

# Pathways

LIVE LEARN WORK



**Claudia Roberts, MEd, CPRP**  
**Executive Director**

## A MESSAGE FROM *Claudia*

Greetings from Jeff industries!

The agency's RESILIENCE has kept us going through these most difficult of times. We are open and offering all services with the necessary CDC guidelines in place. With the onslaught of COVID-19, we quickly developed a strategic plan and reconfigured our entrance point so that all staff, clients and visitors have one single entrance to the facility.

Everyone is temperature checked and MUST wear masks at all times. In this area, we also have the clinical director and consumer services facilitator's offices that provide case management services. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, it was necessary to reconfigure the layout of our training area.

Since the virus began, there has been a vast increase for help from persons with mental health conditions. The high rate of

unemployment has created a desperate need for food support as well. The social isolation associated with the COVID-19 lockdown has exacerbated their chronic mental health issues.

We have expanded and enhanced our peer support staff to meet this need. The agency has also expanded its food distribution program to accommodate many clients and their families who are experiencing food insecurity and shortages. The United Way of Palm Beach County provided the funds to purchase a large stand-alone freezer so we can keep perishable foods for longer periods of time.

It is important to note that many previous donors are now designating their funds to targeted COVID-19 causes; however we still need everyone's support and help.

We applaud and thank those of you who have stepped up and donated to the cause. However, there is still a great need especially among those whom we serve.

As you plan your holiday giving, please consider Jeff Industries. Any small amount helps! The staff and I appreciate your support and thank you for your prayers as we power on!

May you have a blessed Holiday Season!

Thank you!  
Claudia

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## MEET *Susan DeVoy*



### Vice President of Board of Directors

Susan, who lives in Ocean Ridge, FL, has been on the Jeff Industries Board of Directors for 23 years. She accidentally discovered the agency when looking for an embossing company for her print shop. She met former Executive Director Angelo Squaritto and was introduced to the amazing work done here for persons with chronic mental illnesses. Her mother was always involved in Mental Health organizations in their hometown in New Jersey. She didn't think twice when asked to join the Board.

A realtor by trade, Susan is the former publisher of the Palm Beach Social Index Directory and she worked as the photo coordinator of the Palm Beach Pictorial. Susan spends her summer months and works in real estate in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ.

“It's just amazing how the agency has grown over the years and continues to grow. We have helped so many people overcome their personal barriers to work and become active members of the community.”



## OUR MANY *Thanks!*

We are very grateful to the United Way of Palm Beach County for a COVID-19 grant award which allowed us to purchase an additional large freezer. The freezer helps us increase the capacity to store frozen produce for food distribution. This food is distributed on Tuesday afternoons to our clients and “at-risk” families in our community. With the onslaught of COVID-19, we are experiencing an increased demand for food distribution. Currently we are distributing over 4,000 pounds of food per month.



## MEET *Dean Wehmanen*

Dean has been at the agency for six and one half years. He teaches woodworking, handles all janitorial oversight and helps maintain the Palm Haven houses. He is a man of “few words” and likes everyone else to talk first. He's patient and kind with our clients. Dean learned his expert woodworking skills while helping his father build a house in Northern Michigan. He was only 12 years old at the time.

What people might not know about Dean is that he loves classical music. He owns three guitars and one electric piano. Dean collects old sheet music and owns over 500 piano music books that are over 100 years old.

“I love to see clients open up, overcome their fears and take pride in their work.”



Your support and donor contributions at work!

## A JEFF INDUSTRIES *Success Story*

### Meet Luke Kropf

This unassuming young man is Jeff Industries' Front Desk Assistant. He describes himself as a “Jack of All Trades.” He greets clients and visitors and even cleans all the front offices. Luke first came to A.M.I.G.O.S. to meet friends and for some socialization. Realizing he had found a “home,” he decided to apply for a peer support specialist position and, of course, was accepted immediately. Luke has an affinity for people who suffer with mental illnesses. He has SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and moved to Florida from Pittsburgh for the ever-present sunshine. Jeff is lucky to have such an appreciative and caring person in their midst. His mission in life is to help people who struggle with issues such as his.

*Welcome Luke!*



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