



HEARTS OF PALM CENTER

A Capital Campaign
of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

HOPC NEWS AND NOTES

June 9, 2024

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HOPC SPOTLIGHT

In the following interview Father Jim Cook unveils the heartfelt inspiration behind the Hearts of Palm Center's inception following a tragic loss.

Can you recall when the idea of the Hearts of Palm Center first came to you?

It was the night I got the phone call that Frank Killins had been fatally shot while waiting for a meal in front of St. George's. The next day, Sanford (*St. Mark's former Associate Rector*) and I drove there together. It was a beautiful March evening. When we walked in one of the first things we saw was a church group praying in a circle in the kitchen. It deeply moved me, and ***in that moment, I realized we needed to create a place that would embody St. Mark's values of inclusivity and oneness.***

After a year of evaluating what we could do we landed on a commitment to invest in a fresh start. We know there is a greater need beyond the transient population. There are families and underresourced people who are hungry, and we want to create a safe space where they can come and get the services that they need. The plan would be to house St. Georges Table, with social service tenants who would work together in surrounding office spaces. And of course, a chapel would rest in the heart of the center, because we remain faith based.

That investment seems to be resonating with people. Recently, we've noticed increased support for the project within the local community. Can you tell me how that's occurring?

Through the process of gaining approval to build, we've been compelled to collaborate closely with city officials and residents so that everyone knows ***we are recommitting ourselves to Riviera Beach. We are coming home to the place that gave birth to St. Mark's in the 60's.***

Success hinges on relationships, communication, and a shared commitment. Let me give you an example. Last week we met with a group of city police officers. They wanted to hear more about our plans because ultimately, they want to support the Center. They've proven to have a genuine interest and they've come with great ideas. Foremost, to have a presence in the Center. Not just to enhance safety, but also to help us foster community trust.

HOPC is important to Riviera Beach, but also to St. Mark's because this work - returning home to our roots - can lead to deeper questions and realizations about the world around us.



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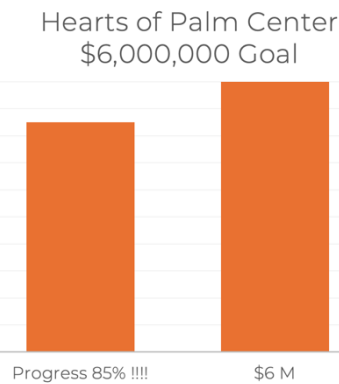
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A Path Out of Poverty

We are almost there!
85% of our campaign goal has been met through generous donations from inside the St. Mark's community.

Let's join together as a beacon of faith, hope and light within Riviera Beach.

Would you join these donors today and make a gift to HOPC?

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

You can also visit church.stmarkspb.org and click on "St. Mark's campaign information"

Hearts of Palm Center Film

