

Latest Happenings



**813 Elysian Fields Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70117**



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A Message from the Director

Human Trafficking continues to be the fastest growing criminal industry. We have been ministering to those who have been trafficked for over seven years. During those seven years we have heard horror stories from those who have been trafficked. We have witnessed firsthand the trauma, addiction, mental illness, helplessness, and hopelessness experienced by those who have been entrapped by human trafficking. We have also witnessed some of those we have helped be lured back into trafficking due to vulnerability and issues they face. One of the most important things we do as missionaries is to never give up on a person. We make sure they know we love them and are here for them. We keep in touch with them and have had them return to us several times. After seven years, we are now seeing the importance of being planted as a missionary in one place that continues to be a refuge for human trafficking survivors. After 30 years of ministry as a missionary in New Orleans, I have seen the importance of being planted with the homeless population too. I now see the necessity of it if we are going to make a difference in the lives of human trafficking survivors.

I would like to share about two young ladies that we have helped over the past few years. We have continued to be there for them as they have struggled to break free from human trafficking after being lured back in time after time. One young lady that we helped to become a certified nursing assistant is now employed with an organization that will pay for her to become a LPN after being employed with them for six months. This is just one step towards her dream of becoming a RN. Another young lady recently communicated with us and sent a photo of her student ID as she was accepted into a college for pre-med. Her words relayed thanks to us for all that we did for her and that she plans to pay it forward. As we reach people one at a time, they in return reach others one at a time.

Continued Inside

Continued Message from Director

Though the stories are hard to hear and the trauma is hard to see, the blessing of watching Jesus work in people's lives and bring healing to them far outweighs the hardships we encounter. I admit it gets tough sometimes and that is where you all come in. Your prayers and support give us strength and encouragement. Knowing that there are people out there who believe in what we do and care about others makes a difference. Thank you for being a lifeline, for caring about us and others, and for helping to make our ministry possible. It is our joy to serve Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Changing our World Together,

Kay Bennett and BFH Family



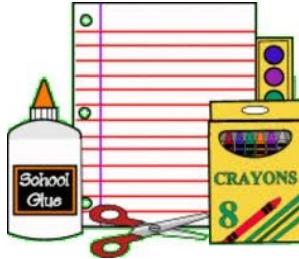
The past year of ministering to survivors of human trafficking has been full of highs and lows. This year we have continued to have opportunities to partner with various organizations, law enforcement, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline to minister to women being trafficked. As Kay mentioned earlier, this is a ministry that requires a everlasting hope that is only provided through Jesus Christ. We can never give up on one of His precious daughters despite the number of times they may be lured back into the "life" of trafficking.

This past week we had the privilege of going college shopping for one young lady that we began ministering to a few years ago. Pray for this young woman as she begins her college career at a University in August. As she sat in the office and shared all that she has learned, it was evident that God has truly worked in her life. Witnessing the hope she has for her future we know without a doubt that she can achieve each and every goal she has set. Because of your prayers, one young woman has another chance. Because of your financial donations, she will have what she needs to start her college career off right. Please continue to pray for this young woman. Pray for calmed nerves, peace, and a steady focus on the Lord.

We would also like to ask you to pray for a young woman that is still involved in the life of prostitution and trafficking. She recently celebrated her 22nd birthday. We have known her since she was a teenager. Pray specifically for the opportunity to communicate with her again. Pray that she will reach out for help again soon.

EVENTS

Back to School Bash Saturday, July 15, 2017



Each year before summer comes to an end, we host a Back to School Bash for families in our community. It is not uncommon for parents to share relief that they no longer have to choose between paying a bill or purchasing school supplies because they are able to receive most of the items at our event. It's hard for many to fathom facing such a decision. To date, we have given out nearly 200 backpacks to children in our community. Pray for the children and families in our community as the children return to school in the coming weeks.

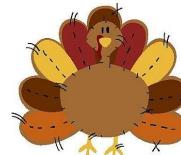
Fall Festival Saturday, October 28, 2017

As crime has continued to increase in our city, we look forward to the opportunity to offer an alternative to typical Halloween activities. We will be hosting a community Fall Festival that will be filled with games, food, candy, and giveaways. Pray for the volunteers that are preparing for this event. Pray that attendees will hear the Gospel message and respond in a life changing way.



Thanksgiving Thursday, November 23, 2017

Thanksgiving at Baptist Friendship House is one of our favorite events. Through prayers, volunteers, and many donations we are able to provide a community lunch on Thanksgiving Day. Many of the homeless in our city are miles away from family and loved ones and have no where to spend this special day. We gather around the table and enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. As we gather around the table, we reflect on the many things that we can give thanks. Even in the midst of a storm and tough times, the list of thanksgiving is long.



Happy Thanksgiving

Ministry Needs

- Rain Ponchos
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Deodorant and Razors
- Snack Pack Items (Vienna sausage, crackers, protein bars)
- 8.5 x 11 copy paper
- Forever Stamps
- Gift cards (Walmart, Lowe's, etc.)
- Office Copy Machine

Welcome New Staff



Emily Gibson started interning with us in January 2017. She grew up in Birmingham, AL and graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies in 2013. While working in Birmingham following her graduation, she felt the Lord calling her to New Orleans, and she moved here in the Fall of 2015. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Social Work from Southern University at New Orleans and a Masters in Church and Community Ministries from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Emily began serving with Friendship House as a Student Missionary through the North American Mission Board in June of 2017.

Ministry Update

We have been very busy with our transitional housing program for women with children. We recently had the opportunity to partner with another organization to help a single mom of four kids relocate to another state where she will have more familial support. We are grateful we had the chance to spend time with this sweet family and help them achieve greater stability. Continue to pray for the moms and children in our transitional housing program. We have two GED students that are working diligently to learn everything necessary to achieve this goal. Pray for our other students as they continue to study and work hard to fully prepare for the test. Passing this test opens so many doors for our students from being able to attain higher education to better employment opportunities. At the start of summer we began to notice an increase in the number of people coming in for services during the week. The last few weeks we have had nearly 100 people come in for showers, clothing, food, hygiene items, group counseling, bible study, and educational classes.