

Sponsored by: Mearns

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2003-130**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE UNITED FELLOWSHIP OF FLORIDA REQUEST TO THE MONROE COUNTY LAND AUTHORITY FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE PURCHASE OF THE BUILDING AND PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1320 COCO PLUM DRIVE

WHEREAS, the City of Marathon, Florida seeks to ensure affordable housing and proper medical management for those suffering from chronic mental illness; and

WHEREAS, this property is, and will continue to be, a fully licensed Assisted Living Facility providing affordable housing for the disabled, mentally ill of Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing and proper daily care are beyond the means of citizens suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing offered by the United States Fellowship of Florida helps prevent homelessness and provides proper nutrition and a healthy living environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Council supports the United Fellowship of Florida request to Monroe County Land Authority for assistance in the purchase of the building and property located at 1320 Coco Plum Drive.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Mearns', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Randy Mearns, Mayor

AYES: Bartus, Pinkus, Repetto, Worthington, Mearns
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

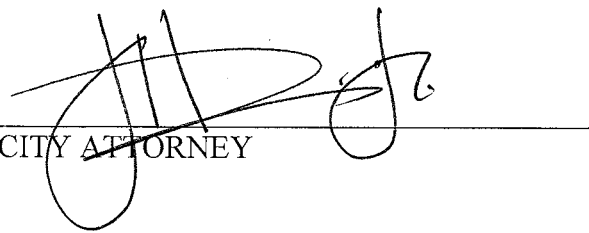
ATTEST:



Cindy L. Ecklund
City Clerk

(City Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:



CITY ATTORNEY

U.S. FELLOWSHIP OF FLORIDA

Providing Long-term Residential Care for the Mentally Ill

1320 Coco Plum Drive, Marathon, FL 33050

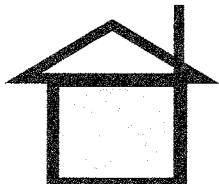
Mission Statement

The purpose of United States Fellowship of Florida, USFF, is to provide transitional and permanent low cost housing for low and very low income adult men and women who are chronically mentally ill, and to provide the residents with individualized care, coordination, and supportive services in a proactive, competent, and respectful manner.

The Heron has operated since 1988, housing sixteen adult men and women, with diagnoses such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. The Heron is an Assisted Living Facility with a Limited Mental Health licensure. The level of support is personal and caring at The Heron. Residents have varying degrees of difficulty caring for themselves. They require encouragement, camaraderie, assistance, and support in almost all daily living activities. The Heron has 100% occupancy at all times, with a waiting time of over one year for any new residents. The average age is upper 50's. Four of the 16 residents have called The Heron their home since its inception, and these four have had neither arrests nor periods of homelessness since coming to the program.

These statistics demonstrate the positive impact that the home-like environment of The Heron has on our clients' lives. Residents perceive The Heron to be their permanent home. Because of its nurturing environment and caring staff, few clients ever leave The Heron program. It should also be noted that all our clients are Monroe County residents; they have nowhere to go should the program cease. We have a wonderful program, and I encourage you to visit and observe its success.

Our programs work together to provide the least restrictive but most supportive environment possible. For example, Jane (not real name), age late 40's, has been at The Heron since its inception in 1988. She was raised in the Keys. Her early life was filled with sexual and physical abuse. In her late teens her mental illness played an increasing role in destabilizing her life. There was a relatively secure 8-year period in her twenties, but she continued to experience abusive relationships. By her 30's she was frequently homeless, in and out of hospitals and shelters. She found a family at The Heron and a safe haven from her victimization. Recently her improved condition allowed her to move to the Peacock Apartments. She has her own room, maintains the apartment, cooks her own meals, manages most of her daily affairs and is participating in vocational training. This story illustrates how important our program is to the lives of our residents.



Heron House
1320 Coco Plum Drive
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 743-4129 Fax: (305) 743-5137

Peacock Apartments
1624 Spalding Court #4
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 295-8693 Fax: (305) 295-7609

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
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Nelson Read
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Aided & Supported by
The Storer Foundation
Old Island Harmony
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FL Dept. of
Transportation
Fl. DCF
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South Florida
Key West National
Foundation for the
Mentally Ill (NAMI)
Peacock Foundation
Grace Skelly Foundation
State of Florida
Challenge Grants
Fisherman's Hospital
Auxiliary
Habitat for Humanity
Marine Bank of the
Florida Keys
Design Source of
Marathon
And
Many generous friends
& neighbors

Residential Mental Health Programs in the Keys

U.S.F.F. is a non-profit corporation which provides the only permanent, supervised housing solutions for adults with mental illness in Monroe County.

The Heron, a 16-bed, state-licensed Assisted Living Facility provided the **only** home for chronically mentally ill adults in all of Monroe County for eleven years, from 1988 to 1999.

In 1999 we expanded into Key West, opening 24 beds at our supervised independent living apartments called **Peacock Apartments**.

With the opening of our apartments in Key West, we now have 40 beds to offer in both the Middle and Lower Keys. We are *still* the only provider of homes for the mentally ill in all of Monroe County.

Who lives in our facilities?

The new Key West facility was quickly filled with formerly homeless, mentally ill citizens of Monroe County. The Heron and Peacock Apartments provide a permanent and safe housing solution to these disabled people with special needs.



Residents of Heron enjoy a day of parasailing. Boating and fishing are also favorite recreational activities.

Not all of our residents were formerly homeless. Some are sons or daughters, husbands or wives of local families unable to cope with the difficulties

and pain of managing their loved one's mental illness

What we offer

Mentally ill people in our community cannot find affordable housing. Many can find no housing at all and are homeless. Most live on a limited income received from Social Security Disability, which never amounts to more than \$600 per month. (This amount provides only a fraction of what their housing costs U.S.F.F.)

They need assistance with many aspects of their every-day life. Many are unable to drive and cannot get to or from treatment centers. They all need help remembering to take essential medications on time.

Most are unable to work, due to their illnesses, which include schizophrenia, major clinical depression, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorder.

Daily life

Living with us, our residents receive their psychiatric care as outpatients of local clinics. Transportation to and from the clinics is provided, and most attend daily. Some residents are able to hold jobs.

We make a home for the residents of our programs both in Key West and Marathon. They celebrate their birthdays and decorate for and participate in traditional holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving. They help with shopping, meal planning and cooking. Trips are planned to museums, dolphin facilities, sporting events, beaches, and plays when funding is available

The residents of Peacock Apartments are able to be more independent, but still enjoy the supervision and help of a skilled volunteer staff.



Close-by Dolphin Research Center is a favorite day trip for Heron residents. Interaction with the dolphins can lead to increased sociability.

Our staff

We are fortunate in having volunteer staff from all over the world: Germany, Philippines, Brazil, Bahamas, Italy, Japan, and Great Britain, to name a few.

These caring and dedicated social work interns come to the United States for about a year, usually after completing higher education programs or productive careers, to experience living and working in a different country.



Volunteers staff both residences. At Heron House, Ceri Walding (right) and Mayumi Ikeda (left) often work on crafts with residents.

The volunteers reside in the same facilities as our residents, providing 24 hour supervision and assistance.



The administrative staff are local residents of the Keys.

Gary Lowe, Administrative Director and Clare Condra, Program Director, are both residents of the Keys.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our residents pay rent, which covers one third of the cost of providing the buildings, utilities, food, staffing, insurance and vehicles. The remainder of our budget must be covered by grants from government sources, foundations and private donations. We do not use professional solicitors; 100% of our receipts are used for our program.

Your tax-deductible donations and contributions can help prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing solutions for these special needs residents of Monroe County.

We are able to accept stocks, bonds, vehicles, boats and real estate property, food, furniture and clothing. We provide a receipt for fair market value, showing our tax exempt number and our registration number with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a charitable organization eligible for solicitation of donations. Call us or send your donations to

THE HERON
1320 Coco Plum Drive
Marathon, FL 33050



Heron House residents enjoy the balmy Keys weather.

OTHER THINGS WE NEED

If you want to help, here are some of the things we frequently need:

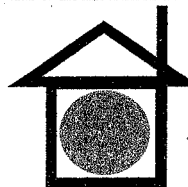
- Furniture & appliances
- Objects of value for resale
- Adult clothing & accessories
- Specific fund contributions—Recreation Fund, Transportation Fund, Landscaping Fund, etc.
- Skilled carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tile setters, landscapers to volunteer time
- Free passes to sporting and entertainment events

One of the most important things you can do for us is to tell people in the Keys about Peacock Apartments and The Heron. We need to reach both contributors and potential residents who might not know about us.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert McNally, President
Sherry Read, Vice President
Josh Madhner, Treasurer
Beverly Gardner, Secretary
Manonie Mearns
Nelson Read
Christa Rossbach

Gay Lowe, Administrative Director
Clare Condra, Program Director



**MENTAL ILLNESS DOES
NOT DISCRIMINATE...**

U.S.F.F.

1320 COCO PLUM DRIVE MARATHON, FL 33050
(305) 743-4129 FAX: (305) 743-5137
E-MAIL: USFELLOWSHIPFL@BWSK.NET

**MENTAL ILLNESS DOES
NOT DISCRIMINATE...**

U.S.F.F.

**SERVING THE MENTALLY
ILL IN THE FLORIDA KEYS**

*Providing housing and
supportive services for the
chronically mentally ill of
Monroe County at...*

**THE HERON
In Marathon**



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Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 743-4129 Fax: (305) 743-5137

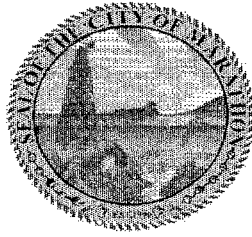
**PEACOCK
APARTMENTS
In Key West**



1624 Spalding Court #4D,
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 295-8693 Fax: (305) 295-7609

City Council

Mayor Randy Mearns
Vice Mayor Pete Worthington
Councilman Jeff Pinkus
Councilman John Repetto
Councilman John Bartus



CITY OF MARATHON

City Manager

Scott Janke

City Attorney

**Weiss Serota Helfman
Pastoriza & Guedes, P.A.**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2003

TO: Scott Janke

FROM: Randall Mearns

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy Mearns", written over the printed name.

RE: Heron House Reso

The United Fellowship of Florida is attempting to purchase the Heron House on Coco Plum Drive. This is an assisted living facility for the mentally challenged. They are hoping to get some assistance from the Monroe County Land Authority, however they need our support. Please have staff refine this reso and place it on an upcoming agenda.

Should you have any questions, the contacts are Marge Mearns at 743-3420 or Josh Mothner at 743-3030. Thanks.