

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Moving Up and Moving In: The Lord's Place Hires Jim Collins to Lead its Joshua Catering Social Enterprise Which Has Returned to West Palm Beach

The Lord's Place recently announced the appointment of Jim Collins as director of culinary operations. Having worked in food services for more than 40 years, including nearly 15 years as a culinary arts instructor, Collins comes to The Lord's Place with the skills necessary to support the mission, values, and vision of the growing social impact agency.

Collins joins as the leader of the culinary team at a critical time: the agency's social enterprise focus has shifted solely on [Joshua Catering](#), and The Lord's Place returned to 2808 North Australian Avenue in June 2023, after nearly two years of construction and operating catering out of a temporary facility in Lake Park.

At the center of the new 25,000-square-foot client service center is [Café Joshua](#)—a restaurant-type program where those experiencing homelessness receive a hot meal, kindness from staff and volunteers, and start the conversation about a brighter future. Additionally, there is a state-of-the-art catering kitchen, the agency's job training program, Reentry center, and administrative offices.

Collins plays key roles for the team, including: overseeing all food preparation, menu planning, recipe development, inventory ordering, and operations for Café Joshua and Joshua Catering. Café Joshua serves lunches and provides table companions for the hundreds of people who are homeless and come to The Lord's Place weekly for a hot meal. The catering business serves individuals and businesses in our community with fresh, delicious options for breakfast, lunch, and afternoon treats. The catering social enterprise supports The Lord's Place programs and services to break the cycle of homelessness in Palm Beach County. The café and catering operations provide an opportunity for formerly homeless clients to complete the [Culinary Transitional Work Experience](#) program which gives students the necessary foundational skills to acquire an entry-level position in any commercial kitchen.

According to CEO Diana Stanley, "Chef Jim embodies the spirit of Café Joshua with his

generosity, kindness, professional skills and service to others. He honors the history of Café Joshua while embracing future opportunities for growth and client services. He is a gift to The Lord's Place and to our community."

Through various roles in restaurants, hotels, schools, colleges, businesses, and healthcare, Collins has been working in and around commercial kitchens for more than four decades. With his plethora of experiences, he understands both the business and hands-on side of operating a kitchen. From working with high-profile politicians like both President George Bush, Sr. and Jr., and Vice President Al Gore, planning events for 12,000 guests, and designing kitchens to serving as the culinary arts instructor at a highly regarded career and technical school in Exeter, NH, Collins comes to The Lord's Place ready to serve our community.

With respect to Collins' impact on homelessness, he said, "I am considered a compassionate person and hope to be able to combine my compassion with prior experience to end and prevent future homelessness. I was attracted to The Lord's Place's mission and excited for the opportunity to give back in a new way."

Collins takes pride in the students he teaches and the high-quality food they prepare. "We are almost entirely a scratch kitchen. We prepare many different types of foods—from small to large events, from lunches to high-end catered affairs. Each catering event and opportunity provides our apprentices with the experience and skills to produce, deliver, and serve a wide variety of cuisine. This catering experience is far greater than what they would get elsewhere."

Collins originally hails from New Hampshire and has lived in every northeast state except Vermont. When not working in the kitchen to change the lives of the homeless and most vulnerable and neglected in Palm Beach County, Collins can be found line dancing and ballroom dancing with his wife or teaching dancing classes.

For more information on Joshua Catering, to view the catering menus, or to place an order, visit JoshuaCatering.org or call 561.683.2094.

Background Information:

The Lord's Place opened its first soup kitchen in 1979 to help feed the food-insecure in our community. Since then, its food programs and services have evolved and expanded to include the opening of Café Joshua in 1995, the starting of an apprentice program in 2002, and establishing Joshua Catering in 2004.

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](#): Jim Collins, newly appointed director of culinary operations for The Lord's Place.

[002](#): Joshua Catering staff (L-R): Nicholas Guevera, Maria Daguerre, Jim Collins, Allen Coblentz.

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