

HOLDING HANDS MONTHLY EVENTS

February 2009 - Holding Hands provided help to a mother and her four children leaving an abuse shelter. Due to their emergency situation they were homeless, without a steady income and transportation, no daycare for the children, personal belongings to fill a bag each and without any family support. Within a couple weeks Holding Hands was able to find a home, furnish it with EVERYTHING needed, fill the closets with clothes, find daycare, link the family to services, provide food and home cooked meals, hook up the electric and offer monetary and emotional support.

To be a mother and find the exact words to express your love for your children is almost unexplainable. The way your heart beats a little different when you are offered a hug when it was not asked for or the mutual look exchanged between mother and child when they get hurt and need comfort. It is a God given gift that at times can throw your whole life plan in a new direction. Well, the new journey ahead for this mother and her four children YOU ALL came together to HELP has begun. As she walked into her new home today the overwhelming feeling of excitement, nervousness and complete joy brought her to her knees while holding her youngest child. A woman and mother who has never been given anything, this week was given a new beginning. A home filled with EVERYTHING she needs and then some. This miracle in one week was created by ALL OF YOU who came together without hesitation and offered your belongings filled with your own family memories. ALL OF YOU who took the time to deliver your gifts of love and make donations, you did more than you can imagine.

One of our members daughter's who witnessed this homecoming put the moment in words. Her mother asked, Do you think she was happy? The daughter stated, Well mom she couldn't even talk she just fell to the ground crying." The children ran around the apartment with huge smiles on their faces knowing there was more in their home than new "things." This day offered a chance at a new life. Hopefully, a life that allows the fears to diminish and the opportunities of peace and good things to come.

This time in our country is a challenging one for many reasons but, the generosity this community gave despite that proves how big the heart of it is. It is true when you love you will be loved and when you give openly you will receive plentiful. The positive energy that took place this week was undeniably a true representation that people are genuinely good. To so many of you, WE THANK YOU AGAIN FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS! This day felt like one of those mother moment's that you just can't completely express how purely wonderful it was! The new neighbor even baked her a cake!

Truly,

Alyson Hawkins and the entire
Holding Hands family

DECEMBER(2008)- Dear Friends and Fellow Community Supporters,

Our fifth year at the Harmony House abuse shelter was once again a memorable and heart warming day. I was overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity that people offered. Whenever we stated we needed something, there it was. Someone would either call or show up at my door with that exact need. It was moving to me how people stepped outside of their own problems and concerns at this trying time and gave to these beautiful children. This year the children's faces when we began this amazing day expressed a deep sadness that many of us immediately took notice to. These children and their mother's suffer emotional and physical abuse which pounds away at their hopes and dreams. Moment by moment more smiles appeared as we interacted with them in crafts, cookie decorating, tasting snow cones, jumping in the bounce house, games, a provided hot lunch and of course a surprise visit from Santa. The smiles were constant while Santa handed gifts to each child one by one.

One of the mother's I had the pleasure of meeting expressed how a week ago she came home to all of her and her four children's belongings destroyed. Her husband either threw out or burnt everything. They had nothing but the clothes on their back when arriving to the shelter. She felt alone and sad but she had faith. A faith that reminded me of the reason we were there and the true meaning of Christmas. No matter how desperate things may feel or how many roads appear blocked, with faith we have the ability to conquer.

The amount of families in need for the holiday this year was much higher than usual. Fortunately, many special people offered help and opened their hearts to them. We were excited to offer toys to over eight families in addition to all the children at the abuse shelter. Once again, this community has shown the true meaning of the holiday and how to keep the chain of kindness alive.

A single father of two was referred to Holding Hands by a local church. We were able to offer him funds to purchase his daughter's gifts just in time for Christmas morning. He was very appreciative and sent us a kind thank you!

To all of you who gathered gifts, made food, donated gifts, volunteered your time and made this day a happy memory, THANK YOU! From the bottom of our hearts ,THANK YOU!! May you and your loved ones find peace and laughter while together creating a happy and memorable holiday.

NOVEMBER(2008) - Five home cooked meals along with filled breakfast baskets

were provided to five local families. Many volunteers and their children delivered the meals to the families homes and were able to spend time together. All of the families expressed deep gratitude for the special deliveries. This was a day of giving and being thankful for all of us.

A single mother was referred to Holding Hands by another single mother that we assisted a year ago. This mother has four children and had recently lost her job. We sponsored her utility bill and provided home cooked meals for two weeks. Also, people gathered together clothes and toys for the children that were desperately needed. This single mother has offered her time to Holding Hands to give back for the help she received. This mother was given referrals for a new job and other agencies that could further aid her in some deeper issues.

OCTOBER(2008) - Holding Hands had the fortunate experience of spending a week at St. Anne's place in Palm Beach. This food kitchen that supplies breakfast and lunch to over 200 individuals daily is run by Sister Carlene (who is a very kind and loving women). If you have the pleasure of meeting her, it will be a lucky day! We served breakfast and lunch there and provided breakfast and a warm lunch another day. This experience was a humbling one. The people we met were gracious and appreciative for people caring about them. It was a big reminder of how the simple things like a warm smile and just asking, "how are you today?", can make someone's day brighter and more hopeful. A few of our children were able to share in this experience.

Limestone Creek Elementary school collected hundreds of canned goods for the food kitchen. A huge thank you goes out to them for their generosity!

SEPTEMBER(2008) -: After meeting a single mother with five children, Holding Hands sponsored the electric bill. Also, home cooked meals were provided for two weeks along with a supply of groceries. Linking to other services for future assistance was given.

Holding Hands provided a local elementary school with needed art supplies.

A young man attending a Florida college contacted Holding Hands for assistance. We had the pleasure of meeting him when we assisted his sister earlier in the year. He lost both his parents within a couple months and through all his life struggles, has a dream of a college degree. He received a scholarship but needed funding for books. We also sent him a care package full of supplies. Holding Hands looks forward to following him through a successful four years of college.

August (2008) - Holding Hands collected numerous filled book bags that were delivered to Jupiter's local elementary schools. The schools expressed their gratitude for many needed supplies this year. Holding Hands was able to complete this project with the help of the Pink Purse Society.

Holding Hands offered financial assistance to a single mother. Someone had broken into her car and stolen her purse. We assisted her with rent and gave her diapers and supplies to get her through this hardship.

Another single mom with a disabled son contacted Holding Hands for assistance. Holding Hands met with this mother in Port St. Lucie. She was going through an emotional struggle after caring for her son. She lost her job and her car broke down. These hardships left her seeking help. Holding Hands linked her to other services, assisted with rent and brought her groceries. Many phone conversations offered her emotional support when she needed someone to talk to. Holding Hands wrote letters to other agencies to find additional support.

August (2008) - Holding Hands sponsored, with the donation of Sports Tyme a local boy to attend summer camp.

Holding Hands purchased clothes and school supplies for a single mother with three children. A big sister in the Big Brother Big Sister program came to Holding Hands for additional support. This mother was brought to tears that people would help her without meeting her and knowing her. Holding Hands wishes them well.

Holding Hands found another family from our past needing assistance. This family has been with us since our first year. This mother took in her sister's five children after many hardships. The sister later died in a fire set by her ex-husband. This mother has been raising her sister's children as well as her own for over ten years. She and her husband together work three jobs to make ends meet. One of her son's received a football scholarship and will be going up north.

Holding Hands was able to gather together a suitcase, warm clothes, donations towards his flight and books. We wish him a lifetime of success and hope to watch him in the college playoffs.

JUNE(2008) - What an amazing and unforgettable month. **FLASHBACK TO THE 80'S FUNDRAISER!** Holding Hands began the month with a flashback to the 80's fundraiser with the assistance of BGI Fitness. It was a fun and successful evening filled with big hair, skinny ties, break dancing, twister and many good laughs. Many local businesses donated to the silent auction. A huge thank you goes out to them. The proceeds of this event benefited the deserving home makeover.

The Deserving Home Makeover – One week after the fundraiser a heartwarming weekend took place. Beginning Friday June 21st Holding Hands took on their biggest project to date. Holding Hands organized a deserving home makeover for a single mother raising 6 children. She took in her sister's two children after she passed away. A couple months prior to this project Holding Hands began gathering donated furniture, food, appliances, gifts and much more. Many items were stored in a donated local storage unit.

FRIDAY: Members and volunteers cleaned out the home entirely. Home Depot

donated a dumpster and pod for storage. Every room was cleared out and prepared for a new beginning.

SATURDAY: Members and volunteers prepped and painted every room with warm and inviting colors. Instantly, a new home was transpiring through all the hard work and positive energy flowing through. Members left late in the evening to arrive back at 5:30 a.m. the next morning for a live TV interview with a local news station.

SUNDAY- The story was shared on the morning news about this wonderful mother and the gifts her and her children would be receiving later this day. Many members and volunteers spent the entire day putting in new furniture, beds, mattresses, bedding, pictures, couches, tables, armoires, kitchen tables and chairs, food in the refrigerator and cabinets, new patio pavers, patio set (put in by Home Depot), landscaping of trees and flowers and much more. These children were unable to celebrate the Christmas season for many years. Holding Hands provided wrapped presents on each of their beds along with a personal note. These children whom all did not have their own bed or a dresser were in for a life changing experience. Upon their arrival home Holding Hands members and volunteers stood in front of their new home holding hands. One by one each member of the family arrived home offering big thank you's and hugs. When Monique, the mother entered her new home she screamed with tears of joy falling to her knees. She thanked God stating, now she had a place to call "home sweet home". A thank you from this mother as well as a video can be viewed on the thank you page of our website. Holding Hands extends a huge thank you to all the local businesses and families that came together and extended help to a family they did not even know. This day was a reminder to many who were there that when people come together and open their hearts without fear or judgment – miracles do happen. In that positive day, the community was filled with love.

May (2008) - Holding Hands was introduced to an 18-year-old single mother with a five-month-old infant. After numerous visits with this mother financial assistance with her rent was offered. Also, a crib, mattress, clothes, baby supplies, toys, food and furniture were donated.

A personal member of Holding Hands donated a couch, table, bed frame, and mattress.

Holding Hands linked her to alternative services around parenting and financial support. Emotional support was given through numerous home and phone consultations.

A thank you from this mother stated, "I can't begin to express how your kindness has affected my life. You are my angel and my baby and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Holding Hands assisted another single mother with car insurance after experiencing a personal financial struggle. Furniture for her apartment was donated. This mother had many unexpected life struggles and was so thankful for the unexpected

assistance.

April (2008) - Holding Hands was introduced to a single mother with five children. Emotional and financial support was given. Holding Hands sponsored a month of rent and prepared weekly home cooked meals for one month. Also, two school trips were funded that children would otherwise be unable to attend. One trip was to Sea World and the other Busch Gardens.

Another member of Holding Hands offered to sponsor the Washington school trip for the fifth grade boy. Holding Hands assisted with the trip supplies, clothes and spending money.

All of the children were overwhelmed with appreciation and excitement to be able to participate in these life memories.

March (2008) - A fun filled Easter celebration took place at the Jupiter tutorial center. A letter from one of the children explains the memorable event.

"Dear Holding Hands, when I came inside I saw your nice smiles. Thank you for the delicious cookies and fruit. I loved tie-dyeing the shirt. The sack race was real fun and I won a prize too. The Easter egg hunt was so much fun and I got so many eggs filled with money and candy. The snow cones were so delicious. We like people who help us and we think it is a nice thing you did. Love, Jordan"

Holding Hands met a special family who has inspired us to attempt a local home makeover, a single mother of five children. She is also caring for her deceased sister's two children. The mother is a nurse and has independently been struggling to be the best she can be for her family.

Her dedication and love is overwhelming and she deserves some help for she has not received much in her past. Karma Krew another non-profit agency is assisting us with this personal endeavor.

Holding Hands sponsored a school trip to Sea World for a local student. He was very excited that he could spend the day with his classmates and have this opportunity.

February (2008) - A home cooked dinner for eight families was cooked by many members and offered to the Quantum House. Quantum House is a local organization that provides housing while their children are receiving treatment at St. Mary's hospital.

Motivational packages were put together and offered to the families. We wish all the children a quick recovery and will keep them in our prayers.

A local single mom was struggling due to many life hardships. She was attempting to get a used car after her old one broke down. After meeting with her numerous times Holding Hands agreed to help with her car insurance.

This mother was overwhelmed with appreciation.

January (2008) - January beach clean up was a reminder to all the families that attended that being aware and noticing one's surroundings, instead of rushing through the day can make a difference and present personal enlightenment.

Nick Fasulo pointed out a bird that he thought was sick. Thanks to his and the other children's awareness we noticed it could not fly due to a fishing hook in its wing and fishing line wrapped around it. We were able to get a hold of the bird and release the hook as well as the line.

What a true representation of how taking the time to slow down and notice our beautiful and fortunate surroundings may offer a lesson or gift from God that we were not expecting. It truly was a special morning, especially for the children.

December (2007)- Our fourth holiday party at the Harmony House abuse shelter was once again a meaningful success. Tears filled the eyes of members as well as the mothers that were residing there.

One member was very touched by a mother who began crying after receiving her gift. She stated, "This was the first gift I've gotten in over ten years."

Our Santa was able to pass out three wrapped gifts along with a filled stocking for each of the 36 children. Each mother received a new purse, daytimer, beauty supplies, donated gift cards and more. This year none of the mother's allowed the children to open the gifts, so Christmas morning would be filled with excitement and surprises. With our help and the assistance of all who donated, 36 children were able to celebrate Christmas in a safe environment after so much pain and suffering that they have personally endured, or have had to have the punishment of watching their mother endure.

The holidays this year presented many families in desperate situations. We were able to offer a hand to four local families with help ranging from holiday presents for children who were going to go without, assistance with rent allowing them not to get evicted, help with utility bills to have lights on Christmas day and meals during a time when food was scarce.

Each one of these families expressed personal gratitude to Holding Hands through tears, thank-you cards and hugs filled with the spirit of the holiday. A quote from one of the thank you cards stated, "I would like to take a moment and sincerely thank you for your help to our family. Your kindness is so appreciated. I never in my mind imagined that we would be on this side and have learned how easily life can unravel. Thank you for being there through this humbling experience. It is a time you can learn from adversity. "Another husband whose wife is in need of twenty four hour care stated, "Your kindness not even knowing us personally, overwhelms us and has brought faith and hope back into our lives."

Holding Hands states, " EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS DOES MATTER. WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE IN NEED, LET GO OF THE GREED."

October (2007)- Offered additional support to a family close to our hearts. This family has been through so many tragedies. Within two weeks, the mother lost her oldest son in a bike accident along with two other relatives close to her. The mother contacted Holding Hands asking for emotional support for the seven children she is raising; four of which are her sisters, who were having difficulty accepting yet another death in their family.

Holding Hands took the children to dinner at Outback (which they generously cut the bill in half) and planned to go bowling but we all talked for so long we postponed the bowling. These children are so AMAZING! They were so polite, appreciative and the bond these seven children have is one we all wish for from a loyal friend or family member.

Derrick, one of the oldest, needed assistance with a deposit for room and board, which we sponsored and we will be helping him with books. He is such strong soul and sets a high example for his brothers and cousins.

Holding Hands also organized home cooked dinners to be brought to this family three times a week for a month. People really came together for this family this month and it helped them through such another difficult time.

Holding Hands held successful boat cruise fundraiser-raising money for the holiday party.

September (2007)- Holding Hands donated one more month rent for the aunt with custody of her sister's two children for her house to finish being fixed from the hurricanes. With the assistance of other agencies, four months rent were donated for the safety of this family. Holding Hands also assisted in the repairing of her tile floors with the donation of Sundial Flooring Co.

Members collected needed kitchen supplies for a local abuse shelters apartments.

Gathered and purchased over \$800.00 of food and hygiene items that was donated to a local food shelter. Members also donated a couple of days of time at the shelter allowing regular volunteers a well deserved day off. The amount of people in our own neighborhoods that are hungry and homeless is overwhelming. For more information or to donate time, contact Cross Ministries. It will be a day you won't forget. We plan to make this a bi-yearly event.

August (2007)- Over 75 backpacks with school supplies were donated to local elementary schools. Holding Hands teamed up again with Pink Purse society for this event. Summer camp was provided to a local boy whose family was under financial stress.

June and July (2007)- a local church referred an aunt with her niece and nephew to Holding Hands. This woman was in an unfortunate battle with her insurance company to fix her home that was severely damaged in some past hurricanes. She was living in a trailer on her property with the children. Some legal circumstances to keep the children safe due to a history of abuse, would not allow her to continue to reside there until her home was repaired. We found a condo for them to temporarily stay. With the linking of other agencies three months were donated for her to stay safe.

Holding Hands provided clothes and toys to the children and linked them to other agencies to assist in the home repairs. Much time and support were offered to this family and we hope they find safety and happiness in their repaired home.

May (2007) - A local church referred two families to Holding Hands that were in need. The first family was under a deadline to fix their roof and a fence to renew their home insurance. They were under a deadline and we successfully aided them with the needed tasks. A local roofer donated his time and a few members' husbands fixed up other needed areas. Holding Hands also assisted in the payment of their mortgage. Clothes and shoes were donated to their two grandchildren residing with them. Meals were also provided for the month. We enjoyed meeting this family and spending many days getting to know them. In remembrance of Holding Hands we planted a tree in their front yard.

The other family was a single mother and her seven-year-old son. The mother had one tragedy after another that left her feeling bombarded and unable to catch up. We assisted her in a month rent donated by a member, meals for a month and SportsTyme donated summer camp for her son. On her sons birthday presents and a cake were given for the mother to celebrate the day with him. Many members donated their time to reach out and connect to this mother to let her know she can succeed.

April (2007)- School, art supplies and snacks were donated to an after school program started by a local resident to keep high school students active and safe. Two computers were donated by members for their use.

March (2007)- Another successful Easter party was held at a local orphanage. The activities and fun were similar to last year. It was a pleasure to spend the day with such special children who are hoping to find families to love and support them.

February (2007)- Holding Hands gathered kitchen supplies to be provided to a local abuse shelter.

Time was donated to a local convalescent home. Members visited a resident they were matched with throughout the entire month. Many members brought their children to share in the experience and to meet some special people.

January (2007)- Another successful local beach clean up was conducted by Holding

Hands families. Let's keep our beaches clean.

December (2006)- Our third annual holiday party at a local abuse shelter was organized. This year, our Santa gave three presents and a stocking to over 40 children. Each mother received Wal-Mart gift cards, purses, wallets, daytimers, clothes and beauty products. This year each mother had a chair massage donated by a local massage therapist. Holding Hands volunteers watched their children while they were able to relax. The party consisted of many activities and food as in the previous years. Each year we are all touched by the heartfelt stories the women share with us. They are all finding courage to make a stand for themselves and their children. We hope and pray they will "all" continue to remain safe and they find the strength to believe in themselves.

We also assisted a local family whose business was lost in a fire with funds for meals.

A local struggling family with five children was provided gifts for the holiday for the parents to put under the tree.

A cash donation was provided to a family referred by The Pink Purse Society, whose mother was recently hospitalized with a terminal illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families.

November (2006) - Home cooked Thanksgiving dinners along with family fun baskets and breakfast baskets were provided to four local families in need. The families were referred to Holding Hands by local schools and one local church.

October (2006) - Provided three local families struggling through financial and emotional strain with home cooked dinners, a trip to the mall for new clothes for their children and help with utility bills. All the families were very appreciative and thankful we enjoyed meeting them all. Also a cash donation was made to Jupiter Middle School for a computer program to assist in teaching in a special needs classroom.

September (2006) - The focus of this month was on a "Casino Night" fundraiser held at the Jupiter Civic Center. Over 200 people attended this fun filled event. The evening

included a silent auction, live band, food, drinks, a magician and gambling. The proceeds from this event will go directly to families in our community to make their holidays special.

August (2006) - Over 50 backpacks filled with much needed school supplies were given to three Jupiter Elementary public schools. The schools were extremely thankful. Holding Hands teamed up with the Pink Purse Society for this event.

July (2006) - Sponsored additional children to the same local summer camp. Another successful beach clean up was held at the Jupiter Inlet. We are attempting to keep our beaches clean this summer.

June (2006) - Holding Hands along with the assistance of Sportstyme camp. Bathing suits, towels, beach bags and tee shirts were also purchased for the children. This was a summer they will never forget.

May (2006) - Held a successful "Giant Yard Sale Fundraiser". Holding Hands members met a lot of wonderful families and individuals that came out to help us raise money and purchase some great yard sale items. The remainder of goods was donated to Our Sisters Place a consignment shop for abused women.

April (2006) - The Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc. was the project for this month. Our members donated supplies and personal letters to the soldiers. Many of our children also wrote letters of gratitude. Three schools, First Presbyterian preschool, a fourth grade class from All Saints and the entire first grade at Limestone Creek Elementary generously collected needed items and wrote wonderful letters to the soldiers letting them know how thankful we all are for their sacrifices and that they are definitely not forgotten. Lets all continue to pray for our soldiers.

March (2006) - We had a memorable Easter party at Place of Hope, a local orphanage. The day began with a morning brunch followed by many fun activities. Over 40 children enjoyed making sand art, sun catchers, colored eggs and their activity, tie-dyed shirts. They competed in sack races and an egg toss for prizes and had fun in the bounce house donated by Bounce Houses of Tequesta. Over 1,000 eggs were filled for a giant Easter Egg Hunt, and to end the special day, each child was given an Easter basket filled with goodies. This was another special day that we will all cherish and remember.

February (2006) - A local family who took in the mother's sisters five children to live with her two children were given some help for the month. At the same time we met this inspirational mother she was working three jobs, her husband had a mild heart attack while keeping the majority of the children ages 8 - 16 on the honor roll. Holding Hands made a plan to help this family. A home cooked dinner was brought to them on five occasions with certificates to Publix. The children were given rides to the doctor to get physicals so they could participate in school sports. A day with the children was spent getting each one new clothes, sneakers and socks. Also, a local restaurant, Jumby Bay donated dinner followed by bowling at the bowling alley. While the children were out with Holding Hands the mother and father were able to get a donated dinner at Tabica Grill. The mother was also given a day at the spa. A new outfit was purchased for the mother and father for their night out.

This family was an honor to get to know and each child was so special and thankful for everything they received, we will never forget them and hope to follow the children's success stories through school.

January (2006) - Another successful local beach clean up was conducted by the Holding Hands families.

December (2005) - A holiday party was given for the same local abuse shelter as sponsored last year. The day was duplicated but with two times the amount of children and mothers. More donations were received and it assisted in creating another magical day filled with heart touching memories for all.

November (2005) - Holding Hands sponsored three needy families in the community. A full Thanksgiving dinner, breakfast goodies, and an overflowing large basket of family games, movies and activities were donated to make their holiday a memorable one. Also, for one of the families we paid an overdue electric bill and got them started on a payment plan with FPL. The families were so incredibly thankful and it was a rewarding day.

October (2005) - Holding Hands held its first fundraiser at Lighthouse Center for the Arts. "Holding Hands Wine Tasting and Shopping Boutique" was a huge success. Proceeds will go toward assisting one individual family or agency in the community each month. Also, a donation was made to the summer camp at Lighthouse Center for the Arts for children who are less fortunate to attend classes. The community was overwhelming with its donations and support of this event.

September (2005) - Another productive local beach clean up was conducted by Holding Hands families.

August (2005) - Book bags and school supplies were collected and donated to local public schools.

June (2005) - Sponsored two children to local summer camps who would otherwise not have this opportunity. Their mother was extremely appreciative and the children had a fun addition to their summer.

May (2005) - A home cooked dinner was provided for the Quantum House. Quantum House is a temporary home for people who have family members who are hospitalized and the family does not have a place to stay. Also, massages were donated by a licensed massage therapist for the family members.

April (2005) - Hundreds of Teddy Bears were collected through local schools and businesses for Tsunami victims.

March (2005) - A holiday Easter party was given to the same local abuse shelter as the December party. Over 1000 eggs were filled for an entertaining Easter egg hunt followed by games, music, arts and crafts and fun in the bounce house. Each child was given a basket of goodies to enjoy after a home cooked meal. It was another memorable day enjoyed by children who have encountered so much pain and uncertainty in their life.

February (2005) - A successful local beach clean up was conducted by members and their children. Supplies, snacks and drinks were provided. Many non-members joined in and assisted in the clean up.

January (2005) - Time was given to a local convalescent home. Our children greeted the residents with teddy bears, hugs and smiles. The residents were appreciative to have a moment of distraction from their daily routine. Also, the residents and members of Holding Hands

interacted through hours of board games while enjoying home cooked baked goods.

December (2004) - A local abuse shelter was chosen to sponsor a Holiday party. Holding Hands provided three wrapped gifts for each child along with presents for their mothers. A home cooked meal was offered with a sit down dinner enjoyed by everyone. A bounce house, holiday crafts, popcorn machine, cotton candy machine and tree decorating were part of the day's festivities. Everyone had a memorable day but nothing could compare to the reaction the children had when Santa appeared and then passed out gifts and stockings for everyone. Our children enjoyed interacting with the children at the abuse shelter and assisting with the party. It was a day many of us will have in our hearts forever.

November (2004) - A referral was given to Holding Hands from a local abuse shelter. A single mother with five children had recently moved into Palm Beach County. Meals, school supplies, funds, household items, furniture, aid with utilities, linking to other services and emotional support were provided. Our children interacted with their children on many occasions and it was a pleasure getting to know this family.

October (2004) - Assistance was given to a single mother who's 13 month old son was diagnosed with liver cancer. Members of Holding Hands offered time, home cooked meals and emotional support while the son was a patient at St. Mary's hospital. Their home also had major damage from the hurricanes and financial support along with household items was donated.