



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

## Giving Hope a Hand in Martin County

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

### Facing Poverty Facts

Below are the most recent poverty statistics available for Martin County (2008, from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation and the U.S. Census Bureau):

- ♦ More than one-third of all jobs pay \$25,000 a year or less.
- ♦ Nearly 25 percent of all households earn less than \$25,000 a year.
- ♦ 11.3 percent of Martin County residents – about 15,700 people – live at or below the federal poverty guidelines. Poverty levels are defined as \$10,830 for one person; \$22,050 for a family of four.
- ♦ 30 percent of single mothers, 17 percent of children and 7 percent of senior citizens over age 65 live in poverty.

## 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 emergency financial assistance to Martin County residents who work hard but find themselves unable to make ends meet.



Typically, our 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 2009, HOH distributed nearly 130 tons of nutritious food equaling more than 300,000 meals; a third of this fed hungry children.
- ♦ **Clothes Closet:** In 2009, House of Hope provided about 80,000 garments, furniture and appliances free or at minimal cost to families who would otherwise go without. Some of this also went to other organizations such as missions, veterans groups and agencies serving the homeless.
- ♦ **Emergency Financial Assistance:** In 2009, House of Hope provided emergency help to 709 struggling families, single parents, senior citizens and veterans by covering housing, utility and/or medical costs. The average amount of assistance was about \$170 per family.
- ♦ **Case Management:** This program was created in 2008 to guide selected client families toward economic stability and self-sufficiency. The program is led by a case manager with a master's degree in social work. Over the past year, it has grown to include two case workers hired through a county grant and funded by the federal stimulus package. In this program, emphasis is placed on helping people find work or helping them improve or maintain their employment situation.

