

Your Support Granted Riley a New Smile

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After searching high and low for a dentist to treat her aching tooth, Riley* was at her wit's end. Each day her pain worsened, but Riley knew she could not afford a regular dentist, leaving her distraught and hopeless. That all changed when she discovered the Barnabas Center Dental Clinic.

Riley was cautiously optimistic about the possibility of finding relief at Barnabas Center. At first, she wasn't sure if she qualified for the dental services offered. She was relieved to learn Barnabas Center recently expanded its income eligibility bracket. This new development meant she could finally see a path to relief.

On the day of her appointment, Riley felt a mix of nerves and hope as she walked into the dental clinic. She was greeted warmly by a staff member at the front desk named Vicki who guided her through the intake process. Riley was seen by a dentist that same day. Dr. Charles Cotton and his team treated her with exceptional care, and Riley left the clinic that day, pain-free and overjoyed.

The Barnabas Center Dental Clinic has been a beacon of hope in Nassau County for more than a decade, providing essential dental care to our neighbors in need. Recent changes to the program's income requirements mean more people like Riley can access the care they desperately need.

"Dental care is so important for the overall health of our residents," said Dr. Ken Owens, a volunteer dentist. "Barnabas Center's ability to treat more dental patients will, in turn, help more people struggling to pay for food and other daily living expenses."

Riley's treatment wasn't just about alleviating her pain; it was about restoring her dignity and giving her a fresh start.

Riley said she is incredibly grateful for the Barnabas Center Dental Clinic and all the generous donors like you who support it. Thanks to your support, Riley has regained her smile and a renewed sense of hope.



Riley is now pain-free thanks to Barnabas Center's fast-acting dental services team.

Your Donations Gi

Dear Friends,

If you're like us, you're doing everything you can to stay cool this summer—whether it's lounging by the beach, taking a dip in the pool, or keeping the air conditioning on the lowest setting. But while we're enjoying these comforts, many of our neighbors are facing tough choices between staying cool and affording other essentials. Increased energy costs are just one more burden on top of the many challenges they already face.

At Barnabas Center, we see firsthand the impact of these struggles. Families come to us seeking housing assistance and a friendly face to help them navigate their everyday challenges.

Your gifts provide help and hope for these struggling families and empower them to reach their goals. Thank you for helping our neighbors like Riley and Theresa and Donald, whose stories are shared in this newsletter. Your kindness and compassion give them a chance to thrive. We appreciate your continued support of Barnabas Center and our community.

Stay cool and thank you!



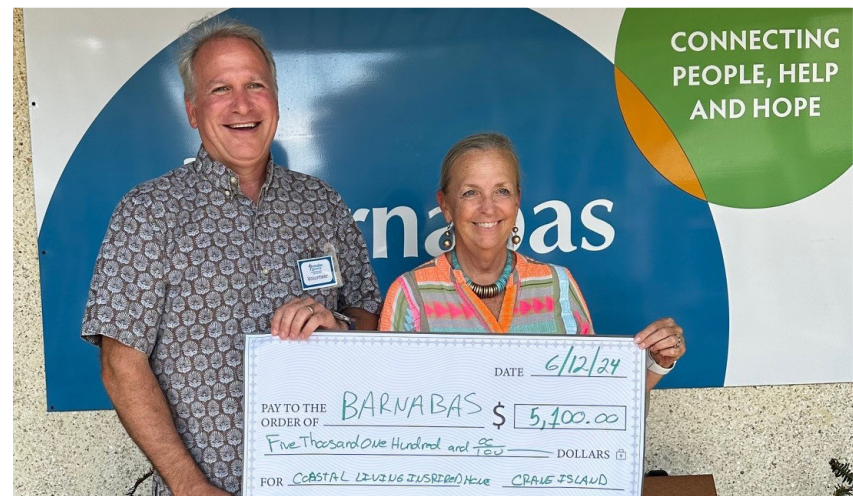
Jamie Reynolds
Jamie Reynolds
President & CEO



Wayne McLellan
Wayne McLellan
Board Chair



Treat yourself to sun, sea and seasonings during the inaugural Amelia Island Dining Month. Indulge in prix fixe dinners at 23 exceptional restaurants priced at either \$35 or \$55. Each special menu ordered contributes \$1 to Barnabas Center, turning your dining experience into a meaningful way to support our community. To learn more visit AmeliaIsland.com/DiningMonth.



CONNECTING
PEOPLE, HELP
AND HOPE

John Hillman, a local realtor and developer, presents Jamie Reynolds, Barnabas Center President/CEO, with a generous \$5,100 donation from the *Coastal Living* event on Crane Island! This incredible contribution will directly support Barnabas Center programs, helping us continue our mission to serve our neighbors in need. Thank you to John and everyone involved in the *Coastal Living* event for making a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

ve Help and Hope

You Provided a Path to Stability for Theresa and Donald

Theresa and Donald*, a devoted married couple from South Carolina, were at a crossroads when they moved to Nassau County. Drawn by the promise of new opportunities, they instead faced the harsh reality of an unaffordable housing market. The couple applied for subsidized housing as soon as they reached our community but were forced to live in their car for the next three years as they moved up the waitlist.

Their lives took a turn for the better this past spring when they discovered Barnabas Center. With one phone call, their path began to change.

The compassionate staff at Barnabas Center listened to their story and immediately sprang into action. They connected the couple to the food pantry, providing them with groceries that relieved their daily meal struggles. For the first time in years, Theresa and Donald could enjoy nutritious meals without the constant fear of going hungry.

Shortly after, they received news that housing was finally available. Once again, they reached out to Barnabas Center for assistance, and the team diligently helped them complete all necessary documentation to receive financial aid for their first month's rent. Additionally, Barnabas Center provided them with New to You Resale Store vouchers for furniture and household items, a Walmart gift card, a Circle K gas card and a bicycle for Donald to use for transportation to work.

With the help of Barnabas Center, Theresa and Donald quickly settled into their new home. Theresa, who now receives a small disability check, finds purpose and joy in volunteering at a local hospital. Donald found a job at a nearby pharmacy and commutes to work on his new bike. In just two months, their lives dramatically transformed.

Theresa and Donald were truly amazed at the breadth of services offered by Barnabas Center. They shared their immense gratitude as they recounted how Barnabas Center helped them transition from a life of uncertainty to one of safety and stability. Your support has been instrumental in their journey from hardship to hope, demonstrating the powerful impact of community and generosity. Every contribution helps make stories like Theresa and Donald's possible, proving that together, we can create lasting change and brighter futures.



Theresa and Donald are thankful for Barnabas Center's support in getting them back on their feet.

How Your Donations Foster Vocational Growth



These students have proven to be a great help to our Yulee New to You Resale Store.

Donating your gently used items to Barnabas New to You Resale Stores does more than support our programs – it provides volunteer opportunities for our community members. We are proud to announce a new collaboration with a local initiative to help students with special needs enhance their vocational skills.

This partnership, spearheaded by Yulee High School educator Zachary Camp, is with the Adult Transition Bridge Program. Camp's program is designed to assist special needs students in their transition into adulthood, linking them to meaningful work experiences. The Barnabas New to You Resale Store in Yulee offers the perfect environment for these students to develop their skills after graduation.

"We had a substantial number of students who required vocational training after completing their senior year," Zachary said. "However, not every business has the means to take on someone who needs a little extra help getting there."

Zachary's vision brings real-life work experiences to these students and fosters their personal growth along the way. At New to You, these students gain retail experience, hone customer service skills and contribute to their community. They're supported by teachers and job coaches who promote employability and job-skill transferability.

Their active participation in sorting donations and hanging clothes significantly boosts our operation's efficiency, enabling us to sell more items and raise more funds to support our programs.

Thanks to your generous donations, these students gain invaluable vocational skills and a sense of purpose. Your support empowers them to transition into adulthood with confidence, preparing them for future employment and independence. Together, we are making a profound impact on our community, one donation at a time.

Your Donations Give Help and Hope

Barnabas Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. For questions about programs, donations or planned giving opportunities, please contact Tania Yount at **904.261.7000** or **tyount@BarnabasNassau.org**.

Your gifts help provide food, clothing, housing/utility assistance and medical and dental care for those in need.

*Stories contained within the publication are representative of the participants served throughout Barnabas Center's wide array of programs. Names and photos have been changed for privacy.



United Way
of Northeast Florida

1303 Jasmine St., Suite 101 • Fernandina Beach, FL • BarnabasNassau.org • 904.261.7000