

More on Faith Farm's Full Life Transformation and Recovery Program:

Addiction is more than an event ... it is a progressive, life devastating condition that encompasses poverty, mental and emotional health issues, loss of hope and loss of relationships. Addiction is fueled by the compulsive drive to abuse destructive, mind-altering substances. At least 800,000 homeless people roam streets or frequent shelters on a given evening. Many have problems in addition to where to rest their head at night or where to find their next meal. A rising number of the population turns to drugs or alcohol to cope with their situation, often leading to full-fledged addiction. Substance abuse can lead to poor physical and mental health, which makes obtaining employment or residential stability difficult. For some, drugs lead to homelessness. For others, homelessness leads to drugs. Either way, substance abuse among this population has proven problematic. Drug and alcohol abuse constitutes the most pressing public health problem among the homeless. *National Coalition for the Homeless*. A life on the streets rarely cures a drug habit. The need to seek help for addiction is routinely put on the back burner for other priorities, such as finding shelter and food. The studies speak for themselves. In 2015, the United States Conference of Mayors, a nonpartisan organization for cities with populations exceeding 30,000 people, asked 22 cities to investigate and determine their top three causes for homelessness. Thirty-five percent of unaccompanied adults cited substance abuse as a main cause of their homelessness. Too often, by the time a person is ready to do the hard work of recovery, they have burned all their bridges. They have depleted their resources and have alienated their support.

At Faith Farm, we begin by addressing a person's **basic needs: The need for clothing, food and shelter**. A person must know that they are safe to begin the long process of recovery. Time alone does not deal with addiction. In order to learn the tools for living a lifestyle of recovery, a person needs counseling, mentoring, information and life skills. This is the process of rehabilitation and it is *the first leg of Faith Farm's Full Life Transformation and Recovery Program*. The cost of drug and alcohol rehab can range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per month, depending on various factors: length of stay, residential or non-residential, level of medical care offered and many others. According to the *National Institute on Drug Abuse*, the average cost of rehab in 2014 was \$16,000 per month. The NIDA also

estimates that less than 12% of addicts are receiving the help they need from public, state or federal funded programs.

Inpatient rehab, or residential rehab, removes you from an environment that promotes substance abuse. This escape from your world of addiction allows you to control your environment and exposure to substances. It also gives you a community of individuals struggling with similar substance issues and a place for you and your peers to receive support and help each other reach sobriety.

Furthermore, inpatient rehab treatment gives you a chance to change your daily routine, break habits, and learn how to go through life without substances. This is what *the second leg of Faith Farm's Full Life Transformation and Recovery Program* is all about: **The time and information you need to heal and choose recovery**. Faith Farm's 10-month, free, residential recovery program offers classes, counseling and the community support of peer groups needed to facilitate long term healing and recovery. We offer this to those who may have no other resources available to get the help they so desperately need. Classes include relapse prevention, anger management, inner healing, peer sessions and groups dealing with value and self worth.

Addiction can rupture relationships, lead to termination of employment and cause people to lose a handle on their finances. They may fail to pay their rent or mortgages and then lose their homes resulting in legal and financial issues. With nowhere else to go and nobody with whom to communicate, their options are limited.

Faith Farm sees the need to not just help people gain sobriety, but to help restore lives. Through the Education Component (*the third leg of Faith Farm's Full Life Transformation and Recovery Program*,) we offer hope for a future where there was once only despair. **Faith Farm's Education Component** consists of our GED tutoring and testing, our Comprehensive Work Training Program (CWT) and our College Accredited Curriculum. The men and women of Faith Farm receive classes and on the job training in 17 different CWT tracks to include Dispatch and Call Center, New Furniture Sales, Appliance Repair, Trucks and Docks, Auto Repair, Food Service, Landscape/Facility Maintenance, IT Services, and many other areas. Through our partnership with **South Florida Bible College &**

Theological Seminary, a portion of our curriculum is accredited. Students that choose to participate in the College Track attend the basic classes, do additional assignments and test to receive up to 9 college credits.

After a student graduates from our Basic Program, we offer several **Extended Program** opportunities. Our *Transition Program* allows the opportunity for a graduate to stay at Faith Farm for up to 60 days while they seek employment and safe and adequate housing. Our *Omega Program* provides students with separate housing while working, attending college or trade school, or seeking military opportunities. Omega Students attend additional life skills classes while putting a life plan together. Our *Advanced Student Program* is designed for graduates who are exploring ministry opportunities. An Advanced Student commits additional time at Faith Farm and gives back to the ministry through working with Basic Program Students and assisting the staff.

Addiction is a pandemic issue that is threatening America. South Florida's addiction problems lead in statistics. Palm Beach County has less than 30 beds available for indigent or non-paying clients. In 2017, The White House declared, "We must take BOLD measures" and declared Opioid abuse a national health crisis. We must work together if we are going to fight this fight effectively. The NIDA estimates that every dollar invested in addiction treatment programs yields a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft. When savings related to healthcare are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1. Major savings to the individual and to society also stem from fewer interpersonal conflicts; greater workplace productivity; and fewer drug-related accidents, including overdoses and deaths.

Faith Farm Ministries has almost 7 decades invested in the fight against addiction with a caring staff that truly understands. Faith Farm Ministries is restoring hope ... one life at a time while adding 440 free beds to the South Florida demand. As a donor supported charity, we rely on our donors for financial assistance and prayers to continue to meet the growing need for our services.