



Impact Report 2024

Mission and Vision

In 2024, Community Life made progress toward its vision - thousands of people seeing the body of Christ united and experiencing God's love through a relationship with Jesus Christ - by accomplishing its mission: facilitating partnerships between Christians and Christian organizations to meet their community's needs!

Executive Director

The year began with Community Life empowering its first paid Lead Facilitator (title later changed to Executive Director), Shawn Allen.

Shawn led Community Life to accomplish its mission in five ways:

- 1) Creating & Solidifying Infrastructure
- 2) Networking
- 3) Fundraising
- 4) Advancing the Strategy
- 5) Celebrating

1) Creating & Solidifying Infrastructure

Though Community Life had existed as a ministry since 2017, and as a 501c3 since 2019, hiring the organization's first employee required creating a new level of infrastructure. Community Life's bylaws were also revised in 2024.



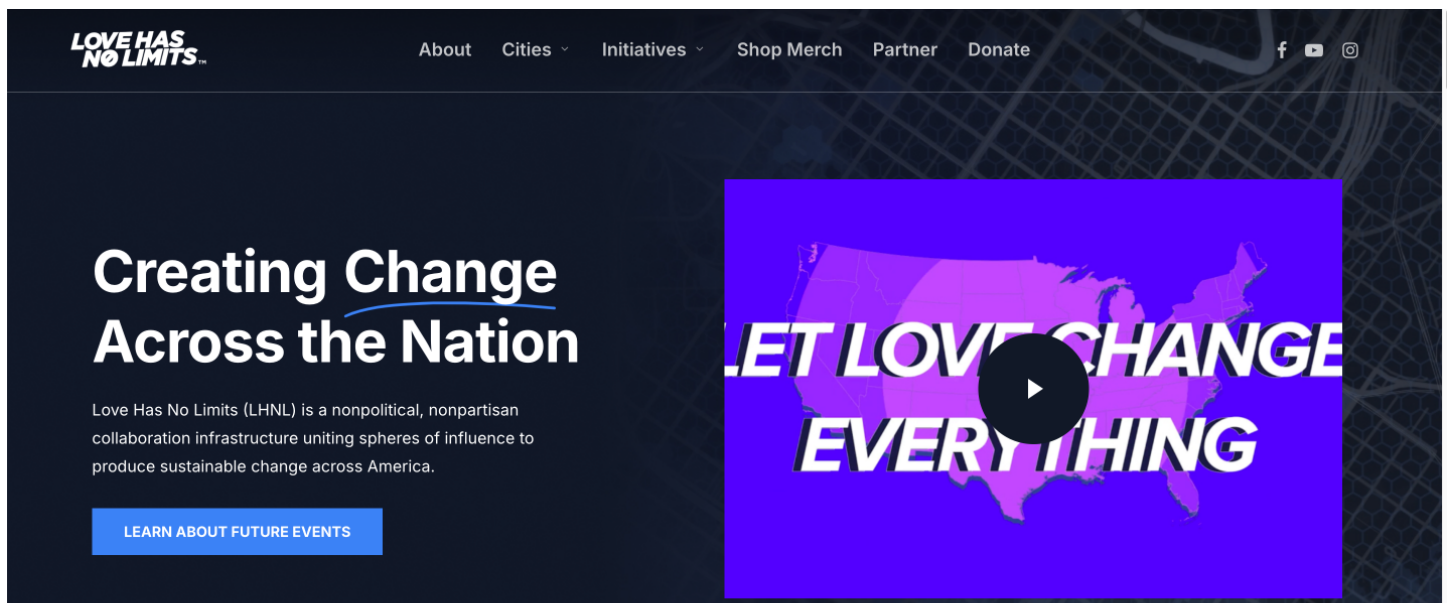
The foundation of Community Life’s infrastructure is its Board of Directors. Since four of Community Life’s founding directors, David Donnally, Shante Flourney, David Vargas, and Brian Rowe, all reached the end of their term limits in 2024, the year was a year of major transition for the board.

Community Life recognizes and celebrates the significant and eternal impact of these four leaders!

Community Life added three new Board of Directors in 2024: Jessica Etienne (Victory Faith Chapel), Manuel Vargas (Fuente de Vida ICP), and Elizabeth Conti (Living Word Christian Community). Don Imel (Church in the Palms) and Shawn Allen will continue to serve as Board of Directors in 2025.

2) Networking

Our Executive Director networked with many people throughout the year, sharing Community's Life vision and mission through the spoken word and music at several congregations - English-speaking, Creole-speaking, and Spanish-speaking. The vision and mission was also promoted through countless emails and texts, during many cups of coffees and meals, and over several radio stations and podcast audiences. Pastors, members of congregations, representatives from educational institutions, non-profit leaders, members of the West Palm Beach government, and political candidates, radio listeners all heard about Community Life.



Community Life connected a national ministry, Love Has No Limits, whose vision and mission parallel Community Life's, to many South Florida congregations and pastors.



Our Executive Director collaborated with Faith in Action, an interfaith network of organizations working on systemic solutions to homelessness in Palm Beach County.



He also connected with leaders from around the country who are facilitating missional partnerships between Christian organizations at the THINKTank conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Then he met with leaders from around the country who are leading city networks (missional partnerships on a regional scale) at the Evangelism Team Lab in Portland, Oregon.

3) Fundraising

With coaching from several sources, Shawn invested significant time raising money for Community Life. The strategy was three-fold: 1) ask several individuals to support Community Life with a one-time large gift 2) ask many individuals to support Community Life with smaller monthly gifts, and 3) raise money at several music events throughout the year.

Despite a head start of \$29,184 raised in 2023, by July it was clear that Community Life was not on pace to fully fund its budget of \$116,736 by the end of 2024. Therefore, our Executive Director began working several additional jobs to help raise support for Community Life.

Between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024, 89 individuals/couples and 9 organizations gave a total of \$102,457 to Community Life, \$14,279 short of our goal.

Community Life's expenses for 2024, budgeted to be \$116,737, were only \$86,894.73, a difference of \$29,42.27. One donor covered an additional \$8,346.42 of expenses for 2024.

4) Advancing the Strategy

To advance the strategy of Community Life, our Executive Director implemented a creative contacting plan to discover how congregations were meeting their community's needs in Palm Beach County. Data collected was entered in a database and made available through Community Life's website. Later in the year, a volunteer began to develop a website to help share that data with Christians in the county.



Several meetings were held to recruit and mobilize volunteers to help advance Community Life's strategy, and several other events were held to lead Christians to both discern needs in their community and envision partnerships to meet those needs.

5) Celebrating

Throughout the year, social media was utilized to celebrate how Community Life was advancing its mission. Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok were utilized, in addition to mass emailing and mass texting.

The highlight of 2024 for Community Life was the launching of a missional partnership between 8 Christian organizations to serve unsheltered neighbors on Military Trail (near Forest Hill Blvd).



The partnership began developing in June, and the following partners officially began ministering to unsheltered neighbors together on September 30th:

Organization: Bethel Assembly of God

Representative: Michael Kulik, Outreach Pastor

Organization: Blueprints Church

Representative: Jack Hall, Outreach Director

Organization: Community of Hope

Representative: Stacey Willson, Executive Director of Missional Engagement

Organization: Iglesia New Life of the Palm Beaches

Representative: Millie Rodriguez, Community Outreach Liaison

Organization: Living Word Christian Community

Representative: Liz Conti, Outreach Coordinator

Organization: Tabernáculo Internacional

Representative: Miguel and Nora Chirino, Outreach Directors

Organization: True Mission Outreach

Representative: Amanda Merten, President

Later an 8th organization joined the missional partnership:

Organization: Victory Faith Chapel

Representative: Sagine Louis, Evangelism Ministry Leader

Since September 30th, Community Life has facilitated a relational ministry of demonstrating and proclaiming the gospel to many unsheltered neighbors.

Each time an unsheltered neighbor arrives at Tabernáculo Internacional, they fill out a new prayer card, indicating prayer requests, what they are thankful for, if they are interested in learning more about Jesus and salvation, and which physical items they are requesting.

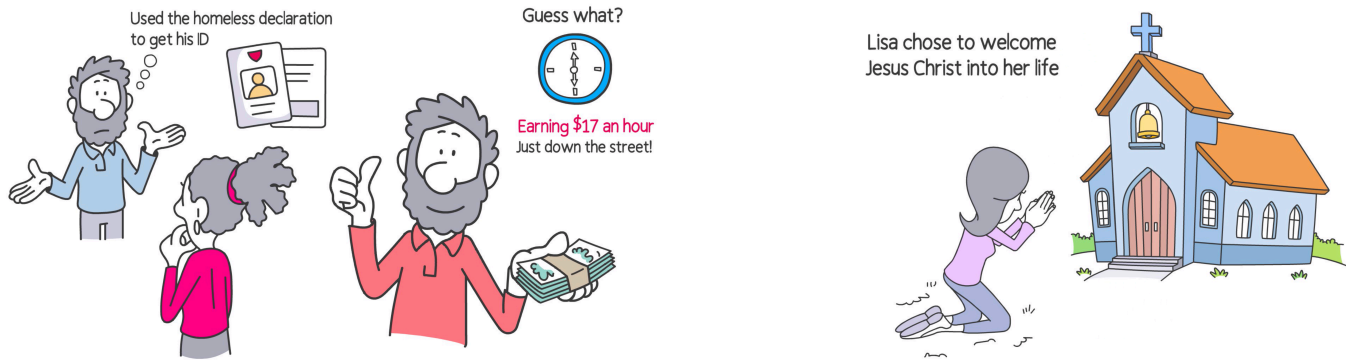
Hot meals, non-perishable food, hygiene items, clothes, and shoes have been distributed. Homeless declarations have helped unsheltered neighbors obtain an ID from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Others have received help with insurance, employment, housing, transportation, and other needs.

Missional Partnership: Loving Unsheltered Neighbors					
MEASURING IMPACT: September 30, 2024 - December 26, 2024					
Week	Weeks	Number of People We Demonstrated Love to	Salvations	Homeless Declarations	Stories of Progress
TOTAL since 9/30/24		352	15	34	Pedro, Lisa, Alexander, Isaiah, Alfredo
AVERAGE (Per Week)		27	1	3	

Our Community Life volunteers demonstrated love to people on more than 350 separate occasions. We rejoice that many unsheltered neighbors are represented multiple times in that count, meaning they received tangible expressions of God's love multiple times during these 3 months. Our volunteers led at least 15 people to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and gave at least 34 unsheltered neighbors a homeless declaration.



Toward the end of the year, two videos were produced to share stories of lives changed through Community Life's missional partnership.



Here are brief versions of those two stories:

PEDRO'S STORY

One of Community Life's partners invited an unsheltered neighbor named Pedro to enjoy a warm meal.

When he arrived we found out he needed a job. So, another partner provided him with a homeless declaration, which he needed to get an ID.

The very next day, a third partner welcomed him with open arms and a delicious meal.

On the following day, Pedro excitedly shared with another partner that he used the homeless declaration to get his ID, and guess what? It helped him land a job earning \$17 an hour just down the street!

That weekend 6 of our partner organizations received the prayer cards Pedro filled out.

A few days later, we were thrilled to hear that Pedro found a room and a motorcycle!

Pedro also joined a Bible study hosted by one of our partners, found additional work, and moved into an efficiency furnished with donated supplies from one of our partners.

LISA'S STORY

One of our partners met an unsheltered neighbor named Lisa on a Tuesday and offered her something she truly needed that day—food.

On Wednesday, Lisa came back and shared a heartfelt prayer request: with another one of our partners: that she would make it to the next day.

A week later, when a different partner greeted her, Lisa asked that we pray for her boyfriend and kids. Our partners shared her requests with people all around the globe.

Lisa returned several times over the next 2 weeks, connecting with more of our partners, asking for essentials like shirts, socks, and food—items our partners had been gathering.

But the sixth time she was welcomed by yet another one of our partners, Lisa chose to welcome Jesus Christ into her life.

Another beautiful story unfolded on November 14th. A man named Alexander woke up not far from Tabernáculo Internacional. He had no religious background, and had never been to church. But that morning at 3am he started praying to God. His family wanted him to find a job, so he walked down Military Trail looking for one. When he walked by Tabernáculo Internacional, he felt God told him to go inside. Remember, Alexander was not a religious person, so this was an extraordinary experience.

When Alexander walked in, Community Life volunteers were there to greet him with open arms. When he shared his story with them, including how God had woken him up to pray, and urged him to come inside this particular building, they told him God sent Jesus to offer people like him salvation. Alexander made a decision that day to start following Jesus. And a few days later he returned to worship Jesus with one of our partner congregations!

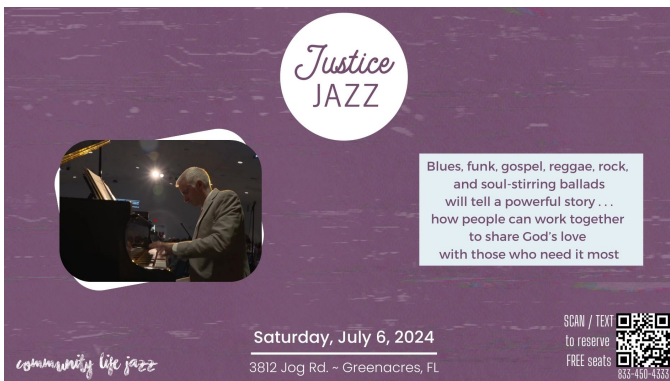
One last celebration is in order. God wasn't just working powerfully in the lives of unsheltered neighbors. As many readers know, volunteers who minister are often just as blessed as those receiving their ministry. One volunteer who became a Christian recently heard about Community Life in November, gave a large donation to the organization and began volunteering weekly. On her very first day of volunteering with Community Life, she led a man to follow Jesus as his Lord and Savior!

Music Events

Community Life offered three music events in 2024 to share its vision and mission, inspire attendees to join the mission, and to raise funds to support the mission.



In May, *Our Love* was hosted by Gayton Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia. Artists from 10 congregations helped Community Life share its vision and mission in another state, and attendees contributed \$8,850 to Community Life.



In July, *Justice Jazz* was hosted by Church in the Palms in Greenacres, Florida. People from a dozen congregations worked together to help raise \$2,500 to fund the mission of Community Life.



community life

"A NIGHT OF WORSHIP: JOINING GOD'S MISSION"

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 6-9PM

Join us for great food & fellowship, powerful
worship, and an invitation to join God's mission together

Sponsored by:
West Pines Baptist Church
Community Life
Recovery Church Movement

In September, *Joining God's Mission* was sponsored by a long-time partner of Community Life, the Recovery Church Movement, and hosted by West Pines Baptist Church in Greenacres, Florida. At least 16 different congregations were represented by the artists and speakers who helped Community Life celebrate its new missional partnership to unsheltered neighbors. The event also raised \$731 for Community Life.



In December, *Jazz Nativity*, an event with a 16-year track record of telling the story of Jesus Christ's birth while inspiring people to join God's mission, was hosted at the location of Community Life's missional partnership: Tabernáculo Internacional in West Palm Beach, Florida. Artists from a dozen congregations partnered together to offer Jazz Nativity, raising \$1,609 to support Community Life.



Benediction

May God continue to empower Community Life to inspire Jesus' followers to answer Jesus' prayer for unity by partnering together to meet the needs of their community!

I pray ... for those who will believe in me ...

... that all of them may be one ...

... that they may be one as we are one ...

... that they may be brought to complete unity.

**Then the world will know that you sent me
and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

John 17:20-23

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