRS). Then shop as usual and a donation for every purchase will come to us. Thanks for shopping!