

Pathways

LIVE LEARN WORK



A MESSAGE FROM *Claudia*

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Jeff Industries is happy to report that we are not only maintaining our previous level of services but are serving more clients. The isolation of people with chronic mental illnesses was compounded during the “stay at home” orders, highlighting the needs for our programs and services.

Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP
Executive Director

During FY 2020-2021 our A.M.I.G.O.S.’ Drop-in Center increased its number of visitors to 434. Sixty-eight clients engaged in the work training program of which 58 worked in our agency-owned businesses. Twenty-one clients were employed at area businesses. We also experienced a greater demand for food distribution and, subsequently, gave out

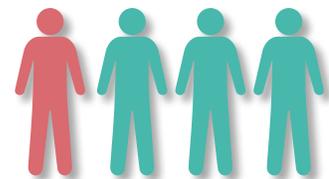
39,629 pounds of food. Eight clients lived in the Palm Haven Recovery Residence, four of whom successfully transitioned to independent living.

Jeff Industries thanks you for your continuing support. We need your help to fulfill our mission and meet the ever increasing need in our community. Through the pandemic, we saw a loss in personal donations and grants from foundations, making giving and support this season crucial to our mission of continuing and increasing vital services.

Won't you please take a minute and go to our website, www.jeffindustries.org or use the enclosed envelope to help us continue our good work.

NOW more than ever, we need your support.

With many thanks,
Claudia



One in four people has a **mental illness**.
You can be the one that helps.

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Meet *Alfredo*



“ I feel like I belong, and am not alone. ”

Alfredo is a bright and cheerful young man who is native to South Florida. Upon meeting him and seeing him participating in the work program, one would hardly know that he suffered from PTSD and severe psychiatric symptoms. Alfredo was referred to Jeff Industries by the South County Mental Health Center and had rarely left his home for quite some time. Alfredo had trouble holding down a job for many years but now he feels “right at home” at Jeff Industries. “This place has made me feel normal”, he says. “I feel like I belong and am not alone. My spirits have risen and I feel like a human being again.” His training instructors agree and state that he is one of their livelier clients. He’s become outgoing and enjoys coming to work every day. Alfredo’s long-term goal is to get a job in the community using the skills he has learned at the agency such as sign making, painting, cutting and measuring wood and plumbing.

Nerio recently moved in to our Palm Haven Recovery Residence after completing the inpatient treatment program from which he was referred. When he arrived at Jeff Industries over a year ago, he was learning to manage difficult symptoms of a schizoaffective diagnosis and wanted to earn income, build work and life skills, and become self-sufficient. Nerio had initially participated in the signs and woodworking paid work training program, but requested a move to the culinary program where he is now thriving. He is originally from Venezuela and he has two sisters who currently live in Miami. In his spare time, he loves to write in calligraphy and practice on his drum pad. “I would recommend Jeff Industries to anyone who is suffering,” he concludes. From his initial struggles with self-confidence, he will now greet you with a warm smile and a firm handshake with his head held high. We are very proud of Nerio, thankful to be a part of his story, and very much looking forward to seeing what his future holds.



Lovely Sheridan, Claudia Roberts and Jackie McGee attended the Non Profits First “Hats Off” awards event at the Kravis Center on October. 5th.

“ I want to pay tribute to a really great man, Angelo Squatrito. Angelo made a big difference in my life. He made and still makes a big difference in the lives of many young people, people of all ages and quietly to many people who never met him. I look up to Angelo, he came back from Vietnam with shrapnel in him and became a social worker. Lenny Cooper, whose son committed suicide, started Jeff Industries, Inc., a work program for people with mental illness. Angelo became the executive director and took over Jeff Industries the year Sally and I got married 35 years ago. Angelo started a charter school for troubled kids. Angelo passed away a few years ago. I want to play some more chess with you, you are a great man. Claudia is the present director of Jeff Industries. She is a patient, loving person. Lenny, Jeff Industries is still going strong. ”

— Larry Yates, former Jeff Industries’ client.

Be a *Buddy*, not a bully!



“Buddy Ambassadors”, founded by author Lovely Sheridan and with the help of Mental Health America, promotes safe spaces in schools, through kindness, empathy, inclusivity and compassion, to help combat bullying. This includes the use of “Buddy Benches,” and the

Buddy Ambassadors Program, where children are recognized based on their character and kindness towards others. Jeff Industries, Inc, a mental health agency partnered with the “Buddy Ambassadors” program whose clients design, build and install the benches in Palm Beach County schools. This work experience helps Jeff Industries clients. Since the partnership began in 2018, more than 35 benches have been placed in schools.



This initiative promotes mental health support. The partnership between these three organizations aligns perfectly to support mental health awareness in Palm Beach County.

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JEFF INDUSTRIES, INC.

Administrative Offices

113 East Coast Avenue, Hypoluxo, FL 33462

Office: 561.547.9258 • FAX: 561.547.9682

www.jeffindustries.org



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