



CLAY SAFETYNET ALLIANCE

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Monthly meetings held on the 3rd Thursday, 8:30-10am

Haven Hospice Community Room, 745 Blanding Blvd,

Orange Park, FL 32065



The Clay SafetyNet Alliance is a network of Clay County nonprofit, faith-based and local government agencies which bring social services and support to the county's 200,000 residents. Not only is this network a safety-net of social services, but recently it merged with Shaping Clay, which is a network of enrichment programs in the community. There are over 140 nonprofits that file taxes and use a Clay County address for their filing.

The Clay SafetyNet was founded in 2003 as the Mercy Network of Clay County. This dedicated group of faith-based, nonprofit and local government organizations met monthly to share resources and avoid duplication of services. In 2010 a crisis arose when there was no housing in Clay County for families who lost their homes due to

foreclosure. The members of The Mercy Network took on the project of establishing housing for these displaced families.

In 2012, the members of The Mercy Network formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called, Mercy Support Services which now manages three quadruplexes for displaced families and individuals, has a full-time case manager, operates a Resource and Referral Call Center and is able to guide displaced people to self-sufficiency.

The Mercy Network, having plans to take on even more projects, expand outreach to other county stakeholders, was faced with confusion due to a similar name with the nonprofit Mercy Support Services. To dispel this confusion, a new name was adopted – The Clay

SafetyNet Alliance.

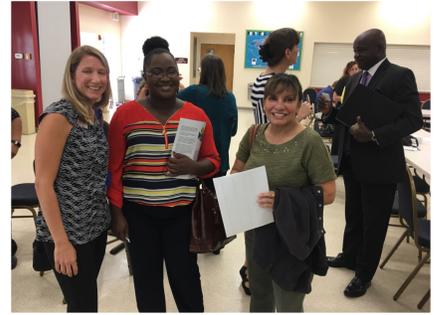
The Clay SafetyNet Alliance is now actively connecting with other stakeholders such as the Emergency Operations Center, the Sheriff's Department, the Health Department, the School District, for profit businesses, and an expanding number of nonprofits. Linking to other networks such as the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Corporation, Shaping Clay, and the Clay Action Coalition only strengthens their ability to leverage the impact of their collective efforts.

Clay County nonprofits are 5% of the workforce, and in 2015 provided more than \$33 million in direct program delivery to Clay's residents. This was accomplished by earning \$2.4 million in fundraising, securing

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\$30 million in grants and contributions, and collecting \$4 million of in-kind donations. The Clay SafetyNet meets monthly at the Salvation Army Conference Room, 2795 County Road 220, Middleburg, FL, 32068, on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Their goal is to bring people together in order to collaborate and

continue solving short-term community needs by sharing resources, forming partnerships and avoiding duplication of services. In addition, they focus on expanding communication, creating a framework to proactively address community problems, and championing common projects that will benefit the whole county.



Attending monthly meetings gives stakeholders knowledge of county resources



The power of collaboration was perfectly demonstrated when the members of the Clay SafetyNet Alliance (formerly The Mercy Network) came together to provide housing for displaced people, picture here at the opening of one of the group homes in 2010.



Top Left - Volunteers take calls from people in Clay County who are in crisis. The members of The Clay SafetyNet initiated the Mercy Support Services Resource Referral Call Center in 2010.

Top Right - Members of the Clay SafetyNet Alliance partner with other social service agencies in the annual outreach to low income, disadvantaged and homeless people in Clay County.



Bottom Left - The Clay SafetyNet Alliance fills the ESF (Emergency Support Function) 15 seat in the Clay County Emergency Operations Center during disasters. The ESF 15 coordinates donations and volunteers and facilitates longterm recovery.

Bottom Right - The Clay SafetyNet Alliance partners with the Clay County Chamber of Commerce's Finally Friday network meeting. The two networks partner in various community projects.

