



### THANK YOU

Thank you for every prayer, effort and dollar that has been put towards the cause of Just Initiative. A community has developed here that reaches throughout all of Tampa and even to other cities and states. We are small but our reach is deep and far. To date we have nearly exclusively relied on support from individuals and churches. Thank you for being on the Just Team while we fight homelessness, loneliness, and all kinds of poverty.

Special thanks to Imperial Electric & AC, Bob the Builder at Aurora Partners, Urban Young Life, and the GoTeam at STF for your support this year.

### MISSION

*Reflect the Kingdom of God by building community across racial and economic divides while creating pathways out of poverty*

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AS WE PRESS ON TO 2022

**OFFICE & FREE BOUTIQUE**  
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DECEMBER 2021

# Just Newsletter

Annual update from Just Initiative



DINNER AT AN ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS CLASS - 2021

### WHAT IS JUST INITIATIVE?

Just Initiative is a place for community, bringing people together through and in the power of Christ. Lives are transformed and the presence of God is known while community is developed. While these things are happening you will find us:

- Tutoring children struggling to read well (**The Zone**)
- Housing moms & children who would otherwise be homeless (**Petra House**)
- Clothing anyone in need of clothing (**Free Boutique**)
- Providing discipleship, pastoral care, case management, homeless prevention, life skills classes and all kinds of various assistance in outreach and our Drop-In Center (**Community Care**)



FREE BOUTIQUE OPENING - JUNE 2021

Just  
INITIATIVE



Free  
BOUTIQUE





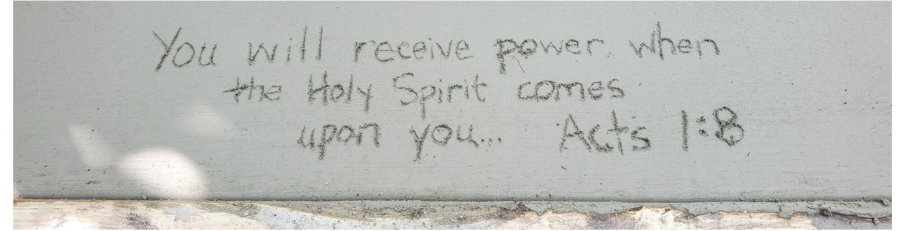
## YEAR IN REVIEW: WINS & MILESTONES

2021 held tremendous growth for us by the grace of God and thanks to the many that have come together financially, in prayer and physically to be part of this growth.

- Launched Just Kids Week - a summer camp for kids. Teaching identity in Christ and social/emotional skills serving 19 children
- The Zone has provided tutoring and social/emotional skills to over 35 children & Back to School uniforms, clothes and supplies to 40 kids
- Community Care grew in outreach and case management - preventing homelessness and providing life skills classes, pastoral care while alleviating suffering.
- Opened the Free Boutique, offering free clothes, shoes and more. Served over 170 people
- Petra House provided emergency bridge housing and a safe refuge to 19 people

What does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



NEW BASKETBALL COURT INSCRIPTION AT PETRA HOUSE

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

By JULIE WOOD

This year marked 6 years since the inception of Just Initiative. For 5 years before the inception, God was moving in my heart and in my life, causing some radical changes to my lifestyle, my heart & my understanding of life. In January 2011, I moved to my current neighborhood and for the first time in my adult life I felt like I was exactly where I was meant to be. This was an area of town I was not familiar with, high poverty, high crime, low education rates, and beautiful relational happy people. I felt essentially like I was in a different country. I was born in Jamaica and lived in Saudi Arabia when I was young, and settled in the Tampa area when I was eight. All my adult life I felt I was living in a parallel universe from my real life. Then suddenly everything was shored up and since that time I have been at home. God has moved and showed me his love in the eyes of every person around me, expanding my heart in ways unimaginable. I am amazed and thankful every day for Just Initiative and being a part of this organization where God continues to bring together people for his glory and our good.



BACK TO SCHOOL READY  
CAMPAIGN UNIFORMS



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
APRIL 2021



GRADUATION DAY - 2021





BAPTISMS IN THE RIVER AT SUNRISE - EASTER 2021



CASEY AND JUDAH - DECEMBER 2021

## VOLUNTEERING WITH JUST

By Jacque Borneo

When I retired in July, I knew I was going to spend more time volunteering at Just. What I did not know was the joy, challenge, and opportunities to improve (growth) that came with it. I have experienced the joy of helping others to achieve life goals. I learned the challenge of being consistent in love.

The biggest opportunity was personal growth. I had the chance to humble myself and learn my own peculiarities, those that are honorable and some that need improvement. I cannot fully express my gratitude for this insightful opportunity. Whether reading with the children, working with the women, or others in the community, I have been extremely fortunate to participate in this journey. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to us. You will be better for it!



JACQUE'S RETIREMENT DAY - 2021



JACQUE VOLUNTEERING AT THE JUST OFFICE

## WELCOMING JUDAH!

By Casey Hokes

Judah is the newest addition to the Just Initiative Community! It is such a blessing to be surrounded by some amazing women who have gone before me in this parenting journey. It is harder than I imagined and I have grown in awe of the strong, resilient moms in our community. I am grateful for their prayers, advice, and encouragement as a new mom and the ways they love on my son like their own. I look forward to my son growing up alongside the other families in our community.

By Julie Wood

Casey has been a staple of Just Initiative since the beginning. Sharing her heart and always jumping in to love and play with the kids that are part of Just Initiative. It has been a joy for the whole community to watch her grow through the seasons or getting married, becoming pregnant and now as a mother. We are all welcoming Judah with open arms and hearts so full of love. He makes us laugh and reminds us of new life and enjoying the seasons as they come.



JUDAH HARD AT WORK - FALL 2021



## PETRA HOUSE

By Casey Hokes

After months of limiting our capacity at Petra House due to COVID precautions, the Petra House was finally full again in 2021!



This year, we housed 5 families, which included 5 moms and 14 kids. It was exciting seeing everyone bustling around the house again as the kids made new friends and families shared life together. Our hearts were so full as we resumed our in person life skills classes and were able to have meals and celebrations with one another. We celebrated birthdays, a baby, a retirement, and 2 families moving into their own place!

A huge thanks to everyone who's made this new season possible, especially those who donated supplies to restock the house and welcome the new families, those who made the yard a beautiful oasis for the moms and a fun filled playground for the kids, and those who made the house more secure by fixing the roof, electrical, plumbing, and trees. We appreciate you!



THE ZONE TUTORING IN ACTION - NOV 2021

## GETTING IN THE ZONE

By Amy Eaton

This has been an exciting year for The Zone! We began the year masked-up, driving to children's homes & tutoring in our cars. Midyear, God blessed us with a van and two summer interns to help tutor. We ended the summer with our first Just Kids Week where children were taught about their identity in Christ & social/ emotional awareness while having lots of fun too.

We are now having weekly group tutoring, continuing mobile tutoring, and advocating for our students at their schools. We can't wait to see more children learning and educational gaps closing in 2022!



RECEIVING A DONATED VAN FROM URBAN YOUNG LIFE - APRIL 2021



KARATE CLASS AT JUST KIDS WEEK - SUMMER 2021

## ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

In April, we welcomed Denise Lenton on staff as our Engagement Specialist. Denise was made for this role. She is such a joy to work with on a daily basis especially for the people in the community around our office. Denise manages the Free Boutique and works with folks that come in to our drop-in center. She is a natural at outreach, showing the love of God by meeting real needs for some of the people that are in the most need in our city.

