



LOVING TOUCH

OFFICIAL VOICE OF LOVING HANDS MINISTRIES

1st Quarter 2026



As we stepped into 2026, we gathered our staff from all campuses for our annual kickoff—setting the tone and direction for the year ahead. This year's focus is "Multiplication." Building on last year's theme of "Believe," where we called our team to deepen their faith and trust in the Lord, we are now stepping forward in faith, expecting that what God has planted will grow and multiply. We are believing not only for continued transformation in the lives of the men we serve, but for that transformation to extend outward, impacting families, churches, and entire communities.

At Loving Hands Ministries, our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing and demonstrating the love of God in action. This year, that mission is being strengthened through a renewed focus on our core values—love, relationships, excellence, service, and transformation. We are intentionally investing in deeper spiritual growth through prayer, discipleship, and accountability, while also strengthening our team culture and improving effectiveness across all campuses. We are seeing God move. Lives are being restored. Men are finding freedom. And the impact is growing. But as Scripture reminds us:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

This is where you come in. As we look ahead, we are preparing for the upcoming Giving Challenge, and this year's invitation is simple: Be the One. Be the one who steps in. Be the one who gives. Be the one who helps double the impact. During the Giving Challenge, every gift from \$25-\$100 is matched, meaning your generosity goes twice as far in helping bring restoration and hope to more men. Your partnership is not just a donation—it's an investment in changed lives, restored families, and multiplied impact for the Kingdom. Thank you for standing with us in prayer and believing in what God is doing through Loving Hands Ministries. Together, we are seeing multiplication.

2026 GIVING CHALLENGE

HOW CAN YOU "BE THE ONE" TO SAVE OUR SONS?

- 1 JOIN THE TRIBE**
SIGN UP TODAY TO REGISTER AS A CHAMPION
- 2 PLEDGE**
TO DONATE ON GIVING DAY!
- 3 SHARE**
HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

OUR GOAL: \$150,000

Your Impact →

- 100 Donors to give \$25 = \$2,500 + match would = \$5,000
- 150 Donors to give \$50 = \$7,500 + match would = \$15,000
- 200 Donors to give \$75 = \$15,000 + match would = \$30,000
- 500 Donors to give \$100 = \$50,000 + match would = \$100,000





PALMETTO TRIBE



The Palmetto campus began the year by welcoming two new residents, Adrian Ard and Montrey Cueto, who are already showing a strong hunger for God's Word and a desire for life transformation in Christ.

Ron continues to lead faithfully, demonstrating a deep commitment to the Lord and a passion for discipling both residents and staff. Recently, Andrew Kilby transitioned from Loving Hands to pursue a new career and focus on his family. We are grateful for his time with us, and are thankful for how Ben and Misael have stepped up to support the campus during this season. We are excited to see the table filling up with men who are eager to grow in the Lord.

We also celebrated the graduation of Jose Carcano alongside residents, staff, and friends of the ministry. Jose has returned home to care for his three children and remains connected with our team as he continues to grow in the Lord.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Palmetto Campus Golf Tournament on May 9 at The River Club in Lakewood Ranch, an important opportunity to engage our community and support the ongoing work of the ministry.

Your gift doesn't just help, it transforms. Misael is living proof.

"Because of God's incredible grace, His unfailing love, and His restoring power, my life has been completely transformed. I am the new creation He promises in 2 Corinthians 5:17. In His mercy, He didn't just reconcile me to Himself, He restored me into the man of God He always called me to be. ***I know without a doubt this journey would not have been possible without Loving Hands Ministries.***

When I first came to the ministry in 2021, I was broken, lost, and without direction. I had believed lies for so long they became my identity. My relationships were fractured, my trust was broken, and my relationship with God was nearly nonexistent. But even then, God never left me.

In His perfect love, He pulled me out of that pit and set my feet on solid ground. Today, I know who I am in Christ. I am no longer defined by addiction or failure. ***I am saved, redeemed, and walking in His purpose.*** He has taken over 20 years of struggle and turned it for good.

Because of His mercy, my family has not just been restored, it's been renewed. My children are on fire for Jesus. I had the honor of baptizing both of my daughters, something I once thought impossible. My oldest daughter even listed me as the most impactful person in her life, something only God could do.

God's faithfulness continues to overflow. In May 2026, I will be marrying my beautiful fiancée, Laura, and together we are serving the Lord and pouring into the next generation. I am beyond grateful for the restoration God has brought through Loving Hands Ministries and I know this is only the beginning of what He has in store."





DADE CITY TRIBE



We began the year by welcoming three new residents, Matthew Douglas, James Coyne, and Patrick McKenzie, who joined the program at the end of 2025. In January, we celebrated the graduation of Charlie Epperson after completing our 18-month program. We are proud of Charlie and grateful he has committed to an additional six months in our AfterCare Program.

Pastor Baker continues to excel in his second year as Program Director in Dade City, faithfully leading with a strong gift for discipleship and regularly teaching at both the Dade City and Palmetto campuses. We are also thankful for Brian, who serves as Resident Director, investing daily in the spiritual growth of the men. Reggie has returned to Florida for a six-month internship, assisting with church scheduling and fundraising efforts.

The men have already had several opportunities to serve in the community, and it has been a blessing to see their willingness to serve. The Dade City team is also preparing for their upcoming Golf Tournament on April 25 and continues to share testimonies of restoration in churches each week—reminding us that the prayers and support of our partners are truly multiplying the impact of this ministry.

Your gift doesn't just help, it transforms. Brian is living proof.

My name is Brian Vitkauskas, and today I have the honor of serving as the Resident Director at the Dade City campus. But just a few years ago, my life looked completely different. I came to Loving Hands Ministries in June of 2021, broken and overwhelmed. For most of my life, I used drugs and alcohol to cope with the pain I carried. I started drinking and smoking marijuana at just 13 years old to deal with things happening at home, and over time it led me into deeper addiction and harder drugs. I ended up homeless, living in the woods and stealing just to survive. **But God never gave up on me.**

After being arrested, I found myself in a jail cell crying out, "Jesus, if You love me, I need You now. I can't do this anymore." Not long after, I came to Loving Hands Ministries, and just three weeks later, on July 20, 2021, I gave my life to the Lord.

God met me there and completely changed everything. **He set me on fire for Him and I have not been the same man since.**

Today, I am walking in freedom and helping other men find that same freedom in Christ. God has restored so much in my life. I got my driver's license back after 24 years. My relationships with my family have been healed. I now have my children back in my life, something I know I didn't deserve, but I serve a God who restores and changes things. **I give Him all the Glory, for He is the One who gets the praise.** "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light."





GEORGIA TRIBE



The Georgia campus is experiencing remarkable growth, with nine residents currently in the program, which is the largest group in its history! Olaf continues to lead with excellence and a deep passion for lasting transformation, alongside the steady support and encouragement of his wife, Erin.

Olaf is also investing in Yonathan as an intern, raising up future leadership. While the team has felt the stretch following Reggie's return to Dade City, they continue to move forward faithfully. Joseph VanBlarcom remains a strong support through teaching, events, and mentoring.

We are especially encouraged by Jevon, our longest-serving resident, who is preparing to graduate while stepping into leadership on campus and serving two days a week at his local church. It is powerful to see the home filled with men pursuing Jesus and finding freedom in Christ—clear evidence of the Lord's continued increase in 2026.

Your gift doesn't just help, it transforms. Jevon is living proof.

Jevon Darrisaw came to Loving Hands Ministries on April 8, 2024, arriving in shackles and dropped off by a police officer. He was broken, guarded, and deeply hurt, shaped by years of street life and cycles of jail and prison. Trust didn't come easy. In fact, for a long time, it didn't come at all. But over time, something began to change.

In the family atmosphere of Loving Hands Ministries, Jevon encountered the love of Christ in a real and personal way. Slowly, walls came down. He began to trust, to open up, and to face the struggles that had kept him bound for so many years, and in doing so, **he found freedom.**

By the end of 2024, Jevon experienced something he never had before: his first Christmas clean and sober, complete with a tree and presents, something he had never known in his life.

Since then, his growth has been undeniable. **What began in brokenness has been redeemed by God's restoring power.** Jevon has become a strong leader and a steady example to others in the program. This year, he earned his driving permit for the first time and is now serving as an intern at Vidalia First Assembly of God, faithfully learning under Pastor Joe Gabbard and Youth Pastor Aaron White, while continuing to serve at the ministry.

Jevon's journey is one of resilience, restoration, and unwavering faith, and it's still being written!

