

# Festival of Trees Heralds the Holiday Season!

Join us Dec 4th through 7th for the 3rd annual Festival of Trees. Enter into a wonderland of Christmas trees and wreaths displayed in the front alcove of the Lightner Museum.

Proceeds from the auction of these one-of-a-kind creations will help men, women, families and youth struggling to escape homelessness.

Entrance into the Festival of Trees is free. However, regular admission is



required to enter the museum. The event will culminate with Lightner Museum's Holiday Market on December 7th.

Are you looking for a holiday project for yourself, your business, church or organization that will help others? Festival of Trees is IT! Register to create and decorate a tree or wreath for the event.

So, call a meeting, send an email, gather your creative minds and make a difference. Pick your theme or go traditional. To join in the fun contact Joy Burton at joy.burton@stfrancisshelter.org or go online to [www.stfrancisshelter.org/events](http://www.stfrancisshelter.org/events) for more information.

# Casino Royale Event Celebrates 4th Anniversary of Port in the Storm

Our second annual Casino Royale, the Anniversary Celebration of Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center, was once again a huge success.

The event was hosted by Assembly Room Events at Art 'n Motion on San Marco Avenue on Saturday, July 22nd. The fun 007 themed evening was attended by 150 people. Tickets included casino games with fun money, prizes, delicious food, a signature cocktail, and a photo booth. VIPs were treated to a private lounge on the second floor which included Texas Hold'em Tables, lounge seating and upscale hors d'oeuvres served by EFS Catering.

While attendees were winning casino chips, the homeless youth at Port in



the Storm were the real winners with evening donations and an anonymous match taking the total raised to over \$50,000.

**Thank you to all of the sponsors and guests who came out to make a difference in the lives of our homeless youth.** Casino Royale was sponsored by: Localiq - The Record, Solar Stik, MasterCraft Builder Group, Fiesta Falls Miniature Golf, Canan Law, Harbour Island Tennis Centre, The



PLAYERS Championship, Robinson Improvement, RockIT Solutions, Florida Health Care Plans, Taylor Refrigeration & AC, Herbie Wiles Insurance, Ancient City Accounting, Meg Bogosian, Bronz-Glow, Old City Public Relations, Galleon Capital Advisors, Iron Order Motorcycle Club, Marsh Creek Women's Association.

Visit our website at [stfrancisshelter.org](http://stfrancisshelter.org)

## St. Francis Housing Crisis Center

70 Washington Street | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-829-8937

## 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.



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SUMMER 2023

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Opportunity



ST. FRANCIS HOUSING CRISIS CENTER and  
PORT IN THE STORM HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER

Programs of St. Augustine Society

# Kare for Kids

It's that time of year again when moms, dads, grandparents, teachers and others focus on the new school year for our children and youth. It's an exciting time for most kids. But what about our homeless kids? For them going back to school can be scary. Even the little ones know that their lives have changed. Play dates, unless they are at a friend's house, are out. And what about that birthday party? These are important things to elementary age children. The teens worry, "how can I keep other kids from knowing that I'm homeless? I can't get a ride home from a friend - I don't have a home."

When these kids should be learning, growing and having fun their minds are distracted by a crisis they have no control over. It breaks our hearts to think about this. But what can we do?

**First** - Talk to your children. Remind them to be kind to everyone. You never know what is happening in their life.

**Second** - Take action! You CAN make a direct impact on the lives of homeless children with your membership in **Kare for Kids**. For as little as \$10 a month YOU can support the needs of homeless children with their families at St. Francis House and homeless youth at Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center.

Your gifts support homeless families and youth at the only comprehensive low-barrier shelters in St. Johns County.

If you think you cannot make a difference, you can!

Join today by visiting our website [www.stfrancisshelter.org](http://www.stfrancisshelter.org) and click on the Kare for Kids button.

The kids are counting on you!



## Jody and Jeremy

My name is Jody. I'm 8. My little brother Jeremy is 6. Right after school was out we had to leave our apartment. Mommy said that we couldn't afford the rent - not sure what that means. We stayed at her friend's place for a while. That was fun cause she has kids too. But we had to leave there and now we are at

a place called St. Francis House. It's a shelter for people like us who don't have a home. There are other kids and parents here. The people in charge are nice and mommy says that they are trying to help us find a new place to live. But I miss my own home and my own bed. My mommy cries a lot when she thinks I'm not watching. I am trying to be good, do my school work and play with my brother, so he doesn't bother her too much. But it's hard to concentrate with so many people around. I hope my friends at school don't find out I'm here.....



## Alan

Alan was always at the top of his class when he was young, but his life fell apart when his parents divorced. His mom tried really hard to keep it all together. Eventually it was too much, and they became homeless. When Alan was 17, his friend's parents agreed to let him stay with them until he graduated. At least living there, the kids at school would not know he was homeless. Despite everything that happened to him, Alan graduated

Continues on page 2



## Kare for Kids

Continued from page 1

from high school. But the achievement also meant that he was homeless and on his own. Alan is now at Port in the Storm. He has a job but is not really sure what he wants to do with his life. One thing he does know is that he never wants to be homeless again.

Alan, Jody and her brother are just 3 of the kids who are being helped through Kare for Kids. You can impact the lives of kids of all ages through your support of this unique program dedicated to the safety and well-being of the innocent victims of homelessness. Please invest in these kids who have no one else to fight for them. Join Kare for Kids today! Visit our website [www.stfrancisshelter.org](http://www.stfrancisshelter.org) and click on the Kare for Kids button.



## Our community is not alone.....

According to a new report from *The Wall Street Journal*, the number of homeless Americans has surged this year by 11%, to 577,000 people.

Context: Since the federal government began tracking homeless figures in 2007, the highest annual increase had been 2.7% — meaning this year's jump is four times higher than any other on record.

## Patio with a Purpose!

Many homes have a patio. So does Port in the Storm. But few have a patio that serves such an important purpose. Built through the generosity of local area Rotary Clubs and Rotary District 6970, this patio is a place of fun, serious conversations, quiet reflection, a place to go get away from it all when togetherness gets too much, outdoor BBQ's and a critically needed space to refresh and regroup for youth and staff.

It looks like many other brick patios. But if you look closer you will see something special. The bricks on this patio tell stories. They are engraved with words of encouragement for our youth, memorials to loved ones,



remembrances of special times and places and dedications to those who have made a difference. Each engraved brick is a visible symbol of hopes, dreams and real-life events.

Do you have someone or something you would like to remember or honor? Would you like to leave some words of encouragement for the youth of Port in the Storm? The Port in the Storm Brick Patio is the perfect place. Sponsorship of each 4 x 8 brick is \$100. Your purchase will provide a permanent legacy and a message to the youth that they are not alone.....that others are willing to make this journey with them through their support of Port in the Storm.



## Place your order today

... for yourself or for a gift. Visit our website at [stfrancisshelter.org](http://stfrancisshelter.org). go to "Support US" and click on the "Buy a Brick Campaign" or contact Karen Hensel at [karen.hensel@stfrancisshelter.org](mailto:karen.hensel@stfrancisshelter.org)

## Buy a Brick - Impact a Life



## Masquerade Ball Highlights Fall Events

Once school begins, we know that our year is winding down. But as they say "the best is yet to come."

This year's annual gala will take on a new twist as we channel Phantom of the Opera with a Masquerade Ball on Friday, October 13, 2023. Relive the intrigue and excitement of a masquerade ball under the chandeliers of Tringali Barn with entertainers from a bygone era as well as our traditional show band,

delectable food, axe throwing and much more.

Early Bird Tickets for \$25 off the regular price are available until September 14th. Sponsorships at all levels are available. Contact Joy Burton, Marketing/Special Events Coordinator at [joy.burton@stfrancisshelter.org](mailto:joy.burton@stfrancisshelter.org) for more information.

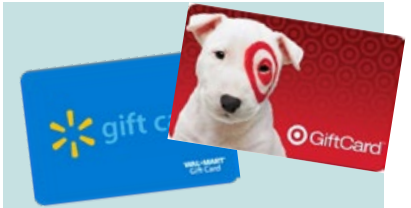
Join us for a gala unlike any other and help men, women families and youth in our community escape homelessness.

Visit our website at [stfrancisshelter.org](http://stfrancisshelter.org) to register today! Tickets are limited. Get yours today!

## Looking Back... Looking Forward

Raise a flag, sound the trumpet, set off the fireworks. It's time to celebrate. 2024 will be the 40th anniversary of this agency. 40 years of making miracles happen for people struggling with homelessness in our community. But the celebration is not really about us. It's about YOU. Without you there would be no St. Francis House, no Port in the Storm, no SOS Street Outreach.....no miracles.

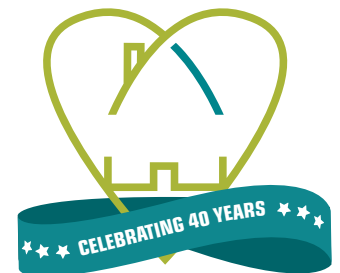
Our team is at work creating some opportunities for all of us to celebrate the past and set the stage for the future. From pictures and stories from the past to special tours, events and a special 1980's theme Gala, there will be something for everyone to take part in. I hope that you will plan to celebrate with us as we honor YOU and everyone who has made this journey possible.



## Wish List

- Blankets
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Small bags of chips
- Canned tuna or chicken (pop top\_
- Granola bars
- Fruit cups
- Pasta & pasta sauce.
- Men's & women's underwear
- Socks
- Bike locks & bike lights
- \$10 gift cards for Walmart, Publix, Target or Winn-Dixie

Contact Sarah Del Cid, Development/Volunteer Coordinator at [Sarah.DelCid@stfrancisshelter.org](mailto:Sarah.DelCid@stfrancisshelter.org)



ST. FRANCIS HOUSING CRISIS CENTER and PORT IN THE STORM HOMELESS YOUTH CENTER SOS STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

## Programs of St. Augustine Society

Compassion ♦ Shelter ♦ Opportunity

Watch your email and Facebook for more information in January 2024!