



# Change Brings Hope

## Helping the Homeless

### **Purpose:**

To offer employment, low-cost housing, medical treatment, mental health treatment, housing, substance abuse treatment and other necessary homeless services that are currently available – but perhaps not utilized enough. The program will not only provide help, but it will also give people pride in work, confidence, hope, faith and a future. The program will also help the community understand that ‘Change’ does indeed bring ‘Hope’.

### **Program Development:**

#### **Stage 1**

Awareness of the ‘*Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless*’ program is accomplished by posting signs in areas where the homeless are known to gather. The signs would provide a City helpline # to contact for food, shelter, medical treatment and additional homeless services.

A website can be established for people wishing to make donations to the City program, ‘*Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless*’. Social Media via the City can also be a valuable tool in helping spread word to the community about the program.

#### **Stage 2**

Transportation in the form of a retired school bus, City bus or van. The vehicle could be donated by a private citizen/business organization, loaned to the program via the City or purchased outright. The sides of the vehicle could be decorated in graphics depicting the ‘*Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless*’ name and logo, or simply contain magnetic signs placed on each side with the name of the program featured.

The program bus/van would drive to areas where the homeless gather and offer day labor type jobs. Upon completion of a job, the bus/van would then transport the new workers to either a shelter working with the program or to a motel/hotel the City may be able to use for temporary housing.

## Who will benefit from *'Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless?'*

Transient Population  
Homeless Population  
Panhandler Population

### **Budget:**

#### 1. The City:

Approximate City budgeted/workable funds: \$45,000.00 - \$50,000.00 for a pilot project.  
*(This should be sufficient for a 6 month pilot project to see how the program works and if it shows possibility for success.)*

A starter grant for \$45,000.00 - \$50,000.00 can possibly be obtained by contacting a Homeless Provider and/or Family Community Services.

The Grant would cover hourly wages for the workers and the driver of the van, gas for the van, insurance, workman's comp and food (breakfast/lunch/water) during working hours.

#### 2. Donations:

Donations can be solicited via media exposure of *'Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless'*, through contact with established supporters of programs in the city and outreach/exposure via social media.

The City could also contact local Homeless Shelters in the Tampa Bay area that could possibly assist with housing for the employees, as well as possibly providing some of the necessary items for the workers: *(Food, Paper, Clothing, Hygiene, Over the Counter Medicines, Miscellaneous items)*.

### **Employment:**

#### Day Labor for Cleaning the City:

1. Landscaping (removing weeds, planting, mulching).
2. Garbage Removal (ditches, flowerbeds).
3. Painting (Buildings, Sidewalk Markings).
4. Pressure washing mold off buildings and sidewalks.
5. Washing City Vehicles.
6. Work with the City Maintenance Department.

### Driver

The driver of the *'Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless'* would be responsible for transporting the workers to/from jobs and delivering breakfast/lunch/water to the workers.

### **Working Hours:**

2 days a week for 5.5 hours for 6 months (*Pilot Project*). To begin with, a person would be able to work both days a week.

Should the program succeed and advance to a daily regimen there initially would be no working back-to-back days. That could possibly occur later depending on the amount of work available and number of people involved in the program.

The point of *'Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless'* is to get the homeless on board with getting help with the various programs available to them in the City.

*'Change Brings Hope – Helping the Homeless'* would begin by picking-up 10 people to work 2 days a week.

### **Transportation:**

Initially, the City should consider leasing or arranging for the loan of a van or bus to use for transporting the workers. Once the program is deemed successful, then the option of purchasing a vehicle for the program could be explored. (*Please refer to the section Program Development: Stage 2 for additional information.*)

### **Wages:**

\$9.00 an hour.

Employees are paid in cash.

### **Contact:**

Mr. Armijo works with the Mayor's office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have spoken with him regarding his program 'Better Way Program', which has been very successful with helping establish similar programs to aid the homeless across the United States. He asked me to provide his contact information if you have any questions about this type of program. He is willing to come to Florida and give a presentation and help get this type of program up and running in Florida. He does presentations all over the United States.

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It is worth noting that the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico started their homeless program off with a budget/grant of \$50,000.00. The next year, they were able to budget for \$181,000.00 and increase the work days from 2 to 4 days a week. Due to the success of the program, this year they were able to budget for \$365,000.00 with a 5-day work week – able to hire 10 people a day for work and get them into homeless services.