



**Homeless
Coalition**
PALM BEACH COUNTY

MAYOR'S Ball

10.9.2021

6:00 PM

Palm Beach County Convention Center

The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc., a 501(c) 3 will present the Mayor's Ball 2020. Net proceeds from the Mayor's Ball fund gaps in services to help end homelessness in our community. For more than 30 years, the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County has served to generate awareness through advocacy, education and community outreach, and to motivate a community-wide response to raise funding, resources, partners and involved citizens to end homelessness in Palm Beach County.

INTRODUCTION

On any given night, more than 1,510 people in Palm Beach County do not have a safe, permanent place to call home. However, that number from the 2020 Point-in-Time Count does not give the complete picture. During the count, it was discovered that there are more seniors living on the streets of Palm Beach County, 43 percent more than the previous count to be exact. The Homeless Coalition has seen the need increase first hand; our **Safe Shelter of Hope Initiative** launched in the spring of 2020 identified and housed over 100 seniors living in the Parks throughout the county.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Ball began in 2014 by then Palm Beach County Mayor Priscilla Taylor. Mayor Taylor selected the Homeless Coalition as the beneficiary of the gala to help fund the already existing Ten-Year-Plan to End Homelessness, especially the housing component.

Since its inception, the Mayor's Ball has netted more than \$1,000,000 for homeless services. The success of the Mayor's Ball has allowed the Homeless Coalition's Creating Housing Opportunities program to positively impact nearly twenty one hundred people, moving them from homelessness into permanent housing.

Many homeless providers in our community have also benefited from the resources raised at the event. Some of our partner agencies

include; Gulfstream Goodwill, The Lord's Place, Adopt-A-Family and the Homeless Outreach Team. The Mayor's Ball has also allowed the Homeless Coalition to hire and maintain a housing specialist who helps all of our partners identify affordable housing across the county.

PROBLEM

The two main causes of homelessness in Palm Beach County are unemployment and the lack of affordable housing. We are currently in a housing crisis. Rental prices are up 10% across the board leaving many residents with the burden of spending more than 30% of their income on housing. For many others, rent exceeds 50% of their income. People who are experiencing homelessness are not concentrated in one area of our county. Our law enforcement, hospitals and schools assist homeless individuals daily, throughout Palm Beach County.

SOLUTION

While there are many agencies and programs that help people who are experiencing homelessness, the resources do not meet the need. The Homeless Coalition is proud to work with Palm Beach County's Community Services Department on its Collective Impact Project. This plan sets the path forward to end homelessness in our county by engaging every corner of our community in the issue. We must generate funding from government, business, faith organizations, non-profit groups and individuals to provide the needed homes and support services.

CONCLUSION

One organization or one fundraiser will not solve the issue of homelessness in Palm Beach County. It is a complex issue, which requires a variety of approaches and a commitment from every resident, every business owner, every elected official, and every congregation. We must acknowledge the existence of homelessness in our community and step forward to help. Everyone can and must do something. It takes a village to transform the lives of the underserved and renew their hope for their future.

**Listings in promotional materials, press releases and program are subject to publication deadlines.*

Camera-ready, digital art for all program ads due no later than September 3, 2021.

For more information call 561-355-4663 or email cstringer@homelesscoalitionpbc.org

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