

# Our Awesome 2022

## 2021 in Review

Dale and Reba Pfeiffer served on Mondays and Tuesdays at the **Love All Food Pantry** at **Central Presbyterian Church**. This is where it all started!

During cold winter months, Dale and Reba launched **homeless outreaches** at Central Presbyterian Church with our dear friends, **Thomas and Martha Doran**. Dale prepared food and coffee. We handed our blankets, sleeping bags, tents, clothes, shoes, and miscellaneous other items for the homeless in Mobile.

**Connie Guggenbiller**, Love All Food Pantry, organized a meeting with saints she knew involved with the homeless ministry in Mobile. Reba and Dale met **Elizabeth Chiepalich**, Homeless in Mobile, **Ana Maria Ramirez Sawyer**, Colors or Love Ministry, and others.

We met **Searra Brown**, who was placed in an apartment. She had been staying at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter. Dale and Reba helped furnish her apartment with the help of neighbors in Mobile.

## January 2022

**Ben Brenner** jumped in and volunteered to help Dale with a PowerPoint presentation for our first homeless meeting at Central Presbyterian Church (1/23) **Lawrence L Battiste** was in attendance along with many other homeless advocates.

Dale created **Facebook: Driftwood Housing**, a social media page. (1/23). Many concerned citizens joined our page. Dale also began writing post for **Facebook: Homeless in Mobile**.

Dale and Reba learn about the **urban camping ordinance** proposed by Ben Reynolds, District 5 Councilman. The ordinance, first pitched in January, prohibits camping or leaving personal property – bedrolls, clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags – unattended within the city of Mobile. Violators would be subject to fines of \$100 to \$500 per violation or face up to six months in jail. Dale began attending City Council Meetings with Elizabeth and others to oppose the ordinance. We all wore yellow armbands. After much opposition, the ordinance was tabled March 8th. **This season strengthened and united our communities resolve to help the homeless in Mobile.**

Dale purchased an **HP laptop** for Driftwood Housing and loaded **Microsoft Office 365**.

**Kevin Lazarus** jumped in and received **micro house building plans** from Seattle WA (1/27)

**Hank Caddell**, an attorney, jumped in and sent Dale a copy of a USA study that was done on **15 Place**, Day Center for the Homeless Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study.

**February 2022**

Dale joins the **Alabama Association of Nonprofits** to learn more about nonprofit best practices.

Dale and Reba began building a **Board of Directors**: Donna Happach, President  
Reba Pfeiffer, Secretary, Kevin Lazarus, Treasurer

Dale volunteered as **Chief Executive Officer**.

With assistance from Caddell, Dale drafted the **Articles of Incorporation** for Driftwood Housing. The Board approved our **Articles of Incorporation**, our **Bylaws**, and our **Mission Statement**.

**Driftwood Housing Project, Inc.** (DHPI), doing business as **Driftwood Housing**, was incorporated **2/9/2022**.

Driftwood Housing's first membership meeting was at Central Presbyterian Church.  
**Dale and Reba share their vision for a campus-style community for the homeless in Mobile.**

**Typhani Gray**, Channel 5 News, jumped in and interviewed Dale after the meeting and published, **Local organization working to help the homeless.**

**COVID caused chaos.**

Dale met with **Courtney Rouse, Habitat for Humanity**, to discuss possible partnership opportunities.

After Dale met with the Mobile Planning Department, **Tim Maness** volunteered to draft the **Preliminary Plans for Driftwood Village**.

After a poll on Facebook selected a **shotgun house design** for micro and tiny houses, **Lauren Starr** jumped in and volunteered to create "**concept art**" for Driftwood Village. Dale had copies of Lauren's artwork printed and mounted on poster board for our first **LoDa Art Walk**.

**Kelly Finley**, News Director/Anchor/Host 92ZEW/WNSP/The SOUL/The CRAB, jumped in and **interviewed Dale about Driftwood Housing for The Community Round Table**.

Board approves the **DHPI Membership Application**.

**Paul and Lynn Faggard** jumped in and become the first dues paying members of Driftwood Housing.

Dale set up a Driftwood Housing **bank account** at PNC Bank.

Dale set up a **Dropbox** folder for sharing files.

Dale set up a Driftwood Housing **VENMO** account.

Dale set up a Driftwood Housing **email address**: [driftwoodhousingproject@gmail.com](mailto:driftwoodhousingproject@gmail.com)

## **March 2022**

**Christy George Mcilwain** jumped in and requested that everyone in Mobile join Driftwood Housing on Facebook!!!

Driftwood Housing conducted a **Strategic Planning Meeting** (3/13).

Kevin received **cost estimates to build a micro house** from Lowe's lumber, "My best estimate after looking at this is around or possibly under \$5,000 per house." (3/9)

Dale set up our first **GoFundMe Fundraising Campaign** to raise funds to build one micro house (under 120 square feet).

The City of Mobile opens the **James Seals Park & Community Center** to the homeless on Mobile during freezing weather. **Dale and Reba camp with the homeless.**

Donna and Dale share the Driftwood Housing mission at two **Rotary Club** meetings. Our mission was well received at both club meetings. Several of the attendees became dues paying members and **one ROTY member donated \$7,000.00 later in 2022.** Our **CPA, Ceresa Frenkel**, jumped in and agreed to help us because of these meetings. The President of the Springhill ROTY, **Bill Youngblood**, jumped in and made an offer of property to Driftwood Housing in three different locations. (Please pray for Bill as he recently had a heart attack.)

**William Carroll, District 2 City Councilman**, jumped in and spoke at our March DHPI Membership Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church.

**Chris Bullock**, Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, jumped in and suggested **Give Lively/Stripe**. Dale initiates process for certification. Later, DHPI was granted access. Dale plans to increase the use of this powerful donation processing service in 2023.

**Rachel Taylor** jumped in and volunteered to print a banner and flyers for the LoDa Art Walk.

March LoDa Art Walk (3/27): **Holly Hoffman Farmer** jumped in and invited us to set up outside of their office, **JPAR Coast and County Real Estate.**

## April 2022

Driftwood Housing partners with **United Way** and **Housing First** to assemble several homeless service providers under one roof! This was a milestone event for the City of Mobile. Their announcement, "THE UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST ALABAMA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HOUSING FIRST INC AND DRIFTWOOD HOUSING PROJECT" United Way

GoFundMe Campaign: **\$2,345 raised of \$7,000 goal!!!**

Renee Robison jumped in and launches a **Hump Day GoFundMe challenge** on our Facebook group page, Driftwood Housing. We raised over \$1,000.00 during this campaign to fund shelter #3.

In April the Board agreed to postpone the strategic planning process until more board directors were recruited.

In April the Board **initiated the 501(c)(3) process online** to become tax exempt.

DHPI considered leasing a facility located at **605 Texas Place, Mobile**, owned by the **Mobile Baptist Board**. **Laura Grandquest** introduced us to **Gerald Burch, Director**.

April DHPI Membership Meeting (4/24) Our guest speaker was **Lawrence Battiste, Director of Public Safety for the City of Mobile**. This event was conducted at 605 Texas Place. Afterwards, the deal fell through as Driftwood Housing was rejected by the neighborhood and had zoning issues.

## May 2022

Driftwood Housing created its **first newsletter**. It was delivered as a PDF via Google Mail.

### **Subject: Driftwood Housing Monthly News (5/25/2022)**

**Form i1023 Application Submitted on 5/10/2022:** We are pleased to announce that we completed the online form and submitted it to the IRS. So, we are officially 501(c)(3) pending. We followed up the submission with a letter requesting expedition in the process. We need this nonprofit status to receive funding to assist with building our village.

**605 Texas Place:** Sad to say, we have decided to continue looking for property for our campus-style community, "Driftwood Village." We met with stiff opposition from the community. Gerald Burch, representing the owners of the property, the Mobile Baptist Board, was very gracious. Gerald went out of his way to accommodate our interest in the property. I will be drafting a letter of gratitude within the next week. We are currently looking for property in the Dauphin Island Parkway vicinity.

**New Meeting Location:** We are pleased to announce that we have secured A space at the Ben May Main Library for our monthly Board of Directors’ meetings (6/14) and monthly DHPI membership meetings (6/28). This is a free venue, but also a “day center” for the homeless in Mobile. When I submitted my application for the meeting space at 9:00 am when they open, approximately two dozen homeless citizens were waiting at the door. We would like to invite the homeless in Mobile to attend our monthly meetings at the library.

**United Way Forum for the Homeless:** Several of us attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> forum. It’s wonderful to witness all the homeless in Mobile service organizations getting together under one roof to share about the “holes” in service. United Way is developing a map of where each agency is located. Most services are concentrated in the downtown Mobile area. There is some interest among participants to spread out services. (If we secure property in the Dauphin Island Parkway vicinity, we will help to expand services.) We discussed developing a software application to network services. Derek Boulware, Executive Director, Housing First recommended that we all use and share information on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS is an information technology system used nationwide to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Derek added that HMIS would accommodate the objectives of participants. Our Board agrees with Derek. Why “reinvent the wheel?” United Way sent out a survey to collect information from the participants. They are sending out another survey to fill various “to be decided” committees.

**Dumas Wesley Community Center’s Transitional Housing Program, Sybil H. Smith Family Village, (SSFV):** Reba and I met with Sarah Laurio, Associate Executive Director, Dumas Wesley Community Center and Director, Sybil H. Smith Family Village.

According to their public website, the Sybil H. Smith Family Village “was founded in 1999 to fill a void in housing services for women and families experiencing homelessness. To date, the program has served 2,350 individuals from Southwest and Central Alabama, coastal Mississippi, and North Florida. In 2021, Sybil Smith Family Village had an 87% success rate among residents moving into permanent housing-24% higher than the national average, according to HUD statistics.

SSFV seeks to help homeless single women and homeless women with children establish and maintain self-sufficiency. The program combines transitional housing for up to 24 months and is able to accommodate up to 17 families and up to 61 individuals.”

[\(https://www.dumaswesley.org/transitional-housing/\)](https://www.dumaswesley.org/transitional-housing/)

We spent about an hour with Sarah. Since the village is a “transitional housing” community, like what we hope to build, we hoped to get a lot of our questions answered. Sarah was accommodating, answered all our questions, and provided a tour of their apartment-style shelters. Dumas Wesley will be providing administration for the new Baldwin County transitional housing community.

**Community First, Austin, Texas:** Leo Denton and Pat Hall-Denton jumped in and visited the Community First village in Austin, TX, on behalf of DHPI. They returned with great excitement

about what they learned and observed. Leo and Pat will be debriefing with us soon, perhaps at our next monthly membership meeting.

According to their public website, Community First Village “is a 51-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness. A development of Mobile Loaves & Fishes (not to be confused with Mobile, AL), this transformative residential program exists to love and serve our neighbors who have been living on the streets, while also empowering the surrounding community into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.” (<https://mlf.org/community-first/>)

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Hump Day Campaign:** Every Wednesday, we encourage everyone to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to collect donations to build our future 3<sup>rd</sup> shelter (funds for 2 shelters have already been collected). Our goal is \$7,000.00, the estimated cost for each pod. Last week, the GoFundMe organization donated \$722.00 to our cause!!! Their generous donation put us over the halfway mark.

**LoDa Art Walk:** Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, in front of Bayside Church and JPAR Gulf Coast real estate office, across from Cathedral Square.

**DHPI Monthly Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library.

## **June 2022**

### **Subject: Driftwood Housing Monthly News (6/22/2022)**

**Tax Exempt Status Received:** In case you missed our announcement earlier this month, we received our nonprofit status letter from the Internal Revenue Service. All donations to date are tax deductible, effective 2/9/2022, the date that we incorporated. Thanks to all of you, we have made great progress in four months. Our nonprofit status will provide an opportunity to request funding for building Driftwood Village, operational expenses, and various wraparound services.

**Ben May Main Library:** We conducted our first Board of Directors’ meeting at the library on June 14<sup>th</sup> (second Tuesday of each month). A few days after the BOD meeting, Dale met with Christopher Cox, Manager, Circulation Services, to discuss possible DHPI activities at the library. Since DHPI has an application on file for room use, Chris told Dale that DHPI just needs to call Zoe Jackson to schedule future room use. We plan to utilize library rooms to avoid room rental expenses elsewhere. Please plan to attend our monthly membership meeting at the library (details below). Dale also asked Christ about DHPI providing meals for the homeless in Mobile in the back parking lot. Chris told Dale that a few local churches periodically provide meals, so, use of the parking lot is available. Dale also discussed making the library a bus stop in the future. Chris said that other organizations bus the homeless to the library, so, again, this would be permitted. As we mentioned in last month’s newsletter, the library is a day center, a cooling/warming center, for the homeless in Mobile. We want to make our presence known to the community at this public facility.

**DHPI “Magic Bus”:** At the June BOD meeting, we discussed ways that we might provide services to the homeless in Mobile while we wait for funding for building Driftwood Village. At the June BOD meeting, Dale suggested that we launch a daily bus service to shuttle the homeless in Mobile from service to service. Providing bus transportation is something that we plan to do once we secure property for Driftwood Village. So, the Board thought that this would be a great service to provide now. After the board meeting, Dale discussed this matter with Stacey Steiner, Director of Family Promise, and Anna Maria Sawyer, Director of Colors of Love. Both ministries own buses and currently transport the homeless in Mobile to local services. We are discussing ways our charitable organizations might work together. Dale’s vision is to establish daily bus routes to transport the homeless to various services in Mobile: Meals, hygiene facilities, medical and mental health facilities, pharmacies, shelters, Housing First, attorneys, and so on. We need volunteers!

**DHPI Ben May Library Breakfast:** We are planning to begin serving breakfast to the homeless in Mobile on Monday mornings at the library at 8:00 am beginning Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Diane Keith suggested that we serve cereal with milk. She mentioned that in the future we could prepare bag lunches to hand out. Dale discussed the outreach with Central Presbyterian Food Bank on 6/21. Central provides food directly to dozens of homeless walk-ins and to several homeless services in Mobile. DHPI will be added to their growing list. Central agreed to provide the cereal. We will supply milk. Easy! We need volunteers!

**DHPI Engineering and Architecture:** At our June BOD meeting, Kevan Lazarus, Treasurer, suggested that we assemble our team of engineers and architects to begin designing the structures that will be built on our future property. Dale is currently scheduling the meeting with those individuals who volunteered to help us with Driftwood Village engineering and architecture.

**DHPI Business Office:** We are looking at various locations in Mobile to establish a business office where we will have a physical address and can set up shop. Dale will secure a DHPI phone number in July, currently the DHPI phone number is Dale’s mobile phone. The Board decided to use Google Voice as our telephony service. We will set up our laptop computer in the space and use the facility for storage. Dale will be meeting with Ceresa M. Frenkel PC, our CPA, to discuss accounting nonprofit best practices, QuickBooks Online (QBO), and other judiciary matters. (During his career as an IT consultant, Dale was a Certified Microsoft Financial Application Specialist and a financial application developer for Intuit QuickBooks. Dale successfully developed software and Software as a Service to integrate with versions of QuickBooks Desktop and QBO.)

**City of Mobile City Council:** MOBILE, Ala. (WALA) - The Mobile City Council approved a plan to pay people experiencing homelessness to pick up litter in the city.

The contract is with Ransom Ministries, a group that has been assisting homeless individuals in the community for over a decade.

Ransom will recruit, train, and transport people looking for work to different areas of the city to clean litter from roadsides. The city will determine the areas needing attention and will collect the bagged litter.

According to the mayor's office, 83% of participants in previous Ransom Ministries job programs have been able to get employed and stay employed for at least a year.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Hump Day Campaign:** Every Wednesday, we encourage everyone to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to collect donations to build our future 3<sup>rd</sup> shelter (funds for 2 shelters have already been collected). Our goal is \$7,000.00, the estimated cost for each pod. In May, the GoFundMe organization donated \$722.00 to our cause!!! Their generous donation put us over the halfway mark.

**LoDa Art Walk:** Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, in front of Bayside Church and JPAR Gulf Coast real estate office, across from Cathedral Square.

**DHPI Monthly Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library.

### **July 2022**

### **Subject: Driftwood Housing Monthly News (7/14/2022)**

#### **DHPI Events:**

**Hump Day Campaign:** Every Wednesday, we encourage everyone to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to collect donations to build our future 3<sup>rd</sup> shelter (funds for 2 shelters have already been collected). Our goal is \$7,000.00, the estimated cost for each cabin.

**LoDa Art Walk:** Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, in front of Bayside Church and JPAR Gulf Coast real estate office, across from Cathedral Square.

**DHPI Monthly Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library.

Leo Denton and Pat Hall recently visited Community First! Village, a tiny house community in Austin TX, on behalf of Driftwood Housing. They will be sharing what they learned in Austin and field questions.

#### **DHPI Board Restructuring:**

On Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, Donna Happach, our Board Chair, submitted her letter of resignation. Then, on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kevin Lazarus, our Board Treasurer, submitted his letter of resignation. Both letters are on file and available for review by appointment.

Immediately upon receipt of the resignation letters, Dale contacted legal counsel. Reba Smith, Board Secretary and co-founder, and Dale, Executive Director (CEO) and co-founder, were completely blind-sided by the letters.

After a couple lengthy discussions with legal counsel, we were advised to restructure our Board. Our attorney suggested that we eliminate the CEO office until a future time. His opinion was that the tension between the Board Chair and CEO was at the root of the matter. This structure also



caused undo ambiguity on fiduciary matters. He said that as a co-founder of Driftwood Housing Project, Inc., Dale should have been Chairman of the Board.

We reviewed our Bylaws and sought additional counsel from the Alabama Association of Nonprofits. In DHPI Bylaws, Article IV, Section 8, we are instructed that the Board appoints officers who resign without completing their terms of office (2 years). Both Donna and Kevin served the Board for less than 6 months.

Meanwhile, Reba continued conversations with Donna and Kevin. She appealed to them to return to the Board. She suggested that we all get together and discuss the issues that causes the resignations. They made final their intention to resign, and we accepted their resignation with a great sense of loss.

Reba and I agreed with the legal counsel. So, on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Dale submitted his letter of resignation as CEO. At this point, Reba was the sole survivor of the Board.

At our July Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Ben May Main Library, Reba conducted the meeting. After approving the June minutes and July agenda, all the resignations were accepted by the Board. Reba appointed Dale Pfeiffer as President.

As of today, our Board has 2 members. We are hoping to appoint a Treasurer as soon as possible. After we recruit our Treasurer, we will review the letters or resignation together to learn from the challenging situation.

Again, Reba and I can meet privately with concerned members to discuss the letters of resignation.

**DHPI Engineering and Architecture:** Before and after being instated as President of the Board, Dale met with Chuck Green, a Civil Engineer, and active volunteer. During the interview, Dale learned that Chuck is very knowledgeable of “Build Mobile” process and has the skills to build Driftwood Village. Dale asked Chuck to be on the Board to oversee the Engineering and Architecture Committee. Chuck jumped in and accepted the offer. We hope to bring Chuck on the Board in August.

**DHPI Fundraising:** Before and after being instated as President of the Board, Dale met with Ronald Hunt, a multi-talented grant writer. Dale asked Ronald to join the Board to oversee grant writing efforts to raise the needed funds to build Driftwood Village. Ronald jumped in and accepted the offer. We hope to bring Ronald on the Board in August.

**DHPI Back Office:** Dale successfully completed the paperwork to join TechSoup, a nonprofit service organization that provide IT consulting services and products at a discount to nonprofit organizations. We will be receiving a downloadable copy of QuickBooks Premier Software when available in the Fall of 2022. Dale is also currently setting up Google Workplace so that we can receive Google Voice telephony system for FREE! Google is being setup to use driftwoodhousingproject.org (GoDaddy.com) as a mail service provider. Dale will be replacing [driftwoodhousingproject@gmail.com](mailto:driftwoodhousingproject@gmail.com) with [DalePfeiffer@driftwoodhousingproject.org](mailto:DalePfeiffer@driftwoodhousingproject.org). Each

member of the Board will have the option to add a DHPI email address and phone number. In the future, Dale will add Microsoft Office through TechSoup.

**DHPI and the City of Mobile:** On 7/14/2022 Dale attended the Homeless City Framework Session with homeless service providers. Speakers included Mayor Stimson, Anitra Henderson, and Katelynn Machado. These monthly sessions will replace the United Way homeless forums. I will serve the City of Mobile on the “prevention” committee which will, among other tasks, interface with the Chamber of Commerce. This will be good for our mission.

Also, the City of Mobile approved zoning code changes that will most likely help us when building Driftwood Village.

## **August 2022**

### **Driftwood Housing Monthly News (8/26/2022)**

**GoFundMe Hump Day Campaign:** Every Wednesday, we encourage everyone to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to collect donations to build a micro house. Our goal is \$7,000.00, the estimated supplies cost for each micro house with add-ons. As of 8/26/2022, we have garnered \$6,512.00 towards our goal. Thanks to everyone who donated!

**LoDa Art Walk:** Our next LoDa Art Walk will be on Friday, September 9th, 6:00 pm. Our booth has not yet been assigned. In August, during the art walk, we raised over \$1,000.00 in large part due to Channel 15 News coverage by Emily Pounds. Our booth location provided a great space and opportunity to have conversations with visitors without loud music playing to distract inquirers.

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22nd, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Leo Denton and Pat Hall did a fantastic job of sharing about Community First! Village in Austin, TX! They converted their PowerPoint presentation to a PDF and shared it on our Driftwood Housing group page on Facebook. Those of us who attended the meeting were truly inspired by the work that concerned and committed Austin citizens accomplished over the past 20 years to house the homeless in Texas in a family-like village of empathy and compassion. Thanks, Leo and Pat!

On August 23rd, Dale shared about an exciting fundraising program: Micro House Building Program. This new program will help Mobilians fundraise and build micro houses for Driftwood Village while we are looking for the perfect piece of land. Details about this program can be found on our website, [www.driftwoodhousing.com](http://www.driftwoodhousing.com). Our goal is to officially launch this program 4th quarter, 2022.

If you haven't attended a monthly membership meeting, please make plans right now to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library. We always have great conversations around our mission to house the homeless in Mobile.

**Board of Directors:** In August the Board installed Chuck Greer, a Civil Engineer, as the Director of our newly established Engineering and Architecture Committee. Chuck and his team will build Driftwood Village.

Dale R. Pfeiffer, President, and Co-founder

Reba Pfeiffer, Secretary, and Co-founder

Chuck Greer, Director of Engineering & Architecture Committee

We are hoping to install Linda Pearce as Board Treasurer in September. Linda come to us with banking experience and notified us about her interest in volunteering as Board Treasurer.

**Engineering and Architecture Committee:** Our next committee meeting will be on Thursday, September 15th. Chuck Greer, Paul and Lynn Faggard, and Dale and Reba Pfeiffer attended the August meeting. We had great discussions centered around finding property and building Driftwood Village. Dale provided detailed plans for building a micro house to the committee members.

**Event Committee:** We are recruiting volunteers to serve on this important committee. Committee members will plan all Driftwood Housing fund raising events. Currently, the LoDa Art Walk is our only regular monthly fundraising event. Plans are underway for an annual fundraising event, like Art Soup that helps fund the Love All Food Pantry (please purchase tickets). Dale spoke with Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream about helping Driftwood Housing with an annual ice cream fundraiser in September or October of 2023. We have begun the process of doing this same event in 2024, partnering with the City of Mobile Parks and Recreation. We would like to have smaller periodic fundraising event throughout the year. If you are interested in helping us with event planning and execution, please let us know.

**Community Committee:** We are recruiting volunteers to serve on this important committee. This committee will help write our community policies and procedures for the future tenants of Driftwood Village, as well as communicate and build community with the neighborhood near Driftwood Village and other Mobilians. At our last membership meeting, we received commitments from Cynthia Coleman, Sabrina Mass, Leo Denton, and Pat Hall. These are all very experienced and talented volunteers jumped in. If you are interested in helping us with building community, please let us know.

**Media & Marketing Committee:** We are recruiting volunteers to serve on this important committee. This committee will oversee technology in general, our website, social media, press releases, marketing materials, messaging, and so on. If you are interested in helping us with media and marketing, please let us know.

Concerning media and marketing, we are pleased to announce that our website, [www.driftwoodhousing.com](http://www.driftwoodhousing.com), was published earlier this month. With the help of a few marketing consultants, Dale is currently updating the pages with information about who we are and what we do. We have already benefitted from having a public facing web presence.

**Back Office Update:** On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Dale will follow up with Tech Soup about downloading free **QuickBooks Premier** financial application software. Earlier in 2022, Tech Soup informed us that the software from Intuit would be available in the Fall. Our C.P.A. was notified about the delay and assured us that we would have time to update QuickBooks with all the financial transactions before tax season.

We are also waiting on **Give Lively** to authorize Driftwood Housing to use their online fundraising software. We completed the application process over a week ago. If we don't hear from them soon, we'll follow up with them on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are actively building our email list with **Google Contacts** and signed up with **Mail Chimp** for our monthly newsletter.

We also completed the process to receive a FREE **Google Voice** phone number: **(251) 219-8233**.

**Driftwood Housing and the City of Mobile:** Dale attends Mobile City Council meetings every other week. He is planning to address the council soon to share our progress and request help with property and funding. Elizabeth Chiepalich, spearhead of Homeless in Mobile, asked if she could address the council prior to Dale's address to chronicle the crisis of homelessness in Mobile.

Elizabeth also worked with the City of Mobile to clean up a homeless camp in Tillman's Corner during the week of August 22nd. Members of Driftwood Housing participated in the cleanup. Elizabeth recruited the homeless to help with the cleanup.



On her Homeless in Mobile Facebook group page, Elizabeth summarize her thoughts under the heading "Results of Tillman's Corner Camp Cleanup" writing, "Approximately 30 homeless people showed up and worked the three-day n project.

We personally connected with four "stuck" homeless citizens who have no ID and no way to get an ID. Our group will get their ID so they can get work and access social services.

We personally connected with 3 guys who are addicted. All these guys have been through rehab already. Some studies show that it generally is the third rehab before an addict becomes drug-free long-term. They all want to go back into rehab. I'm meeting with them next week to help them do that.

One of the guys in the camp is debilitated by mental illness. We are working with family members to try and get him committed for treatment.

We are facilitating a meeting Wednesday, August 31st at 2 PM at Ruby Tuesdays in Tillman's corner for homeless advocates and people who want to help. We need to organize to ease the suffering of these Homeless citizens and the Tillman's Corner community."

**Driftwood Carriage House Update:** Sadly, our tenant, Vickie, decided to go back to living outside. Please pray for her! This opened a door to house another needy person. So, we asked Fredrick to be our new tenant.

Elizabeth posted the following on Homeless in Mobile. "Victory! Frankie/Frederick came to me in April 2020. He was severely diabetic, hypertensive, intellectually disabled and had a catheter that was long overdue to be removed. He is incapable of managing his insulin and medications. After six years of being homeless on the streets of Mobile and exhausting all efforts to get housing for him through Housing First and Alta Pointe, Jesus moved! God's timing is always perfect. Dale and Reba Pfeiffer of Driftwood Housing, (A developing tiny house village for the homeless) had their carriage house apartment open. They have graciously taken in Frederick and will be partnering with me to care for him. This is a great day!"



This is the reason we do what we are doing!

## September 2022

**GoFundMe Hump Day Campaign:** Every Wednesday, we encourage everyone to contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to collect donations to build a micro house. Our goal is \$7,000.00, the estimated supplies cost for each micro house with add-ons. As of 9/30/2022, we have garnered \$295.00 towards our goal. Thanks to everyone who donated!

We don't have to wait until

Wednesday! <https://gofund.me/5795b93d> <https://gofund.me/5795b93d> <https://gofund.me/5795b93d> <https://gofund.me/5795b93d>

**LoDa Art Walk:** Our next LoDa Art Walk will be on Friday, October 14th, 6:00 pm. Our

booth has not yet been assigned. We had a lot of traffic in September. **Welcome to all our new LoDa Art Walk subscribers!**

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25th, 6:00 pm, at Ben May Main Library. Due to a special Halloween event, we will be meeting in the Story Room on the main floor.

In September, we divided the participants into 4 round-table discussion groups: Engineering, Community, Media & Marketing, and Fundraising Events.

If you haven't attended a monthly membership meeting, please make plans right now to attend our next meeting. We always have great conversations around our mission to house the homeless in Mobile.

**Board of Directors:** The Board installed Linda Pearce as Board Treasurer. The Board also installed Renee Robinson as the Director of Media & Marketing. Renee and her team will help us draw attention to Driftwood Housing and our mission to house the homeless in Mobile.

The Board passed a bylaw change that grants membership for those who donated \$30 or more AND completes a membership application.

Dale R. Pfeiffer, President, and Co-founder  
Reba Pfeiffer, Secretary, and Co-founder  
Linda Pearce, Treasurer  
Chuck Greer, Director of Engineering Committee  
Renee Robinson, Director of Media & Marketing

**Engineering Committee:** Our next committee meeting will be on Thursday, October 20th.

Dale and Chuck made a well-received presentation at the Sunrise Rotary Club. Reba was also present. This was the second time that Driftwood Housing was invited to speak at their Wednesday morning breakfast. We introduced our Micro House Building Program to the club members. (Details about this program are posted on our website.)

**Fundraising Event Committee:** We are recruiting volunteers to serve on this important committee. Committee members will plan all Driftwood Housing fund raising events. Currently, the LoDa Art Walk is our only regular monthly fundraising event.

We are now receiving recurring contributions! If you are interested in making recurring, monthly contributions, visit our website.

**Community Committee:** We are seeking volunteers to serve on this important committee. This committee will help write our community policies and procedures for the future tenants of Driftwood Village, as well as communicate and to build community with the neighborhood near Driftwood Village and with other Mobilians.

During the monthly meeting, this group began discussions about Mobile demographics and various homeless categories: Married couples; married couples with children; veterans; single women and men; and those individuals with disabilities.

**Media & Marketing Committee:** We are requesting volunteers to serve on this important committee. This committee will oversee marketing technologies, our public facing website, social media, press releases, marketing materials, messaging, and so on. If you are interested in helping us with media and marketing, please let us know.

During the monthly meeting, this group began discussions about media coverage during National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is celebrated each year, one week before Thanksgiving. It takes place from November 12 to 20 this year.

**Back Office Update:** In September, Dale added over 50 contacts from past events to Google Contacts.

Dale and Reba registered for the Community First! Village Symposium. This is a 3-day immersion and training event in Austin, TX. We hope to gain a better understanding of developing a strong and healthy community. A video of the Community First! Village was posted at the bottom of the Home page on [www.driftwoodhousing.com](http://www.driftwoodhousing.com). Please check it out!



We are still waiting on the release of QuickBooks Premier through Tech Soup.

**Driftwood Housing and the City of Mobile:** In September, Dale worked on a business plan for Driftwood Village. The business plan will be presented to Mobile City Council sometime after Dale and Reba return from Community First! Village.

**Providence Carriage House:** In late August, Frederick, a formerly homeless man, settled into his home at the Providence Carriage House. He paid his rent of \$500.00 on September 1st. To supplement his food supply. Frederick has an EBT card and can purchase food. Dale and Reba pick up additional food at the Love All Food Pantry. Frederick had been drifting for several years. Today, thanks to Elizabeth Chiepalich and a studio apartment made available to Driftwood Housing, Frederick is secure and poised for evaluation to plan for improvements for his care.

**Tillman's Corner Feast (9/1/2022):** The Love All Food Pantry donated food for the homeless to Driftwood Housing. So, we thought that we would bless our Tillman's Corner neighbors living outside with a feast. Diane Keith helped to organize the outreach. Our main protein was chicken fingers and nuggets from Chick fil a. From produce collected from the food bank, Dale prepared broccoli slaw, candied carrots, and coleslaw. Central Presbyterian Church donated food left-over from an event: Collard greens, macaroni and cheese, cornbread, biscuits, and more chicken fingers. Diane prepared green beans and scalloped potatoes. Dale collected three large round cakes from the food pantry for dessert. Members of Facebook groups Homeless in Mobile and Driftwood Housing spread the word about the feast in Tillman's Corner and contributed clothing, hygiene items, and other necessities.





And lastly, we told our Driftwood Housing story to Lynn Oldshue at Soul Caffeine in Midtown for a future post in Lynn's Facebook page, Our Southern Soul.

### **October 2022**

October was an exceptional month in the life of Driftwood Housing. We received favorable news coverage on all the major news channels. We met Eric Overstreet and John Kozinski. A micro house was funded. And many signed up for our monthly newsletter.

On 10/1 Dale set up a display at the North Mobile County Food Park in Prichard, AL. We made some new friends at the market. (pictures)

On 10/2 The Board of Directors met at the Pfeiffers' home in Mobile. All were present: Dale Pfeiffer, President, Reba Pfeiffer, Secretary, Linda Pearce, Treasurer, Chuck Greer, Engineering, and Renee Robinson, Media & Marketing. The Board reviewed and approved the Treasurer's

Report. The Board reviewed a draft copy of our new Driftwood Housing trifold flyer. The Board also discussed potential village properties on the table, the September Monthly Membership Meeting, and the Micro House Building Program.

On 10/3 Driftwood Housing received a check for \$7,000.00 to fund the Micro House Building Program. The generous donor requested that Micah 8:6 be inscribed on the micro house: “He has told you, O man, what is good. and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

On 10/4 Dale attended the Mobile City Council Meeting. Afterwards, Dale reached out to John Eads, The Light of the Village, to discuss how our two charitable organizations might work together to house the homeless while training teenagers in construction skills. Dale also received a phone call from Cameron Baker, Eco Solutions, an organization that obtains funding for building container houses for homeless villages.

On 10/5 Every Wednesday the Hump Day Fundraising Campaign reminds Facebook group members that funding is always needed to accomplish the mission of Driftwood Housing. On Wednesday we highlight various ways that members can give. Remember, everyone is a fundraiser!

On 10/6 Channel 15 News covered a story about Eric Overstreet raising funds to build micro houses for Driftwood Housing while living unsheltered at a camp near the intersection of Government Street and I-65. Eric took fundraising to house the homeless in Mobile very seriously determined to live unsheltered for 90 days. Eric’s goal is to raise \$20 k for Driftwood Housing.

On 10/12 Eric Overstreet was visited in the encampment by John Kozinski, a contractor who mentioned that he owned a warehouse in Mobile. John shared that he had a strong desire to use the building for the homeless. Eric’s plan was to live with the homeless for 90 days to serve the needs of the homeless in Mobile.

On 10/7 Dale and Reba visited the camp where Eric was sleeping. Eric was not around but we met a young homeless gentleman named Elden who informed us about the history of the camp. Following up on the news broadcast, Dale contacted the City to coordinate camp clean up and provide volunteers as we did in Tillman’s Corner the previous month. The City told us that ALDOT owned the property where the camp was located and was scheduled to do cleanup. (pictures)

Dale asked some questions about the City/Ransom Ministries partnership. Their response was:

“The City of Mobile reviewed and approved a proposal from Ransom Ministries to do the cleanup work for the City of Mobile. They have a very specific “Road to Work” program that is unique in the area because Ransom Ministries recruits workers specifically from Waterfront Rescue Mission, conducts job training, provides a job, pays taxes on their employees, and then works with the employees to move them into permanent jobs. They call it the A, B, Cs – Any Job, Better Job, Career as a development plan. Ransom Ministries pays their employees through

a payroll system and essentially is set up as a temporary worker program that also works with employers to get them into permanent jobs.”

What a great idea! Driftwood Housing will have a proposal in hand, soon!

On 10/14 Driftwood Housing set up for the LoDa Art Walk. We have a lot of traffic and collected the names and email addresses for about 15 concerned Mobilians.

On 10/18-10/21 the weather forecast for the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> was grim for our homeless population with morning temperatures in the 30's. Eric, John, and Dale met as planned at the warehouse and agreed to turn John's warehouse into an emergency shelter during the inclement weather. Early on Eric and Dale discovered that the facility had neither electricity nor water. With assistance from Chuck Greer, Dale was able to order a portable potty for the impromptu event. The homeless arrived and were served by various care providers: Franklin Health and AltaPointe Health. The Love All Food Bank provided most of the food that was prepared for breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the event. Driftwood Housing provided omelets to order one morning and covered the cost of the portable potty. Housing First brought coffee and donuts one morning. Many Homeless in Mobile members provided blankets, flashlights, food, blessing bags, firewood, and many other items. Ali Rideout cut hair. And one man, who owned a roofing company stopped by and refilled all our propane tanks. The homeless stepped up to sweep and organize the items stored in the warehouse. They served in many other ways. Thanks to all those who volunteered and served! (pictures)

The following week, Eric, John, and Dale announced a reunion dinner for the homeless before the DHPI Monthly Membership Meeting.

On 10/24 The DHPI Monthly Membership Meeting was very well attended. We have approximately 50 guests for dinner who stayed on afterwards for the meeting. Eric, John, and Dale shared during the meeting.

The following week, Eric suggested that we do a Thanksgiving Day dinner for the homeless in Mobile at John's warehouse.

On 10/29 Dale contacted Chuck Greer to schedule a committee meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at John's warehouse to continue the discussion about how we might utilize the facility.

10/30 Total Donations for the month of October: \$ 11,451.36

10/31 Community First! Village, here we come! Dale and Reba are heading to Austin, TX for several days to attend Mobile Loaves and Fishes' Symposium and immerse themselves in one of the most successful villages in the world. Dale and Reba will be staying on campus in a micro house. They plan to upload photos and videos to Driftwood Housing on Facebook during their visit.

November Calendar

**Eric Overstreet Fundraiser** Nov - Dec

**LoDa Art Walk** 11/11 5:00 pm

**Yard Sale Flyer** 11&12<sup>th</sup> (Flyer)

**Thanksgiving Day Feast** (11/24 2:30 pm) A bunch of us are planning to put together a Thanksgiving Day feast for the homeless in Mobile at John's warehouse next month. If you're going to join us, what will you bring? The turkeys will be supplied and deep fried!

**No monthly membership meeting in November or December**

## **November 2022**

11/1-11/3 Dale Pfeiffer, Driftwood Housing Co-founder and President, and Reba Pfeiffer, Co-founder, and Secretary, attended the Symposium for Goodness Sakes, sponsored by Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) at Community First! Village in Austin, Texas. This was a 3-day symposium jam packed learning experience which included tours, lectures, meals, and so much more. Since Reba was recovering from foot surgery, MLF put us on a golf cart for the tour. On the tour, we walked through a couple of micro and tiny house models including their recently built computer-generated tiny house. We toured their hydroponic greenhouse and the tilapia farm, also within the greenhouse. We toured their well-equipped arts and craft facility where "neighbors" create sellable creations. The lectures were top notch. We learned a lot about how MLF started and built their village which now houses 400 formerly chronically displaced individuals. One of the lectures was given by Alan Graham, the Founder of MLF. Mr. Graham signed my copy of his book, *Welcome Homeless – One Man's Journey of Discovering the Meaning of Home*. We shared meals with attendees representing ten states. The Gulf Coast reps included Florida, Mississippi, and of course, Alabama. We are forming a Gulf Coast Alliance. We met and conversed with several of the neighborhood residents. One of the neighbors had lived in Mobile many years earlier and remembered 15 Place. The gentleman had nothing but good things to say about the day center. I could go on and on about the takeaways from the symposium.

11/1 Bill Youngblood, President of the Springhill Rotary Club, emailed the Board land plots of a 9-acre property in Semmes that is under consideration for our purposes. Mr. Youngblood mentioned that he will schedule a date/time to go visit the property, but later in November, he informed us that he had some personal property challenges that he had to deal with immediately. Hopefully, the Board will visit the property before the end of the year.

11/4 On the heels of Dale and Reba's return from Community First! Village, they set up at the 2nd Annual Sip & Shop Vendor Extravaganza, sponsored by Hand Up Charities. Cynthia Coleman, Executive Director, is a dues paying member for Driftwood Housing and volunteers on the Board's Community Committee. We made more friends at this event. We are blessed that Cynthia is on our team!

11/7 Some folks are energized in Chickasaw!

- Dale will be meeting with Brian Coops, the Chickasaw High School shop teacher, about a partnership with Driftwood Housing. Brian contacted me, writing, "A friend told me about you all. I teach construction at Chickasaw High School and wanted to reach out to you all to find out more about you and a possible partnership." The friend that Brian mentioned is Steve Forward of Forward Insulation. Steve was mentioned in our October newsletter. Steve is the one who offered to insulate some micro houses for DHPI. Well, HHPI has a great opportunity to partner with Chickasaw High School. Brian is planning his Fall, 2023 syllabus for his construction class. As I understand it, Brian's shop class recently helped build a container house (Steve did the insulation). Dale will be meeting with Brian soon to discuss the partnership. Hopefully, we will have secured property for our first campus-style community and will be ready by Fall, 2023 to build some homes. What a wonderful opportunity!

- Also, a pastor who lives in Chickasaw recently contacted Dale and wants to get together with Driftwood Housing to discuss a food truck partnership like they do at Community First! Village in Austin, TX! You see, Mobile Loaves & Fishes started out as a food truck ministry. Today, MLF drops food for the displaced at 1,000 locations. Imagine that! Dale will be meeting with the pastor, soon.

11/9 At the November DHPI BOD meeting, we agreed to begin paying a \$10.00 monthly fee to GoDaddy.com to expand on our public website features, namely, to allow file uploads/download.

11/11 LoDa Art Walk/Art Soup. We made many more new friends. Our last event of the 2022 calendar year will be at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Art Walk. We hope to be spreading our message at the Art Walk in 2023.

11/11-11:12 Marlo Cavette, and husband, Chris, along with support from Allison Dearmon raised nearly \$1,000.00 at their Saraland Yard Sale to benefit Driftwood! Be sure to thank Marlo, Chris, and Allison when you see them. [photo]

11/12-14 An emergency shelter was hosted by First Baptist Church of Chickasaw! Many of our members participated in this hospitable event. The Board thanks First Baptist for housing our friends and everyone who volunteered!

11/15 Dale upgraded our website and uploaded several files, including the DHPI Membership Applications.

11/16- 11/17 Dale and Reba were the guest speakers at the Crichton Optimist Club Luncheon. We were well received and at the same meeting, we were invited to attend the Midtown Optimist Club luncheon on the following day. We made several friends, and in the future, will be scheduled to share our local mission with the Midtown Optimist Club.

11/17 The Board of Loaves and Fish voted to draft a recommendation letter for Driftwood Housing funding. Vicki Bowers, Secretary, wrote, "At the last Board meeting Loaves & Fish members voted to provide Driftwood Housing a Letter of Recommendation. Please email me at

maejoy38@gmail.com to discuss what the letter should contain.” Loves and Fish operated 15 Place. Today, their Board oversees the Love All Food Pantry at Central Presbyterian Church on Dauphin Street. Dale replied promptly. We should receive our first recommendation letter soon. Dale will use this letter as a template to solicit more referral letters from local organizations for his ongoing grant writing efforts.

11/23 Excitement in Saraland! Dale met with Madison Bertrand, daughter of active members, Brad and Shelina Bertrand. Madison is a senior at Saraland High School. She inquired with our Board about helping with drafting plans for Driftwood Village to satisfy her intern hours requirement. Dale met with Madison at Soul Caffeine in Midtown. After showing her the preliminary plan for Driftwood Village, Dale assigned Madison the task of drafting a preliminary plan for the outdoor kitchen. The outdoor kitchen will also have separate bathroom and shower stalls. It will be the first building constructed in Driftwood Village before micro houses are assembled. We look forward to seeing what Madison drafts!

11/24 Our Thanksgiving Day feast at John Kozlinski’s warehouse was a great success. The Board thanks John for opening up his warehouse for this event. All stakeholders came together to feed nearly 100 displaced guests. After the event, Eric Overstreet, continued to minister to displaced guest in what he now calls his “ministry of hope.” Eric completed two months of living outdoors with the displaced. He’s on target to raise \$20,000.00 for Driftwood Housing. If you haven’t pledged to help Eric meet his goal, please consider doing so (message Eric on Facebook). The Board thanks all those who donated to the joint cause and volunteered to serve that wonderful day. We helped dozens of displaced neighbors that day and the days following.

-Channel 15 interviewed Eric. He did a wonderful job representing Driftwood Housing!

-Vicki Horn Gray posted a video on our Facebook: Driftwood Housing group page. The Board thanks Vicki for capturing the smiling faces and various activities at our gathering.

-Dale and Reba’s stories were highlighted on Thanksgiving Day <https://oursouthernsouls.com>, and also, Facebook: Our Southern Souls group page. They were honored as “Weavers” in Mobile. The Board thanks Lynn Oldshue for this honor!

11/29 Today, after attending the Mobile City Council Meeting, Dale and Reba will be meeting with John Eads, Founder and Executive Director of Light of the Village, in Alabama Village to discuss building micro houses and potential property for a Pritchard DHPI community.

11/29 – International Giving Tuesday is today! Please consider contributing monthly to help Driftwood Housing with ongoing funding. Although the Board is very grateful for all the generous donations in 2022, we need consistent donations. We hope to start building our campus-style community in 2023! Visit [www.driftwoodhousing.com](http://www.driftwoodhousing.com) to make your donation.  
[Image]

**NOTE: There will be no monthly membership meeting this evening or in December. We will resume monthly meetings in January,2023.**

## December 2022

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

**11/29 Mobile City Council Meeting:** The City of Mobile proclaims 11/29 as Giving Tuesday in the City of Mobile. The Board is considering replacing our 2022 Hump Day Campaign with Giving Tuesday, every Tuesday. (photo)

**11/29 Light of the Village:** Dale and Reba visited John Eads and received a tour of the village. John was the founder of the youth ministry. We discussed ways that our two charitable organizations might help one another. The village is in Alabama Village in Prichard, AL. The neighborhood borders Chickasaw. John offered a few quarter-acre lots to Driftwood Housing. Alabama Village is in desperate need of revitalization. We might have an opportunity in this neighborhood to revitalize the community while helping troubled youth and displaced adults. (photos)

**11/30 Community First Gulf Coast Alliance:** Dale and Reba met with the newly formed Community First Gulf Coast Alliance! The participating members met at the Community First! Village Symposium in Austin, TX, in November. Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi were represented. We hope to add a Community First representative from Louisiana, and possibly Texas. We shared ideas and experiences in caring for our displaced neighbors. We held our first luncheon at Dauphin's. Our next gathering will be in Biloxi, MS. (Photo)

**12/5 Eric Overstreet's Radio Interview:** If you are not familiar with Eric, listen to his interview. In December, Eric was well into his 90 days of living with the displaced to raise money for Driftwood Housing. Many are following his journey, and many homeless have been helped through his compassionate ministry. Much of Eric's time has been spent at an emergency and day shelter at 1710 Old Canal Street, Mobile AL, which we generally refer to as "the warehouse." We posted Eric's interview [www.driftwoodhousing.com](http://www.driftwoodhousing.com) under Interviews. (photo)

**12/5 Encounter with Ransom Ministries:** Dale drove to Walmart on Government Street to pick up groceries and observed men picking up garbage near the grocery store. After parking he noticed the Ransom Ministries bus. Dale was familiar with this garbage collection program, and immediately, parked the truck and introduced himself as part of Driftwood Housing to the Ransom Ministries' supervisors. They were very excited about our mission to house the homeless in Mobile. Ransom Ministries was founded in 2010 by Matt and Tara Armbruster after they attended a Bible study urging Christians to stop playing church and start living a life of true faith and dependence on God. We hope to partner with Ransom Ministries in the future. Both organizations believe that the church should "stop playing church" and be more supportive of homeless and underserved in our community. [photos]

**12/6 JPAR Real Estate – Gulf Coast:** Driftwood Housing received a donation from JPAR. JPAR believes in giving back in a demonstrable way and we are grateful for their charitable giving. Please thank them for their contribution and do business with them! [photo]

12/6 **The Port City Samaritan's Home** (warehouse): Ever since the launching of the Samaritan's Home, City of Mobile councilmen, various public services, and businesses have been contacting Driftwood Housing to help with the homeless individuals in crisis. The Ben May Mani Public Library on Government Street contacted us to help a displaced neighbor in providing transportation to the warehouse. It's been reported that she has been a great resident, and recently, she announced that she's in a relationship with a man at the shelter. We also receive calls from local businesses in need of day laborers. Dale recommended a man who before becoming homeless claimed to have owned a restaurant. He's now working full-time for a Mobile caterer. During Christmas and the deep freeze of 2022, Dale and Reba housed three women from the warehouse in addition to 2 men with disabilities, one long-term and the other whose medical needs are significant. Driftwood Housing members have played an intricate part in the success of the emergency shelter: Food, propane fuel for heating, cash, and other needs. Driftwood Housing covered the cost of the Got-to-go portable while the plumbing at the building was being fixed by the City. We're certain that several Driftwood Housing members will continue to support Port City Samaritan's Home in their ministry in 2023.

12/9 **LoDa Art Walk**: We did not participate in the December art walk as Dale was sick with Shingles. (As of 12/31/2022, Dale is still recovering from the miserable illness). We are planning to participate in the Lego Festival. Alyssa Guthrie and her family has informed us that they are going to build a Lego Village to display at our booth. Dale provided them with concept art. (photos)

12/16 **QuickBooks Premier (QBP) Financial Application Software**: After months of waiting on a deal from TechSoup and Intuit, the Board decided to purchase the software online. After entering all the transactions into QBP and reconciling the bank account, Dale provided our first QBP financial statement at the December Board of Directors meeting. What a milestone! Linda Pierce, Board Treasurer, will be trained in entering transactions and reconciling bank statements in 2023, and thus, will assume more financial responsibilities in the new year. Thank you, Linda!

12/17 **Meeting with David Hale SR, Chief, Prichard Fire-Rescue Department**: Nothing is by chance! Dale and Reba dropped off toys for Christmas and met David. We introduced Driftwood Housing to David, who is also a member of the Prichard Planning Board and property owner. David is going to organize a meeting in January with affluent members of the community to help us with finding suitable land for Driftwood Village.

12/18 **Larry Fox**: So, Diane Kieth, known by many in our community, called Dale in a panic. Her friend, Larry, now homeless, was put out on the curb at the Salvation Army shelter on Dauphin Street. Larry is wheelchair bound with no legs! Salvation Army said they didn't have facilities for Larry. So, they put him out on the sidewalk during the freeze of 2022. Outrageous!!!

Dale told Diane that he would pick up Larry and take him to Port City Samaritan's Home. The warehouse was empty. So, Dale called Diane and agreed to house Larry for a few days. Diane came over for lunch. Larry hadn't had coffee for seven days, so Dale made him several cups! Larry, Dale, Diane, and Reba discussed Larry's dilemma. Great dude!



Larry needed a shower chair. Three members contacted us offering chairs. We drove to West Mobile to pick one up. Housing Larry in a 1930's built home made Dale and Reba keenly aware of the difficulties faced by the handicapped in finding appropriate housing. Sandra Conley, a member of DHPI, was very helpful with her knowledge of the issues.

Larry is desperate to find an inexpensive apartment. He has a very low income, under \$600/month. If you would like to help Larry, Dale's personal account email for Zelle, PayPal, and Venmo is [dalepfeiffer@gmail.com](mailto:dalepfeiffer@gmail.com).

Dale would like to build a custom Driftwood house for Larry in 2023. He's a sober 55-year-old gent on a fixed income in great need! (photo)

**12/29 Chickasaw High School Tentative Partnership with Driftwood Housing:** Dale met with Brian Copes, a genius shop teacher, to discuss a construction class project launching in the Fall of 2023. Brian's plan is to provide hand-on instruction for his construction classes with a curriculum design plan. So, he wants to build micro houses for a Driftwood Housing Village on campus and transport the units to the village. Dale will attend the advisory board meeting for this project in January. This is a 3-year program! Look for Dale's update in the January newsletter.

**12/30 Eric Overstreet Ends Fundraising Campaign:** ... but decided to stay on as a volunteer at Port City Samaritan's Home. As of 12/30, Eric raised nearly \$6,000 for DHPI. Pledged donations are being received and entered, day by day. Pledged totals are just under \$20,000. Payments are being made in many ways, but all donations are recorded under the current GoFundMe campaign on our website. Thanks, Eric! You da man!

**12/31 DHPI 1st Anniversary Luncheon: PLEASE SIGN UP! WE NEED YOU!**

Our luncheon will be an annual fundraising event. Our first celebration will be on February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm. The Via Senior Center, 1717 Dauphin St, Mobile, AL 36604, will provide a delicious buffet-style luncheon centered around lasagna. In faith DHPI committed to purchasing 30 plates.

***Luncheon Ticket Information:***

-**2022 Members** (who paid their annual dues in 2022): \$15.00 donation (DHPI membership benefit!)

-**Non-Dues Paying Members:** \$20.00 donation

-**2023 Members** (1st time or renewal) \$30.00 donation (includes luncheon)

(We will provide printed membership applications at the event.)

We plan to have a **DHPI Lunch & Learn** gathering in 2023 every other month, beginning in February, at the Via Center. We will have another meeting elsewhere on alternate months at a different places, dates, and times. We're trying to accommodate all schedules.

To secure your ticket now, please remit check payment to Driftwood Housing, P. O. Box 41176, Mobile, AL 36640 (If renewing membership, please submit a completed membership application available on our public website or submit in person at the event.)

Pay digitally using PayPal, Venmo, or Zelle using Driftwood Housing's email address:  
driftwoodhousingproject@gmail.com

QuickBooks Premier Software  
Bank Reconciliation  
Financial Statements  
Eric Overstreet's Campaign ends

## January 2023

### Driftwood Housing January 2023 Newsletter

As we mentioned in our December newsletter, we will be celebrating our first anniversary on Thursday, February 9th at the Via Health Fitness and Enrichment Center on Dauphin Street from 11:30 to 1:30 pm.

Members (who paid their annual dues in 2022): \$15.00.

Non-Dues Paying Guests: \$20.00

2023 Annual Membership Application (1st time or renewal): \$30.00

We have committed to a minimum of 30 lunches. 19 have indicated that they will attend. I plan to update Via with a final count this Thursday.

Please reply to this email and let us know if you will be attending our luncheon. Via will be preparing lasagna!

We hope you'll attend and help us celebrate our first anniversary milestone event.

Thank you for your support!

**1/3 Goodbye Eric Overstreet!** Congratulations! Thanks for all you did to raise funds for Driftwood Housing. \$10,690.00 has been raised of \$14,000 goal! That's enough funding to construct two micro houses or a great start on a tiny house.

**1/4 Financial Update:** A couple of activities occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. I began training our Board Treasurer, Linda Pearce, on QuickBooks Premier Financial Application Software. We worked on reconciling our bank account for 2022. Linda will be reconciling our bank account each month. Also, I took Larry Fox to Health Care for the Homeless for a general checkup. Larry is a disabled double amputee who stayed with us for a couple week in January. We are trying to find Larry permanent housing. Larry is temporarily lodging with a lady in MC who is also a double amputee. Please keep Larry in your thoughts and prayers.

After reconciling 2022, Dale spoke with Ceresa Frenkel, Ceresa M. Frenkel PC. Dale provided a financial update. Ceresa, Linda, and Dale will be meeting sometime in February to review QuickBooks in our board's laptop.

As a 501 (c) (3) Charitable Organization, Driftwood Housing is required to provide a tax receipt to all individuals who contributed \$250.00 or more. According to our records, all the receipts have been mailed to donors. If you donated \$250.00 or more to Driftwood Housing in 2022 and did not receive your receipt, please let us know.

### **1/6 Symposium for Goodness' Sake: April 25–27, 2022**

The Symposium for Goodness' Sake is tailored for individuals and organizations interested in learning the essentials behind the inner workings of Community First! Village and how they can get started on a similar project with purpose.

Reba and Dale attended a 2022 Symposium. It's a life-changing experience!

Information: <https://mlf.org/symposium/>

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-for-goodness-sake-april-2527-2022-tickets-484513371537>

1/9 Cynthia Coleman, Executive Director, **Hand Up Charities** will be hosting an event later this year to raise money for Driftwood Housing. 50% of proceeds from this annual fundraiser will go to Driftwood Housing. Cynthia has been onboard with Driftwood Housing since its inception. I will share more information about this fundraising event in a future newsletter. Thank you, Cynthia!

1/17 A few weeks ago I put out a plea on **Facebook: Homeless in Mobile** to help a young mother of three. Reba and I have been helping her since she moved out of the Salvation Army Woman's Shelter into an apartment over a year ago, before Driftwood Housing. June Smith Hope and other volunteers in our Homeless in Mobile community jumped in and are helping this diligent young lady complete the clinical portion of her RN training by, among other things, providing transportation. Many others in Mobile have helped her! If you were one of the angels, THANK YOU!!!

June writes, "Some of you may know that I've been helping a formerly homeless young woman who is getting ready to graduate from USA with an RN degree. She has done such an outstanding job in her classes there that the Dean is going to interview her on TV next Wed. I was hoping some of you may have a little extra to share so she can get her hair done and buy an outfit. My Venmo is June-Hope. Anything will help. Thanks so much!

She is an impressive young woman; her story is probably fairly common, but she has excelled in spite of the drawbacks!! Be encouraged by her story and help if you are able."

Last week this mother of three moved into permanent and safe housing in Chickasaw. She needed a washer and dryer. Our good friends, Thomas and Martha Doran, Driftwood Members, gave her a washer and dryer! I'm working out the details to pick it up and install it on Tuesday, January 31st.

### 1/21 URGENT CALL TO ACTION!!!

**Mobile County Survey Information:** Mobile County requests your participation in a survey designed to identify housing and community needs.

The County is a recipient of federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HOME-ARP program. HOME-ARP is funded under The American Rescue Plan (ARP) and provides \$2,190,303 to the County to assist individuals or households who are homeless, who are at risk of homelessness, who are fleeing domestic violence, sex trafficking, or sexual assault, or who are otherwise facing housing instability as vulnerable populations. HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities:

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

We need as many individuals, businesses, and faith-based organizations as possible to complete this Mobile County survey.

**Indicate your support for Driftwood Housing in all the comments giving reasons why you support our mission.**

Our mission is to build shelters and homes for the chronically homeless where they will receive care and services in a safe and healthy environment.

Please take the survey ASAP: <http://bit.ly/3wdUz63>

1/23 Dale received a call from Gerald McKants, Operations Manager, **Mobile Parks and Recreation**. Gerald is nominating Reba and me to serve our great city on their advisory board. Driftwood Housing is planning a special event with the City of Mobile in 2024. So, this is a great opportunity for us!

1/24 Dale met briefly with **Scott Jones, District 6 Councilman**, after the City Council Meeting on January 24th. We discussed Driftwood Housing for about 30 minutes. We had a constructive conversation about the homeless in Mobile.

1/26 Dale and Reba sat in on a **Chickasaw High School Construction Academy Advisory Meeting** on Zoom. Brian Copes, Manufacturing-Construction Teacher, Chickasaw High School, proposed that the advisory board consider a three-year education program.

Brian writes, "At this meeting we will discuss: Geometry in Construction curriculum and hands on Project Based Learning.

That may include:

- \* Housing for the homeless
- \* Construction of container classrooms to send to developing countries
- \* Refurbish/Remodel of plighted housing in the community"

Brian's reference to "Housing for the homeless" is Driftwood Housing. The tentative plan is to train students to build micro and possibly tiny houses for Driftwood Village. We didn't discuss details during this initial meeting. This part of the plan will be during the 2023-2024 schoolyear. Barry Broadhead, Mayor of Chickasaw, attended the Zoom meeting along with several other stakeholders. A rep from Home Depot was also present. Needless to say, we are very excited about this great opportunity. We desperately need land!!!

1/27 Dale and Reba had a great conversation with **Ransom Ministries** while attending Housing First's 2023 Project Homeless Connect. Founder, Matt Armbruster, was excited about helping Driftwood Housing. We will be getting together soon to discuss how we can work together.

**Our Southern Souls: I made pretty bracelets and sold them to help sick kids and the homeless** by Driftwood Housing Member, Lynn Henderson Oldshue

"I feel bad for the homeless, and sometimes I cry when I see them. They don't have anybody and don't get gifts at Christmas. They are outside in the cold, and when it rains, they get wet. Sometimes they dig through the trash. I saw a homeless man with a dog and got my dad to give him money. I wanted him to use it for food for him and his dog, but he went into the liquor store. That made me sad. My parents told me we should give money to an agency that helps the homeless, and they heard about **Driftwood Housing** that is going to build tiny homes so people have places to live..."

Link: <https://oursouthernsouls.com/i-made-pretty-bracelets-and-sold-them-to-help-sick-kids-and-the-homeless/?fbclid=IwAR2MGXdtNZXqM-v0MLLl5wyw77hjWZGZpakLzB6PJr0JrSmOiivpnOz8IVE>

**1/30 The Stables of Crosby Crawfish Boil Bash, Crosby, TX**

Dale and Amanda Long had a lengthy conversation. Dale suggested that Amanda build a campus-style village in Crosby, TX and join the Community First Gulf Coast Alliance. Well, this is the result of the conversation. Wow!

Amanda Long writes, "I am so thankful this morning to have been given the opportunity to pour into Driftwood's cause and expand the outreach into Texas!

Who are we?

**The Stables of Crosby**, special events venue.

What are we doing?

We are throwing our fist large live music event with ALL proceeds going towards the fight to battle homelessness across the Gulf Coast!

**What does that mean to Driftwood?**

Because Eric Bump Overstreet is such an important part of my journey, we have set the goal at \$10,000 to exceed his fundraiser goal! **All VIP tickets sold are going directly to Driftwood Housing!**

What does that mean for Texas?

With Premium ticket sales we could raise up to \$19,500! This will go directly to building micro homes right here on the 9-acre property ultimately creating Roma Village!

That's not all!!

There is a 2-part goal!

I have a passion to build a safe refuge for homeless women in hiding from domestic situations or abuse. I have the community resources to help these women completely restart their life while healing mentally, emotionally, physically, and most importantly spiritually. This will be a secluded refuge and not advertised.

To keep from having to turn anyone away we are dedicated to putting 5 micro homes in for all homeless in need with just this event alone!!

The possibilities are endless, and I know as long as God is working through me the outcome is gonna be an absolutely beautiful thing!"

**\$11,000.00 received in pledges.**