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LIGHT ORLANDO

Delivering Hope, Together.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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ANOTHER YEAR OF DELIVERING HOPE, TOGETHER

In 2024, Light Orlando remained steadfast in our mission of Delivering Hope, Together—bringing communities closer through service, compassion, and collaboration. With the dedication of our volunteers and partners, we expanded our reach, feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, and strengthening neighborhoods. From assembling one million meals to life-changing service projects, every initiative was a testament to the power of unity. When we come together, hope shines brighter.



2024 LIGHT ORLANDO IMPACT



COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

3,672



VOLUNTEER
HOURS

10,852



LIGHT ORLANDO
EVENTS

15

LIGHT ORLANDO L.O.V.E. WEEK 2024

THE LIGHT ORLANDO VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

TIMELINE OF L.O.V.E. WEEK EVENTS

MONDAY:

- Front Line Outreach Community Cleanup in the Washington Shores Neighborhood

TUESDAY:

- Sandwiches for the Coalition for the Homeless and welcome home baskets for Dave's House in partnership with Zumba Orlando
- Snack Bag Project in Partnership with the Edgewater High School Key Club and the Ronald McDonald Home
- Hope Center Beautification Project

WEDNESDAY:

- Neighborhood flower distribution with the West Orange Dream Center

THURSDAY:

- Pine Hills Community Clean Up with Future Leaders United

FRIDAY:

- Community Food Distribution with The Desire Foundation

SATURDAY:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build in partnership with the Orlando South Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Love was in the air the week of Valentine's Day in Central Florida as the Light Orlando team and hundreds of volunteers gathered to spread love throughout the community through acts of Service.

Light Orlando's Volunteer Experience (L.O.V.E.) week is a week dedicated to showing others that they are loved and, in turn, feel the love that comes to you when you serve others.



KEY L.O.V.E. WEEK TOTAL IMPACTS



COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

716



VOLUNTEER
HOURS

2,107



LOVE WEEK
TOTAL EVENTS

8

L.O.V.E. WEEK COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FRONTLINE OUTREACH AND FUTURE LEADERS UNITED



On Monday, February 12th, in Washington Shores, Orlando, volunteers worked together to assist in cleaning up the streets to show love to the residents in the community in partnership with Frontline Outreach.

On Thursday evening, February 15th, 2024, volunteers joined the Light Orlando team in partnership with Future Leaders United to assist in cleaning up with streets of the Pine Hills Community.



Volunteers worked together during these events to pick up trash and debris along the streets and load them into bags and trucks for disposal, showing love to the residents of these Central Florida Communities.

L.O.V.E. WEEK COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DESIRE FOUNDATION

On Friday afternoon, February 16th, 2024, Light Orlando Volunteers came together for a Community Food Distribution in partnership with The Desire Foundation. During this event, volunteers helped to assemble food bags for residents of the Paramore community who may otherwise go without.



L.O.V.E. WEEK HOPE CENTER CLEANUP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOPE CENTER



On Tuesday evening, February 13th, the Light Orlando team finished out the day with dozens of volunteers at the Central Florida Hope Center, cleaning the grounds and interior of the thrift store and pantry.

"We're just here to love people. We're here to let them know that they are loved and we are behind them, and want to help them achieve the next steps in life."

-JUSTIIN | CENTRAL FLORIDA HOPE CENTER

From the thrift store to the on-site food pantry, to immigration services and guidance, The Hope Center helps Central Florida community members in need however they can.



L.O.V.E. WEEK FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST ORANGE DREAM CENTER AND EIGHT WAVES

On Valentine's Day, Light Orlando Volunteers made sure that the community members around the West Orange Dream Center knew just how *loved* they are! On Wednesday afternoon, February 14th, 2024, volunteers joined the Light Orlando team, in partnership with Eight Waves, to begin arranging flowers, and then spent their evening walking through the area, spreading love by sharing the arrangements with the residents of the community.



L.O.V.E WEEK “WELCOME HOME” BASKETS & ZUMBA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DAVE’S HOUSE AND ZUMBA ORLANDO

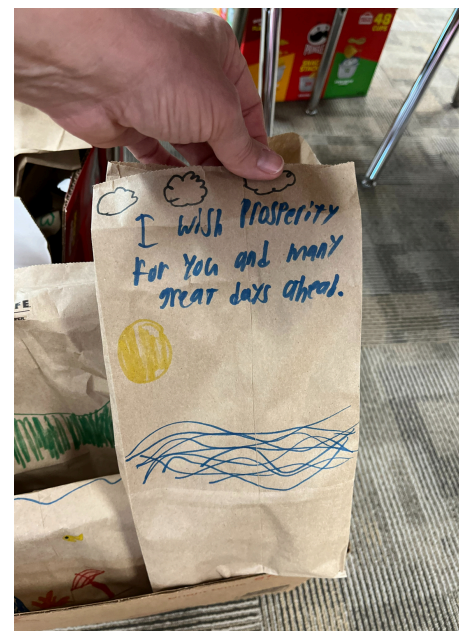


On Tuesday morning, February 13th, 2024, Light Orlando treated its volunteers to a little fun before the hard work with a Zumba class in partnership with Zumba Orlando. This was followed by an event to make sandwiches for the Coalition for the Homeless and “welcome home” baskets for residents staying at Dave’s House Foundation, hosted at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Reams Road in Windermere.

L.O.V.E. WEEK SNACK BAG PROJECT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RONALD MCDONALD HOME

On Tuesday afternoon, February 13th, 2024, the Light Orlando team headed to Edgewater High School, where the Edgewater Key Club students assembled snack bags for families staying at the Ronald McDonald Home.



L.O.V.E. WEEK BED BUILD

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE & ORLANDO SOUTH STAKE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, over 300 Central Florida volunteers gathered at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a 60 bed-build service project, hosted by Light Orlando in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and the Orlando South Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



DATA SHOWS THAT:

62.4% of bed requests come from single-parent households
6.1% are from families transitioning from homelessness
1.35% are foster families working to provide stable homes
82.4% of applicant families earn less than \$52,000 annually

I have always had a bed to sleep in, so I can't imagine not having one. So the fact that we can come and build them for people, especially kids, that need them to sleep on- it's beautiful.

-Joanna Lopez, Light Orlando Volunteer

These statistics paint a clear picture: child bedlessness often affects those already facing significant life challenges.

source: [Sleep in Heavenly Peace Beds](#)

2024 KEY BED BUILD IMPACTS



LIGHT ORLANDO ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE 2024



This year's Light Orlando Community Clothing Drive was a true testament to the power of collective action.

It was about harnessing the spirit of giving and creating a ripple effect of kindness that resonated throughout Central Florida. Through the generous donations of both items and time from volunteers, we were once again able to **deliver hope, together**, proving time and time again that as individuals we can shine bright, but when we work together, we can shine a light so bright the world can see it.

"We see a lot of people who are experiencing homelessness, some who are with their kids living in their car, some who are living in camps in the woods, so this just helps us make sure that, even if it's a day or two worth of clothing, we can give them something clean and ready to go. It's just really nice to give them this little dignity piece where they don't have to be in the same outfit." - **Samantha Espanosa of the One Heart Foundation**



KEY CLOTHING DRIVE IMPACTS



COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

250



VOLUNTEER
HOURS

1,000



ITEMS
DONATED

56,098



PAIRS OF SHOES
DONATED

750+



WEIGHT (IN
LBS) DONATED

18,000

LIGHT ORLANDO ANNUAL HUNGER PROJECT 2024



“Hunger does not discriminate. We all likely know someone struggling with food insecurity. However, populations that are already vulnerable and disadvantaged are at the greatest risk of being impacted by rising inflation and increased food costs.”- Troy Wright, Program Officer, Light Orlando

THIS EVENT WAS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ACTION IN ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY. BY COMING TOGETHER, THE VOLUNTEERS MADE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE. A TRUE TESTAMENT TO THE IMPACT OF COLLECTIVE ACTION.

On August 24, 2024, Light Orlando and over 2,000 volunteers gathered at the Central Florida Fairgrounds for an incredible cause. In just over six hours, these dedicated individuals worked together to create over one million protein-rich, vegan meals for Central Florida families struggling with food insecurity.

KEY HUNGER PROJECT IMPACTS



COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS
2,000+



TOTAL MEALS
BUILT & DONATED
1,041,894



HOURS SPENT
PACKING MEALS

ONLY **4.5**
(THANKS TO INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!)

LIGHT ORLANDO ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2024

LIGHT ORLANDO'S 4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT WAS A HEARTWARMING REMINDER OF THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AND GENEROSITY.

On December 7th, 2024, the Edgewater High School cafeteria buzzed with holiday spirit as 250 volunteers came together for a night of giving back and spreading joy.

KEY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT *IMPACTS*



COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

250



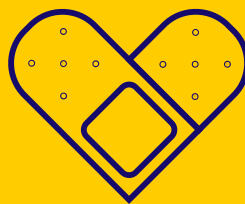
STOCKINGS FILLED
AND DONATED TO
LOCAL CHILDREN

2,000



SNACK BAGS
DECORATED,
ASSEMBLED, &
DONATED

300



TOTAL BAND AIDS
DONATED TO
SUPPORT LOCAL
SHELTERS

2,552



TOTAL PAIRS
CHILDREN'S
UNDERGARMENTS
DONATED

604

+ DOZENS OF FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS AND BLANKETS MADE TO BE DONATED TO ADVENTHEALTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



After completing their tasks, our volunteers celebrated with an evening of dancing and laughter. The gymnasium turned into a festive dance floor where attendees grooved to holiday hits and created memories together.

This unique blend of meaningful service and lively celebration is what makes Light Orlando events so special. Volunteering isn't just about giving—it's about sharing joy and building a community that uplifts one another.

LIGHT ORLANDO MONTHLY COMPASSIONATE SERVICE PROJECT



Light Orlando's Compassionate Service Project is a monthly Initiative, taking place on the second Wednesday of each month. During this project, volunteers work together to create items (such as large and small Lovey hearts) used in the Child Life Programs and throughout hospitals to comfort families and individuals facing difficult challenges. Items are donated to AdventHealth Children's Hospital. Large Lovey Hearts are used as memorial pieces for families experiencing loss. Small Lovey hearts are used in the NICU to familiarize babies with their mothers' scents. Pillowcases and Blankets and donated to children staying at the hospital.

635 
LARGE LOVEY
HEARTS

400+ 
SMALL LOVEY
HEARTS

135 
PILLOWCASES

3 
TWIN QUILTS

LIGHT ORLANDO BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

On Friday August 9th, 2024, Light Orlando was joined by community volunteers to assemble nearly 2,000 backpacks to be distributed to Elementary, Middle, and High School students and teachers in Central Florida ahead of the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Backpacks were filled with supplies from notebook paper to headphones- all essential in today's learning environment and supplies which teachers often purchase for students and classrooms at their own out-of-pocket expense when not donated.

60 
COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

2000 
BACKPACKS
FILLED

11 
ORGANIZATIONS
BENEFITTED

60 
LOCAL SCHOOLS
SUPPORTED



DELIVERING HOPE TOGETHER: COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH OUR PARTNERS

C.O.P.E. SESSIONS



The Cost of Poverty Experience is a 2.5 hour simulation that explores the lived experience of poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families. The experiential nature of this training helps organizations and communities more deeply understand the human and systemic impacts of poverty. C.O.P.E. helps participants deepen their understanding of the lived realities and human impact of poverty in America, improve practices and approaches to better engage and partner with people navigating poverty, work more effectively with others in your community to foster opportunities and environments where all people can thrive.

**THE COST OF POVERTY EXPERIENCE- Sponsored in part by Light Orlando
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Th!nk Tank and Poverty Solutions Group**

HOSTED ON: June 7th, September 19th, and October 22nd, 2024

THANKSGIVING MEAL BUILD

On Thanksgiving morning, November 28, 2024, nearly 450 volunteers selflessly gathered at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to assemble hot Thanksgiving meals for the Central Florida Community. **This service project was organized by Light Orlando, alongside The Salvation Army, Valencia College, and The Orlando South Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** Each organization came together with a shared simple, but powerful belief: that as individuals, we can shine bright, but when we work TOGETHER we can shine a light so bright the WORLD can see it.



450 
COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

700 
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

4,000 
HOT MEALS
ASSEMBLED

19 
ORGANIZATIONS
BENEFITTED

DELIVERING HOPE THROUGH STRENGTHENED CONNECTIONS

LIGHT ORLANDO PARTNER TRIPS

In 2024, Light Orlando initiated a visit to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Humanitarian Center, Welfare Square, and other philanthropic and religious sites. The goal was to gain insights from established programs to enhance the mission of Delivering Hope, Together in Central Florida. To achieve this, community partners were invited to participate in a day-long trip.

This inaugural effort brought local partners together, fostering networking opportunities, building new relationships, strengthening existing ones, and cultivating a shared sense of community and collaboration. What began as a one-time "Humanitarian Trip" quickly evolved into recurring events throughout the year, eagerly anticipated by all involved.

HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT | SALT LAKE CITY, UT

On April 30, 2024, Light Orlando, in collaboration with community partners, embarked on a journey to Salt Lake City, Utah, for what would become known as the Light Orlando Humanitarian Summit. This one-day trip provided attendees with the opportunity to explore key humanitarian sites and programs of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, including:

- FamilySearch: A global family history initiative.
- The Conference Center: Attendees received insights into the JustServe online volunteer program and the BYU Pathway Worldwide educational program.
- Humanitarian Center: Participants learned about the Refugee Program and its impactful initiatives.
- Welfare Square: The visit included tours of the Social Services department, the Bishop's Storehouse, and Deseret Industries.
- Temple Square Tabernacle: Attendees had the unique opportunity to sit in the Tabernacle Choir seats and sing "Amazing Grace" together.
- The Bishop's Central Storehouse: A vital hub supporting global humanitarian efforts.

This impactful trip fostered collaboration, inspiration, and a deeper understanding of how to implement successful humanitarian practices in Central Florida to Deliver Hope, Together.



DELIVERING HOPE THROUGH STRENGTHENED CONNECTIONS

LIGHT ORLANDO PARTNER TRIPS

SONGS OF HOPE TOUR | SUNRISE, FL



For the first time since 2001, the Tabernacle Choir returned to Florida, and Light Orlando, along with partners accompanied by family and friends traveled by bus from Orlando to Sunrise, Florida to watch the performance live. This performance by the Tabernacle Choir, a 310 voice and 69 orchestra member choir, was a predominately bilingual concert where the speakers and singers shifted seamlessly from English to Spanish and back, and included a guest performance from South Florida native, singer Adassa who voiced Dolores in Disney's animated film, Encanto.

Following the concert, attendees had the chance to meet and greet choir members, who hail from 13 different countries and represent some 30 nations!

TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE | TALLAHASSEE, FL

On Wednesday, October 30th, 2024 78 partners from 22 partner organizations joined Light Orlando for a day-long trip to Tallahassee to tour the newly constructed Tallahassee, Florida Temple ahead of its official opening date. On the tour, attendees were presented with the unique opportunity to view both inside and around the grounds of the Temple, locations usually reserved only for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The tour was led by Elders Ahmad S. Corbitt and Massimo De Feo. Elder Corbitt, a General Authority and first Counselor in the Church's North America Southeast Area has become a beloved figure to many Light Orlando partners since meeting him in Salt Lake City on the Light Orlando Humanitarian Trip.

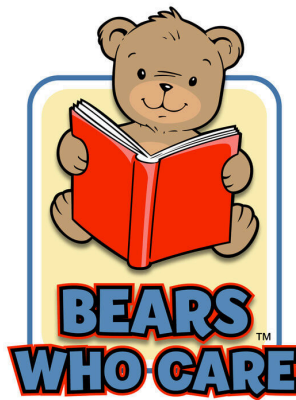


Delivering Hope, Together.

LIGHT ORLANDO PARTNERS



ABRANTES QUALITY
SERVICES LLC



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JOBS PARTNERSHIP



**Latisha's House
FOUNDATION**



ONE HEART
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN



**ORLANDO UNION
RESCUE MISSION**

Since 1948



**POVERTY
SOLUTIONS
GROUP**

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



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DOING THE MOST GOOD
ORLANDO AREA COMMAND



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DELIVER HOPE WITH LIGHT ORLANDO

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