



BUILDING FOR
TODAY AND
TOMORROW

Published in Jacksonville, Florida to share with friends stories about our successes and needs.

The first floor has a spacious meeting room and work area, new ceiling, HVAC, offices, and wow, it looks great after nearly a year of renovations.

WHAT'S NEW?

The building program at Presbyterian Social Ministries has been active for so long, many people might have thought it would never get done. Certainly the work has taken longer (and cost more) than the Board had anticipated. But the work is nearly finished.

In the middle of October renovations to the first floor were completed and the occupancy permit was issued. What that meant was staff could begin working in the office. Honestly, a couple of brave people worked through the entire 10 months of construction.

These pictures show the current office and work spaces. But offices are really just offices. The real work is what the people in those spaces do. They oversee and do case management for the 60 families in the Home Safe programs. These programs offer

permanent housing to formerly chronically homeless families. Staff also coordinates volunteer groups coming from around the country to work in other Jacksonville nonprofit programs.



Presbyterian
Social Ministries

CLOCKWISE:

A new wheelchair accessible shower.

A little excitement happened when the crew tapping into the water main for the new sprinkler system accidentally broke a natural gas line. Police and fire trucks were quickly on the scene. No one was hurt.

Board member Jesse Bozeman tiles the new bathroom floor.

A youth group from John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina, worked on a Habijax Blitz Build. What a happy crew!

HOW TO REACH US....

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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State of Florida (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State of Florida.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Life is difficult. I'm not the first person in the world to figure that out. So, knowing this inspires me to do all that I can for as many as I can.

PSM was officially born in 2004. That makes us twelve years old. As young as we are, we ARE changing lives. Although we can do our work from anywhere...a fact born out in our staff working from their homes and cars for the last nine months...it's nice to have a real office to call "home". While some of us never stopped working during the construction and remodeling of our offices, some just couldn't.

It won't be long until we have our dorms completed upstairs. The walls are up and have their first coat of paint. The heating and air conditioning duct work is in but the air compressors and air handlers aren't connected yet. The space has been wired, but power isn't completed yet. Six new showers are built, as well as the two new bathrooms, and they are being tiled as I write this.

A new laundry room will have a washer and drier so that visitors can clean clothes if needed. Three new dorm rooms will accommodate up to 50 people at one time. Colleges, universities and church groups are already booking space for next year.

PSM has been in a holding period for the past year... holding on expansion because we needed our own office and program space. Now that it is almost complete, I see the agency exploding out into the community to inspire and help people, give them permanent housing, and comfort them with clothing.

I hope you will see our good works in the other articles in this newsletter...and support us any way you can.

Dave Tuttle

DONATED CLOTHES TO HAITI

Haiti was recently struck with the fury of Hurricane Mathew. Their country was already poor and hurting from prior storms and earthquake, so it was understandable when the call came in asking if we could donate clothing to them. PSM assembled 29 boxes of men's and women's summer clothing. Boxes were picked up and shipped the last full week of October. So how did this come about?

Ed Perez is a member of the PSM Board, but also a person who is actively involved in ministries around the world. His church was preparing to send a container of goods to Haiti and asked if PSM could contribute.

The donated clothing PSM receives comes in all sizes, but primarily they get more medium and small sizes then we need and use more of the large and extra large sizes for our local clients. The folks from Haiti need more of the smaller sizes.

Tah dah! A good fit. So PSM donated over two dozen boxes of our smaller sizes in our inventory and they will be shipped to Haiti.

Special thanks goes out to Ed for thinking of us. And special thanks goes out to volunteers for helping repack the boxes we shipped.



The Clothing Warehouse flooded during Hurricane Matthew. Boxes on the floor got wet, collapsed, and then toppled over from the weight of the other boxes on top.

THE FLOOD

Hurricane Matthew caused some major damage when it passed through Jacksonville in October. While we didn't sustain any structural damage, the building lost power. During the time power was off, the sump pump in the clothing room didn't take out the water that gets into the building. The result was a flood.

Many of the cardboard boxes of clothing were off the floor on 2 X 4's. Those that weren't on wood, got wet. The boxes soaked up water, much like sponges. As the boxes got wet, they collapsed and boxes stacked on top of them fell over. When power came back on the pump took out the estimated inch of water on the floor. But over sixty boxes were damaged beyond recovery.

"It broke my heart," reported Dave Tuttle when he came to inspect the damage. The first priority after

the storm was to make sure the people were safe and dry. Taking care of property wasn't as important. "What made the damage so heart breaking was the hours that volunteers had spent sorting, folding and packing those boxes" lamented Dave.

"We were able to recover many of those clothes," added Dave. "We had a number of volunteers who took wet clothes home and washed and dried them. That enabled us to save hundreds of needed items."

The clothing program is running back to normal these days, sharing out clothes to PSM's clothing partners.

"One of our goals for the future is to obtain a generator that will keep electricity working in our building so that this kind of damage won't occur again," reflected Dave.

PSM has raised over \$300,000 for remodeling their new building. However, there is a construction loan of over \$80,000 which needs to be repaid. If there is anything you might be able to do to help us, please use the enclosed envelope to send us something.

Anything will help!

