



## HEARTS OF PALM CENTER

A Capital Campaign  
of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

### HOPC News & Notes, April 14, '24

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*And to this day that blows me away. It was like a miracle to me.*

*My daughter got closure and that was very important.*

Randy Poissant

### Donor Spotlight

Randy Poissant shared his experience in overcoming personal tragedy and finding purpose in helping others. His story highlights how acts of kindness can create a path through grief and build a life filled with meaning and compassion.

**Randy. Your connection to St. Mark's is really touching. Can you share a bit about that?**

In 2009, Reverend Holly Ostlund, a former associate rector at St. Marks, offered my daughter Kira last rights when she passed away from opioid addiction. It was actually surprising, because I had been looking around the hospital for someone to pray for Kira and offer spiritual support. I couldn't find anyone, but when I came back to the room Holly was there. I was taken aback. I asked who she was and why she was there - she said, "I'm here for this young lady." And to this day that blows me away. It was like a miracle to me. My daughter got closure and that was very important.



**That must have been an incredibly difficult. How did you navigate through such profound grief?**

St. Mark's developed into family. I became a volunteer, serving as a Eucharistic Visitor for 14 years. It was like a second home, a place to heal. I just love Jim so much. He saved me because I was in pretty bad shape again after my wife Sara died. Jim called me one day, he said, "get your butt down here, I want you to talk to Helen Brown, our facilities manager." And I did. And two weeks later, I was working for St. Mark's. I did that for 10 years and I'm very grateful.

**I understand that you recently made a donation to the new Hearts of Palm Center in Riviera Beach.**

I'm very fortunate to have the best memories and those will never die. Now I have to give back to the community. I feel like I owe. That's not something I dread. It's something I look forward to.

Losing Kira to addiction was a blow and it opened my eyes to make a difference. If someone needs me, I'm going to be there. They have whatever I have to give. This is a duty—and a way of honoring Kira.

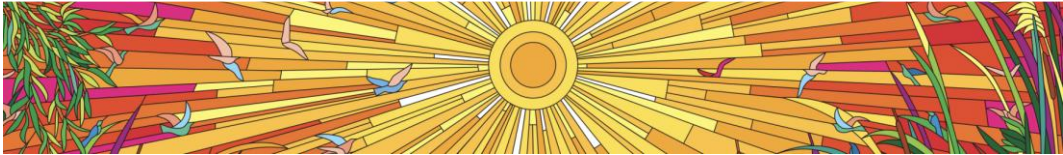
See the HOPC  
video online



# A Path Out of Poverty

“Stewardship, to me, is about recognizing the skills and resources we've been given by God and using them to serve others. I believe we're vessels for God's work, entrusted with the responsibility to make a positive impact.”

Faith-based organizations affect the lives of millions of people daily, an influence unparalleled to any other public institution. A World Bank consultation of more than 60,000 people across 40 countries found that religious institutions were often more trusted than state institutions. Faith-based organizations have a unique role in leveraging their social capital to address key city priorities and support marginalized communities. They are embedded in communities and therefore have the power and agency to guide masses while ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups. *World Resources Institute – March 2023*



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Please donate today and become a beacon of faith, hope, and light within Riviera Beach

For more information about HOPC, contact: Charlotte Pelton, charlotte@charlottepelton.com, 561-329-3686