



Mission House
Compassion by the Sea

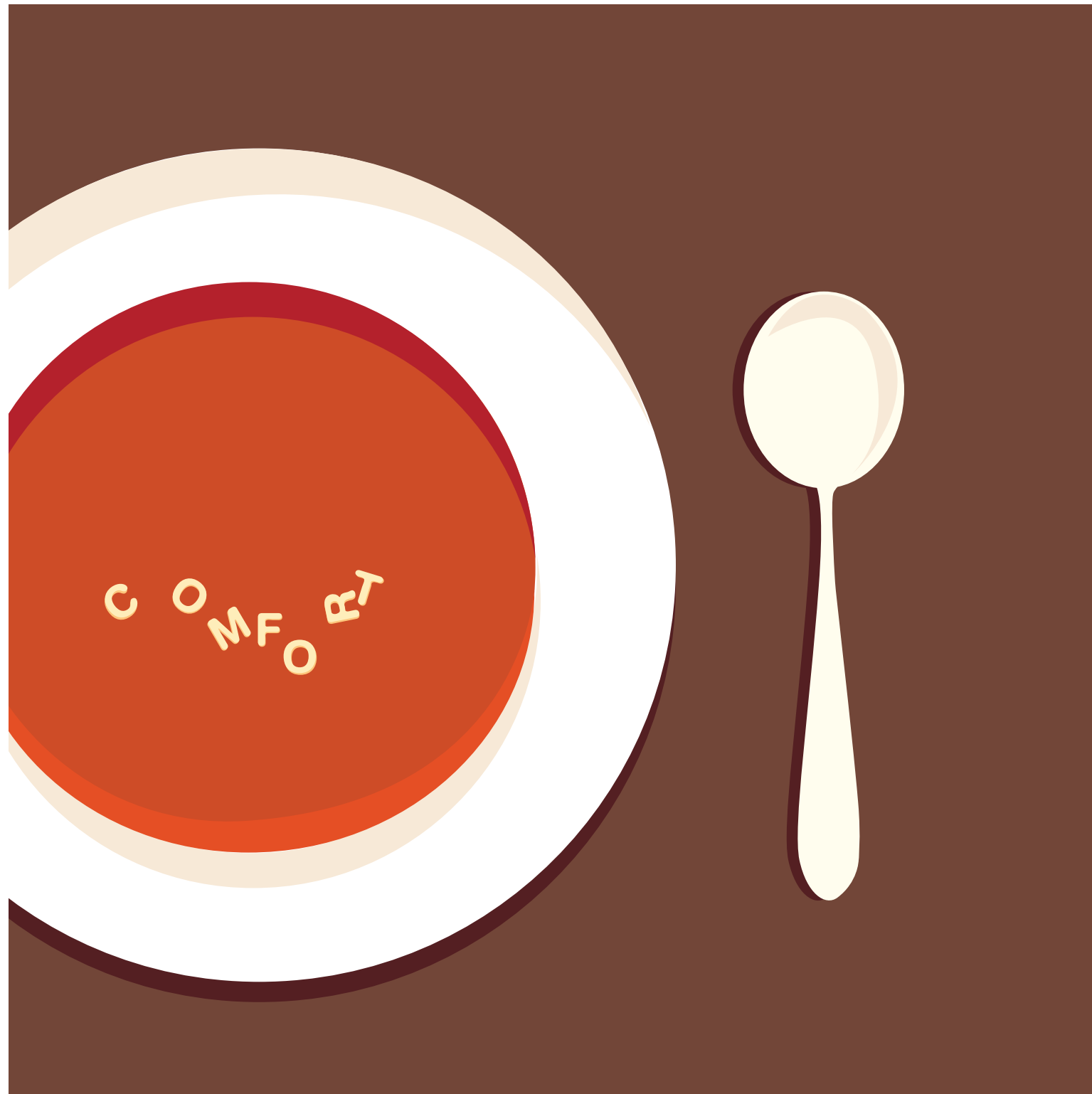
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Compassion by the Sea: the Mission House Story



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Since its beginning, Mission House has been sustained by the efforts of the Beaches' faith community. Before its inception, compassionate individuals and members of the St. Francis Seaside Ministry served the homeless and the poor from tents, parish halls, church basements – even station wagons – throughout the area. At the same time, The Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) and the Beaches Community Kitchen provided assistance to poor and needy citizens living at the beach. Together, these organizations sought solutions to the overwhelming issues facing the homeless and working poor. Soon, it became clear that it would take more than a hot meal and a change of clothes to make a lasting difference in a person's life.

No two people find themselves on the street for exactly the same reasons. Some people make the wrong choices in life; others fall victim to events that are beyond their control. With little opportunity to perform the tasks most of us take for granted, the homeless often appear disheveled and dirty. Many suffer from mental illnesses that range from depression to debilitating psychotic disorders. And with no address or phone number to put on a job application – combined with years of hard living – most are unable to make a transition back to a stable life. Among homeless people, however, one thing is consistent: they are always searching for a safe haven.

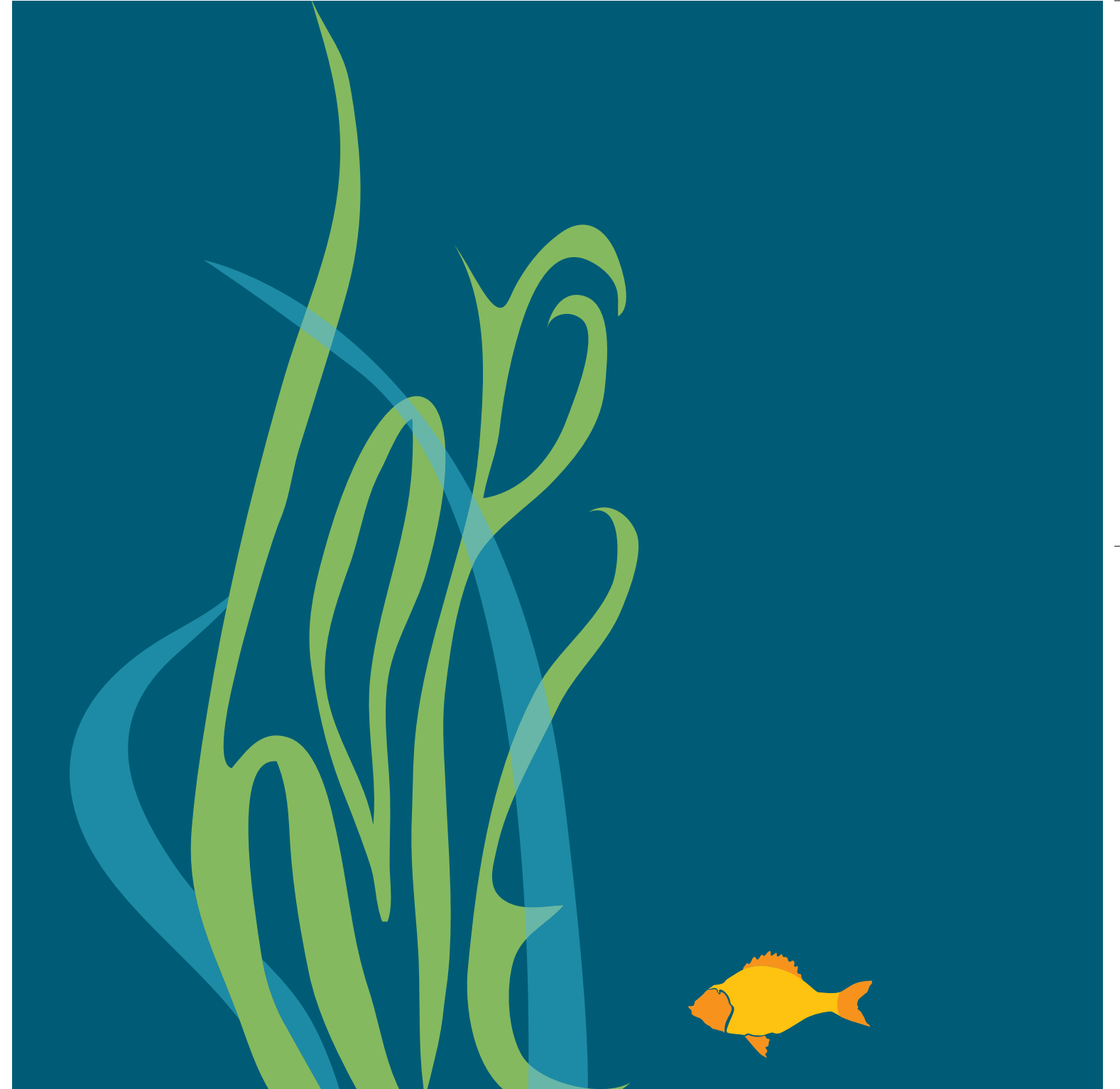
Compassion + Faith + Individual Assistance

Since February of 1997, Mission House has provided meals, showers, clean clothing and – above all – hope to men and women living on the streets of Jacksonville Beach.

Now, with the assistance of other providers in the community, Mission House offers:

- Employment programs and clothing vouchers from Goodwill Beaches Center
- Mental health services from Quest
- Prayer and Praise service on Tuesday evenings plus spiritual counseling upon request
- Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Wednesday evenings
- Residential substance abuse programs with Gateway Services
- AIDS/HIV and STD testing by River Region
- Veterans programs and services by VA and VOA

By the time they've had 30 meals at Mission House, clients are required to enter into an employment, medical or mental health program. Case Managers work with clients to create structured programs and action plans – all designed to help them make positive strides toward helping themselves.





Mission House Clinic

In October of 1998, the Mission House Clinic began offering much needed free medical care to the poor, homeless and uninsured populations of Jacksonville's beaches. Each Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical personnel come together to offer their services.

Whenever possible, prescription medications are offered free of charge from a stock of on-hand drugs. When the appropriate medication is not available, patients benefit from a voucher usable at Pavilion Pharmacy. Lab work, X-rays, diagnostic tests and medical specialists are available through the We Care Referral System.

MORE THAN 40
MEDICAL PERSONNEL
GIVE THEIR TIME TO
THE MISSION HOUSE
CLINIC EACH MONTH.

Benefits by the Numbers

Since opening in February, 1997:

- Over 10,000 men, women and children have been served by Mission House
- 80% of clients are male
- 65% are white
- 30% are African-American
- 4% are Hispanic
- Over 500 volunteers a month work at Mission House
- More than 40 medical personnel give their time to the Mission House clinic each month

In the last 12 months, Mission House has:

- Assisted more than 1,500 men, women and children
- Provided over 45,000 meals in the Cay and Andre Dining Hall
- Supplied towels and soap for more than 10,000 showers
- Provided over 6,500 JTA bus tickets
- Treated over 2,000 uninsured patients with more than 4,300 prescriptions – all free
- Managed the cases of 247 homeless men and women
- Reunited clients with their families, and helped others to find permanent housing

Mission House was created to serve those most in need, to offer help with an open hand and open hearts. Through compassion, caring and practical programs, and by providing opportunities for homeless people to make informed and constructive decisions, Mission House offers its clients a permanent return to self-sufficiency and security.

