

As Seen In CORAL SPRINGS PARKLAND CITY NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gateway Community Outreach has just celebrated their 21st Birthday!

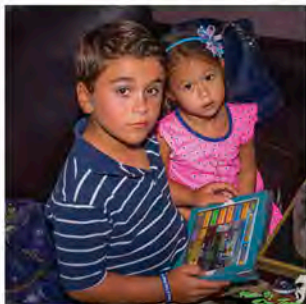
Providing A Hand Up, Not Just A Hand-Out



Many families collapse into an economic disaster when a terrible circumstance gets out of control. It begins with a lost job, an injury, prolonged illness, a separation of parents, a fire, or some other damaging disaster. Within weeks, a family that has been "getting by" is suddenly under tremendous financial pressure. Within months, their home may be gone or a family is torn apart.

Gateway Community Outreach an Economic Crisis Intervention Program. Our goal is to step

in and help families and individuals get back on their feet to the state of self-sufficiency. One of the unique features of our services is our 90-Day Treatment Plan. When a family or individual comes to Gateway they are assessed to determine their economic and social service needs. The client is placed on a 90-Day Treatment Plan that provides groceries on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in addition to case management



services. Case managers meet with clients to ensure that they are taking the appropriate steps to become self-sufficient, which is the true success of our program.

Gateway Community Outreach's mission has been to actively address the issue of hunger and to safeguard and protect the most vulnerable community members by providing emergency food, case management, rent/ mortgage assistance, referrals and other ancillary services. The goal is to prevent homelessness and help clients reach self-sufficiency. Gateway assists more than 9,700 families and individuals a year. It has made a difference in the lives of more than 1 80,000 families since its inception in 1995 and

continues to provide services with compassion and care to clients. Many of the clients are single mothers and their children, senior citizens, unemployed adults and adults with families who have experienced a crisis.

The organization provides a comprehensive crisis management program, a dedicated staff and 286 volunteers who continuously monitor all intake



procedures, tracking performance and computer data input on a weekly basis. Gateway currently operates seven sites throughout Broward County. Each site is open on select days and one evening. The organization researches adequate resources that would help Gateway to fulfill its mission. "We have had many success stories of people saying that Gateway Community Outreach has helped them so much in becoming stabilized and productive individuals," said Carol Ray, president and CEO. "It is great to see how well the program works. We also would not be able to do all that we do without our volunteers. We really do make a difference in our community."

Carol Ray founded Gateway Community Outreach (GCO) in April 1995, nearly 20 years ago, and continues to forge ahead in addressing the needs of the community.

GCO is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation.