



Faith in Action Since 1986

# NEWSLETTER

## Moving Up Means Moving On for MOC's Kelley Family

About six years ago, new parents Calvin and Tijuana Kelley decided it was time to leave Detroit, Michigan. The environment there was tough, certainly not the place they wanted to raise their daughter. Shortly after enjoying a holiday with Tijuana's mother and brother who were living in Florida, they decided Tallahassee would become their next home.

"We were in a hurry up and get jobs mode," Tijuana shares, "When my Aunt told us about Maryland Oaks Crossing. She described it as nice and affordable so we joined the wait list." The Kelleys waited for two years and right when they felt they couldn't continue business with their current landlord, they found out a MOC unit opened up for them, now a family of four.

"What a blessing MOC is! I'm so glad we were able to join the community," continues Tijuana. Among many reasons the family is grateful include having a good school for Brooke and comfort [for Olivia]. Most important however was access to the Getting Ahead program. Calvin took the class first and it made such an impact on his life that he shared it with his wife.

"The program has changed me so I know it'll help change my

wife's," Calvin commented. Paired with the encouragement and accountability given to them by GNO/ECHO case managers Ke'scia Pride and Kiya, Getting Ahead helped Mr. and Mrs. Kelley to make and stick to a straightforward plan to overcome poverty financially, mentally and spiritually – together. They describe the meetings and curriculum as a safe place, and manageable as a young family.



Calvin Kelley & Daughter

"When our Chapman/Nole Med partners hosted education and holiday events and the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra offered lessons, I knew I'd see the Kelley's children in the mix having fun," said Malia Beerman, GNO Volunteer Coordinator. "I had no doubt their participation would translate into a short stay here. Sure enough, they are on to bigger and better things."

Calvin Kelley was not kidding around as he turned in his MOC keys to Daryl Jaquette on April 1, 2022, just a few months after welcoming his fourth child into the world! Through hard work

... continued on page 4

St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral's "Avodah Day" at MOC: volunteers build garden beds, picnic tables, educated residents on sustainable eating, planted flowers and prayed for the space and its residents.



Annual Prayer Breakfast Fundraiser  
September 17, 9am  
New Location: St. Johns Episcopal Church

### Become a Sponsor



[www.goodnewsoutreach.org](http://www.goodnewsoutreach.org) or 850 412-0016

### Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Kimberly A. Moore  
VP TCC Center for  
Workforce Innovation  
& TCC2WORK



# A Shout Out to Social Worker Interns

In March, GNO joined the nation in celebrating the extraordinary field of social work. Social workers are needed now more than ever before as families, businesses and communities across America continue navigating COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic inequality, global warming, and other crises. It's no surprise to us here at GNO that the profession is one of the fastest growing (expected to increase 12% this decade). The transformative work we do, the positive difference we hope to make, is impossible without our social work team!



## GNO Interns

Gloria Seabrooks - Thomas University  
Dylan McMahon - Florida State University  
Osha Barber - Thomas University  
Kaitlyn "Alexis" Leyva (photographed) - Florida State University

2022 marks the 3rd year Good News Outreach has provided students seeking a B.A. or MSW in social work valuable field experience across our multifaceted organization. Thank you to our social workers and interns, for your daily grit and compassion. Our workplace and our community are better because of you! Congratulations on earning your new degree.



**"Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it's a rebirth of spirit."** ~ Toni Sorenson

It was my great honor in January to begin a term as Chair of the Board of Directors for Good News Outreach (GNO). The Board and I would like to thank our outgoing president, Linda Barineau. Linda did a remarkable job as Chair, leading the agency through four unprecedented years. Thank you, Linda!

I am awed by what GNO has been able to accomplish since I joined the Board in 2018. Stakeholders and supporters have contributed so much to our success this past year and I want to share encouraging news from the work you've made possible in 2021 and to start 2022!

The most exciting news from the past year is GNO's acquisition of a multi-family property on Fourth Avenue in the Frenchtown Community. This property allows GNO to expand its services to elderly clients by providing them affordable stable housing. In addition, thanks to the financial support we received from individual donors, GNO is able to utilize the Fourth Avenue property to expand its re-entry program to serve women exiting the criminal justice system and rejoining our community.

Throughout 2021, your support helped GNO distribute over 9,500 bags of groceries through our food pantry, including in-home deliveries to homebound elderly persons in Leon County, helped nine previously incarcerated men successfully complete GNO's Mercy House program, and helped provide safe and supportive housing to the families with children at GNO's Maryland Oaks Crossing community.

While there is much to be thankful for in 2021, with your help we can meet our goal of continuing to improve the depth and quality of GNO's client services in 2022. Please mark your calendars for September 17th and plan to join us for our 21st Annual Prayer Breakfast to hear more about the difference you've made in our client's lives by supporting GNO.

Thank you for all you do,  
Kevin Forsthoefel  
Chair

## 21st Annual Prayer Breakfast Sponsorship Levels

Angel	-	\$5,000 +
Altruist	-	\$3,000
Advocate	-	\$1,000
Supporter	-	\$ 350
Friend	-	\$ 100

[www.goodnewsoutreach.org](http://www.goodnewsoutreach.org)  
(850) 412-0016 for information

## Volunteers Needed

Our Food Pantry relies on volunteers to fill bags, assist walk/drive-up clients, and deliver groceries to seniors every week. Individuals, couples, families and groups are all welcome! Email or call LaTonya Thompson ([latonyat@goodnewsoutreach.org](mailto:latonyat@goodnewsoutreach.org) or (850) 412-0016 Ext. 1) to schedule a day to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



February's Heart Healthy Event with the FSU Chapman School of Medicine at Maryland Oaks Crossing



Better Angels Valentine's Day Social



Girl Scout Troup 173 hosted a Soup-er Bowl soup collection, providing more than 70 meals to seniors.



St. Paul's UMC created personalized Easter baskets for each Maryland Oaks Crossing child!

## Entering a New Season

GNO proudly announces the addition of new team members in alphabetical order. All are committed to the organization's mission and the ministries that serve our community:

- Mr. David Dobbs - Director of Operations
- Mr. Fred Rouse – Director of Reentry Program
- Ms. LaTonya Thompson – Manager of Seniors, Food Pantry and Women's Reentry Programs
- Ms. Yolanda Triplett -- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator

We invite you to join us in welcoming these new members. They would love to hear from you! All our staff's contact information have been updated on our website.

### Happy 80th Birthday, Malinda Henderson!

When we inherited the 606 W. 4th Ave. campus from Lutheran Social Services, where Malinda had worked for 18 years, Malinda decided to stay with us. A source of wisdom, encouragement and peace, she is a tremendous gift to our Better Angels program, food delivery to seniors and more! (Malinda is pictured front-left of our Better Angels Valentine's Day Social photo above.)

### Way to Go!

Mercy House resident Dustin C., recently accepted a position at *Central Heating and Air*. Dustin has been enrolled in the Lively HVAC program and the company caught word of his success and hard work!



Free Books donated by Leon County Library and Decorated Food Bags for Seniors Provided by the Learning Pavilion

## GET INVOLVED

### Food Pantry

- Host a food drive.
- Distribute groceries.
- Bag pantry items.
- Deliver resources.

### Maryland Oaks

- Mentor children/parents.
- Lead arts & crafts projects.
- Facilitate science experiments.
- Become a reading coach.
- Beautify/maintain residential areas.

## CONTRIBUTE

- [Amazon Smile](#)
- [Recurring donations](#)
- [Naming opportunities, planned gifts & endowments](#)



50 Tupperware containers, donated by The Williams Family, blessed seniors in February.

*Kelly Family . . . continued from page 1*

and gratitude for resources GNO provided them when “in a crunch,” the family had earned enough to become new homebuyers who believe others, like relatives they have who also reside in MOC, are following in their footsteps.

“I couldn’t be prouder of them!” exclaimed Kescia Pride, MSW and case manager for GNO. “Calvin remained dedicated to his work and Tijuana is a beautiful mother. They have not only changed their narrative, but they have also increased their resource network. They sacrificed a lot, but never joy and ambition. I think those are key to their success.”

Likewise, Tijuana sang praises of Kescia and the GNO team, words of wisdom we believe should include donors and supporters like each of you reading this newsletter today:

“People saw things in us that we didn’t see in ourselves.”

Education opportunities like the Getting Ahead class, which will start its next season in the Fall, is made possible through gifts of time, talent and treasure. Your continuous support is changing lives!

## CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!  
Call (850)-412-0016 or email us at  
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