



Our mission is to restore the dignity of the homeless and mental community through housing, support and love.

Second Heart Homes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides housing and critical support services to adult Sarasota, FL homeless residents with mental health illness. Our high-touch, tailored-service approach sets us apart from other homelessness nonprofits by providing long-term housing and specialized care that revives dignity, establishes stability, and teaches independence. Clients come to us based on their commitment to address their mental health, remain sober and achieve personal goals toward self-sufficiency.

It began with love. Although we are only in our second year, we have made significant in-roads. The founder was working at a local restaurant downtown called Patrick's. She began engaging with the homeless population and was able to help a severely mentally ill gentleman off the street. That was deemed the impossible, so she knew there was so much more to accomplish. This ignited her to start a business to help those most in need. After some time, it was determined that this was a successful model but needed the support of the community to grow and serve more people. The core of the model is to meet people where they are at, love them for who they are, and help them off the street and into the lives they deserve.

We purchase homes in the community to run our "Second Heart Program". Our clients receive daily targeted case management, mentorship, and workshops to build skills and enhance quality of life. These workshops vary from reemployment, self/homecare, computer literacy, financial planning, therapy, time management, interpersonal skills, meditation, and even therapeutic art instruction such as Origami and poetry writing sessions. In addition to these services, we include utilities, cleaning supplies, toilet paper and some hygiene products to our clients. When clients don't have to worry about these things, they can focus on what's really important, themselves.

Our clientele come from various backgrounds of trauma, lack of positive support, poverty, crimes related to homelessness and aging out of the foster-care system to name a few. Our goal is to create a home environment where our clients can stop thinking about merely surviving, as they were on the street, and begin to thrive through our support. We attend to the individualistic needs of our clients so that they have the greatest opportunity to accomplish goals and reach their own highest level of independence. We meet them where they are at, love them for who they are and find the greatest quality of life possible for their specific circumstances.

For the past two years, Second Heart Homes has focused on serving homeless men in Sarasota with mental illness. Our model of "housing first with high-touch support services" has proven to be a great success. However, it's not addressing the hundreds of single homeless women who are left to struggle on Sarasota streets.

We currently operate a men's program in 4 homes with a total of 24 beds. However, we recently had the opportunity to expand our mission. This year, we set an ambitious goal: to do whatever it takes to offer our services to single women in Sarasota who are struggling with homelessness and mental illness.

We recently purchased two properties to expand our mission to serve women who are suffering from homelessness and mental illness. There is a huge demand to adequately serve this demographic. These ladies will be receiving housing, high-touch supportive services, mentorship, therapy, skill-building workshops and most importantly, hope. This will also bring our count of individuals served from 24 to 36, making a significant impact in our community.

We've learned a great deal about how the needs and experiences of homeless women differ from men. Compared to homeless men, women have higher rates of mental illness, trauma, physical and sexual abuse and trafficking. There are not enough supportive housing services to meet the special needs of these very vulnerable women.

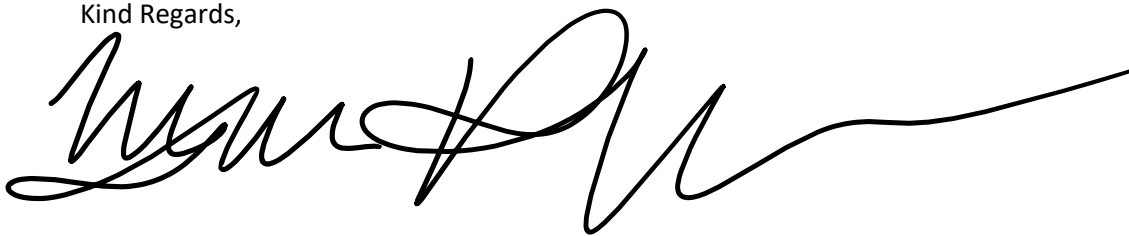
We're pushing ahead now to make sure that homeless women in Sarasota can find stability, rebuild their lives and achieve their highest degree of self-sufficiency, just as our male clients have done.

Our vision is to expand the number of vulnerable individuals we can serve while maintaining our gold star quality of care, continue to purchase homes, expand into neighboring cities and perfect our model to be scaled and replicated in other communities. We need financial support and volunteers to make this happen and are eternally grateful for any assistance we can garner and look forward to serving those most in need.

We have just launched our holiday Home is Where the Heart is Campaign and are seeking to raise \$75,000 for unrestricted operating expenses. Additional items we are seeking funding for are: reducing debt from financing of purchased homes, assisting with funds to hire an additional case manager, adding to our "Fresh Start Fund" which enables us to help individuals with no financial assistance and funds to help with capital improvements to properties so they can continue to provide for vulnerable individuals in our community.

Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me with any questions. Contact information is provided on the following page.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Howell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Megan Howell, M.S.
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