



House of Hope: 2484 SE Bonita Street ♦ Stuart, FL 34997

## Giving Hope a Hand in Martin County

Phone: (772) 286-4673 ♦ Fax: (772) 286-7696 ♦ [www.hohmartin.org](http://www.hohmartin.org)

Hobe Sound: 545-9342 ♦ Indiantown: 597-6397 ♦ Jensen Beach: 225-1060

### Facing Poverty Facts

Here are the most recent poverty statistics available for Martin County (2009, from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation and the U.S. Census Bureau):

- ♦ More than 41% of all jobs pay \$25,000 a year or less.
- ♦ 23% of all house-holds earn less than \$25,000 a year; 34% earn less than \$35,000 annually.
- ♦ 14.6% of Martin County residents — about 20,410 people — live in poverty.
- ♦ Poverty levels are defined \$10,830 in annual income for one person; \$22,050 for a family of four.
- ♦ In 2009, 59% of single mothers lived in poverty, up from 30% in 2008; and 29% of children under age 18 were in poverty, up from 17% in 2008.

## House of Hope: Providing a hand up



House of Hope is a non-profit agency, founded in 1984, that provides food, clothing, case management and financial assistance to Martin County residents who work hard but find themselves unable to make ends meet.

Typically, HOH clients are low-wage workers, low fixed-income senior citizens, single parents and those facing a sudden life crisis (divorce, abandonment, abuse, death in the family, major medical issue, etc.).

House of Hope's programs create an umbrella of care and contribute toward the most basic human needs: food, clothing and shelter.

House of Hope has service facilities in the Golden Gate area of Stuart, Hobe Sound, Indiantown and Jensen Beach, providing access for all county residents in need of help. Each location also operates a resale store, which generate about a third of House of Hope's annual income. The facilities have a total of 15 staff members and 125 volunteers.

### How House of Hope helps Martin County residents:

- ♦ **Food Pantry:** House of Hope is the primary source of food for Martin County residents in need. In 2010, HOH distributed 152 tons of nutritious food equaling more than 237,000 meals; a third of this fed hungry children.
- ♦ **Clothes Closet:** Each year, House of Hope provides tens of thousands of garments, household items, furniture and appliances free or at minimal cost to families who would otherwise go without. Some items also go to organizations such as missions and veterans groups.
- ♦ **Project HOPE:** This program includes House of Hope's longtime financial assistance program and its case management assistance. The financial assistance program impacts lives by covering critical bills such as rent, utilities and health care. In 2010, House of Hope helped more than 600 struggling families, single parents, senior citizens and veterans by covering housing, utility and/or medical costs. In 2011, this program is managed in concert with the case management program, in which House of Hope social workers provide follow-up and longer-term service. The goal is to guide people through a period of crisis and help them access resources and/or training to bring greater economic stability to their lives.

