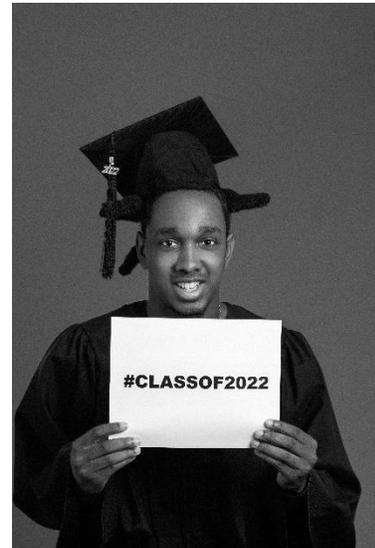




Impact 100 St. Lucie Quarterly Report covering March 2022-May 2022

Executive Summary:

Project LIFT Fort Pierce is having extraordinary success in its first 3 full months of operation. We have served 31 young men so far and have a waiting list of 19. One of our most exciting achievements this quarter was celebrating the first Fort Pierce graduate of our Pathway Academy high school diploma seeking program! J, a high school dropout, simply needed encouragement and support to complete high school. Once his mental health needs were being addressed, and he built hope for a future through our vocational training, he finished his remaining high school credits quickly with the help of our Pathway teacher, Alies Kelly.



Funding Update:

We are pleased to report that we have been approved for \$175,000 in operational funding from the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. This is renewable funding that will help us ensure sustainability. That funding contract will begin in October 2022. We have also been approved for \$50,000 from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, which we anticipate to be renewable as well. Our \$30,000 grant request from United Way of St. Lucie and Okeechobee is pending. The Citizen Review Panel visited on May 3rd, and we have been invited to the grants award celebration on June 24th.

We have also launched a Business and Trades Society that will expand our industry partnerships in St. Lucie County, while also bringing in funding via membership fees. We have secured 3 memberships in our first week of solicitation.

Operation Implementation:

Operations are running smoothly. Over the past 3 months we have been able to streamline the intake process and have made adjustments as necessary to better address the waitlist and onboard high-risk clients faster. Fort Pierce Therapist Autumn Thomas received her Master's



Degree in May and is running both group and individual mental health and substance abuse treatment sessions for all participants. Our Pathway Academy Teacher is now on site 2 days per week to assist those who want to pursue their accredited high school diploma.

Trades are running smoothly with auto repair, carpentry, welding, and plumbing being offered. We had to pivot when our original hire for auto repair Instruction resigned due to health issues, but our new instructor is working out great and has additional expertise in plumbing, allowing us to expand our trades training. Our first core group of participants is finishing or has finished their initial 14 -week program and, while we anticipate most of them needing additional programming time in the form of aftercare, we

are excited to be able to begin to measure some outcome data. Two members of the original core group have already graduated the program and secured jobs! (See success story below for more details)

Community partnerships are blossoming and resulting in greater opportunity for the young men in our program. We connected with Willie Scott with Building Opportunities Thru Golf, who offered our Fort Pierce Career Rising teens (morning program) 4 weeks of free golf lessons and mentoring! The young men loved the opportunity to be introduced to the game of golf for the first time, and they can't wait to have more opportunities to play and learn.



Staff Update:

The following staff have been promoted and/or hired and are actively working at the Fort Pierce site:

Vic Miller- Operations Director

Autumn Thomas, MSW- Primary Therapist

Yevgeniy Panchenko- Skilled Trade Instructor/Mentor (Construction/Carpentry/Welding)

Byron Jackson- Auto Repair/Plumbing/Soldering

Success Story:

J was court ordered to attend Project LIFT at 17 yrs old and was part of the initial core group of Project LIFT Fort Pierce enrollees. J had been expelled from every school in St. Lucie County, including Dale Cassin, an alternative school for at-risk teens. He was also a regular user of alcohol and THC.

When J started the program, he was very quiet and kept to himself. When he did finally speak, he made it clear that he didn't trust any of us and the only reason he was participating was because of the court. However, as time passed and his therapist and vocational mentors made it clear that he was not here to be punished but rather we wanted to help him meet his potential, the wall that he put up dropped and he even asked to join our Pathway program to finish his high school diploma. As our teacher looked at his transcript, she discovered that he was academically gifted and had even been referred to as "Genius." Sadly, no one had taken the time to offer him the social emotional and mental health supports to help him succeed academically. J quickly excelled in everything he set his mind to, starting with finishing his diploma so quickly that he participated in our March 25th high school graduation ceremony, where he graduated with one of the highest GPAs ever in our Pathway program.

J also excelled in welding and carpentry, and began to believe that he was capable of securing a job outside of Project LIFT. He turned 18 recently and started to ask us to help him secure employment. He remains clean and sober. He plans to continue training in the skilled trades, but he attended a job fair with our Program Director on May 20th where he applied for a manufacturing position with Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company. J received an offer letter shortly thereafter and accepted the position. He has been successfully employed since and is very proud to finally be self-sufficient. Our Case Manger and Program Director will continue to stay in frequent touch with him, and he will have access to mental health counseling whenever he needs it. J is breaking the cycle of poverty and his family is very proud, as are we!

