

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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New 25-Bed Supportive Housing Campus in West Palm Beach

The Lord's Place partners with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to open C Place

The Lord's Place opened the doors to C Place, a 25-bed supportive housing campus for vulnerable individuals in West Palm Beach, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 16, 2022.

Thanks to the partnership with [Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network](#) (SEFBHN), The Lord's Place was awarded a contract to operate this new campus for single adults experiencing homelessness, former incarceration, behavioral health conditions, and other barriers to stability. The property is owned by Nyasha and Ike Chimbandi, co-founders of We Second Chance LLC who use their housing investments to give back to our community.

"We have had a commitment here at The Lord's Place to continue to meet the unmet needs in our community, especially as it comes to housing. And so when we had this amazing opportunity to work with public and private partners and to be able to serve 25 of the most vulnerable individuals in our community, we felt honored to be asked that, and that is what this facility is," stated The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley in her opening remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

C Place will provide short-term (18–24 months) supportive housing using principles from the evidence-based [Housing First](#) model. Clients will be matched with a case manager who will work with them to complete a personalized service plan and connect them to comprehensive supportive services to stabilize their housing and behavioral health. Wraparound services include: case management, peer support, benefits navigation, basic needs assistance (food, clothing, hygiene, etc.), transportation, job training and placement, life skills instruction, counseling, recovery support, ABE/GED tutoring, and [SOAR](#). They will also be connected to CARE Team, The Lord's Place innovative multidisciplinary clinical program. Once clients are stabilized, The Lord's Place staff will assist the clients to transition to permanent housing.

West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James addressed the attendees and thanked Stanley and her team at The Lord's Place for supporting the West Palm Beach development department in their commitment to helping vulnerable populations with basic necessities and resources and advocating for all West Palm Beach residents. He also thanked SEFBHN CEO Ann Berner and her staff for their financial support and playing a role in creating accessible housing opportunities for those who need it most.

As West Palm Beach undergoes significant, transformative economic growth with continued interest from developers nationwide, James stated "We know that we must grow smart and not just grow for the sake of growing. So, we have made it a point to let developers know our expectations and how they can help us, not only the workforce they can bring but help our current residents who require assistance. C Place falls in line with my vision of making West Palm Beach a community of opportunity for all. Where anyone, regardless of their life situation, can achieve their highest goal right here in the city of West Palm Beach."

Berner explained how projects like C Place come together to convey the sense of community and its support across all of our systems, "We find excellent partners like the Chimbandi's. Then we find outstanding providers that are vested in a special population and understand that people need a hand up, not a hand out."

"It's my dream to continue to replicate this model. It allows nonprofits to not have to absorb all the costs of having to run a facility and we can still deliver services to those in need," said Stanley.

More than 75 key stakeholders in our community were present for the opening, including: City of West Palm Beach Police Chief Frank Adderley, Florida Senator Bobby Powell, Trevor Flemming from the office of Congresswoman Lois Frankel, and other city, county, and state officials; The Lord's Place staff, board members, and clients; SEFBHN staff members; the Chimbandi's; and other community members who advocate for the vulnerable.

SEFBHN develops, supports, and manages integrated behavioral health services to promote the emotional well-being and drug-free living of children and adults. It is a managing entity contracted with the Department of Children and Families. SEFBHN has been a strong partner of The Lord's Place, supporting the agency's PATH and SOAR programs. C Place is the first dedicated housing program partnership between The Lord's Place and SEFBHN.

This November, We Second Chance and The Lord's Place will celebrate six years of partnership. The Chimbandi's own two single-family homes, a multi-family apartment complex, and now the 25-bed campus which they rent to The Lord's Place.

According to Berner, "This is a huge opportunity and I'm just so excited to be able to showcase how we can work together in public-private partnerships and really leverage all of our resources."



About The Lord's Place

For more than 40 years, The Lord's Place has been working to break the cycle of homelessness for men, women, and children in Palm Beach County, FL, through innovative, compassionate and effective services. It provides supportive and graduate housing at twelve locations; operates social enterprises including Joshua Catering; provides job training and placement services, clinical and care coordination, and community engagement services; and has a highly-successful reentry program helping men and women transitioning from incarceration. For more information visit thelordsplace.org.

Photo ID:

001: West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James, center, and CEO of The Lord's Place Diana Stanley cut the ribbon to open C Place, a 25-bed supportive housing campus in West Palm Beach.

002: L-R: C Place property owner Ike Chimbandi, The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley, SEFBHN CEO Ann Berner, C Place property owner Nyasha Chimbandi

003: The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley and West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James

004: The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley and Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network CEO Ann Berner

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