

North East Broward Edition - Pompano / Deerfield / Oakland Park / Fort Lauderdale • Issue 58 (819) • July 2013

Our Town News

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Your Community News Magazine



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Everybody Loves Reading Our Town News



Do You Know Someone Who Needs Help Through Some Tough Times?

By Nicol Jenkins & John Brodie



If you know someone who has been going through a rough time in their life and needs some financial help and moral support, have them call Gateway at 954-725-8434. There they will find a determined group of individuals who will work with them to solve problems and get them back on a successful path.

When holidays like the Fourth of July come around when so many people are out having fun, it can be particularly hard on people who are struggling just to get by. Gateway Community Outreach can help many of these people - helping people reclaim their independence and financial freedom has been Gateway's mission for 18 years. Gateway Community Outreach has a 90 day treatment plan which focuses on stabilization to help the entire family. They also offer emergency assistance through their food and ancillary services.

"Our goal is to keep working with them until they are stabilized. With our economic crisis, our numbers have increased. People who were not normally in the poverty level now don't have a job, and we are here to help them through this difficult time," said Carol Ray, Founder, President and CEO of Gateway Community Outreach.

Gateway makes a difference and has made a difference in the lives of over 180,000 families since its inception in 1995 and continues to provide services with compassion and care to their clients. Gateway provides a comprehensive crisis management program and has a dedicated staff and over 200 volunteers

who continuously monitor all intake procedures, tracking performance and computer data input on a weekly basis.

Gateway collaborates with over 80 agencies throughout the county for emergency assistance concerns, as well as providing rent and mortgage assistance through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds. Through direct and personalized assistance, it is often possible to work through a family's crisis and get people "back on their feet" before any significant damage is done.

"The need has increased. Right now, we service over 8,000 families. Our main focus is prevention. We try to keep people in their homes and just help them to get through a difficult time so they are still independent," said Ray. "The education component is so important. We offer free seminars and provide information needed to help people in our community." Carol Ray finds it rewarding to be able to keep families together.

"We have had many success stories of people coming back and saying that Gateway Community Outreach has helped them so much. It is satisfying to see this. We also would not be able to do all that we do without the help of our volunteers. They really do make a difference," said Ray. For more information, call 954-725-8434. You can also visit their website at www.gcflorida.org or email gatecomm291@aol.com.



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*continued from page 10 (Message From
The Oakland Park Mayor*



Originally, grades 1 through 6, were taught. Later, it was grades 1 through 4, with 1st and 2nd grades in one room with one teacher, and grades 3 and 4 in another room with the principal as teacher. Children rode school buses into Fort Lauderdale for the other grades.

Gradually, the City began to grow. A few new homes appeared and the population increased. As the years passed, the size of the town also began to expand, both in residents and in area. Although it will never cover as much territory as Floranada, today it is a little over eight square miles and approximately 43,000 residents call Oakland Park home. It has a notable recreation program, its own excellent library, expansive parks, and much, much more.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Oakland Park and please invite your friends to "The City on the Move!"

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