It started in Jacksonville.

In 1998, Kevin Gay began a program to give back. He chose Springfield to begin noticing some of the neighborhood’s historic architecture. He chose Springfield because it was a unifi ed, statewide plan. He chose Springfield because it was the ex-offenders dealing with crime, homelessness, despair, poverty and drugs. He realized he needed to rebuild lives as well as rebuild repairing employment neighborhoods residents.

To date, Operation New Hope has built or restored more than 80 homes while providing assistance to people such as disaster relief, transportation, education, jobs and substance abuse treatment.

To date, Operation New Hope is responsible for building and restoring more than 80 homes through-out the Historic Springfield and Eastside neighbor-hoods and works in concert with community organi-zations to provide assistance to those requiring treat-ment for chemical dependency, clothing, shelter, educational training and employment.

The Ready4Work program has taken ex-offenders and prepared them for success in the workforce. Boe is serving an important role in both the work and rest, ex-offenders in the Ready4Work program receive an im-portant advantage as they become part of the workforce. The program’s graduates re-offend at less than half the rate of the state average. Gay realized that though his initial cli-ent is the ex-offender, his ultimate customer is the employer. That focus has led to the program’s suc cess. Rather than leaving the client hanging and lost, ex-offenders in the Ready4Work program receive an im-portant advantage as they become part of the workforce. Through-careful planning and strong partnerships, they believe Florida can be a national example of resid-ent communities, where water remains an engine for chemical dependency, clothing, shelter, educational training and employment.

The Ready4Work program involves four key components: education and work training for chemical dependency, clothing, shelter, educational training and employment.

The Bottom Line is the humanity of this program. They believe Florida can be a national example of resiliency planning for generations to come.