

Op-Ed

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Together, Let's Make Palm Beach County Better Than Today

By: Christine Frederick, CEO of The Lord's Place

I called Broward County my home for the last 25 years—fulfilling a personal mission to leave it better than I found it. I am now part of your community as the new chief executive officer of The Lord's Place and re-pledge the same mission—I hope to make Palm Beach County better than today.

You may ask how Palm Beach County could get any better when West Palm Beach is ranked fourth in Henley & Partners' list of "[World's Fastest Growing Wealth Hubs](#)" as reported by [The Palm Beach Post](#). While West Palm Beach and Palm Beach experienced a 112% increase in millionaires between 2014 and 2024, the number of individuals experiencing [homelessness in Palm Beach County increased by 33%](#) during that same time period. I envision a better Palm Beach County where everyone, regardless of wealth, has access to affordable, safe, and stable housing. Increased wealth should not equate to increased homelessness.

With two months under my belt working at our county's leading homeless-service agency, it's evident that in every facet of The Lord's Place programming there is a pathway to hope with no dead end at any point.

From the moment a client walks through the doors of our Fortin Family Campus engagement center, there's hope of filling their bellies for the day—giving them the strength to then focus on something other than their hunger. When the Street Outreach Team seeks out unhoused individuals hidden in wooded areas in their tents or behind abandoned buildings, they plant seeds of hope as they build trust, connect them to community resources, and eventually a roof over their heads. When a client with a behavioral health issue, substance abuse challenge, or serious medical condition comes to us, they find hope through our CARE team with access to counseling and other resources. When reentering society after recently being released from incarceration, we provide hopeful pathways to "second chances," to become productive citizens once again. Our children and youth find hope in breaking the intergenerational cycle of trauma that comes from being unhoused through the mentorship, tutoring, and pro-social activities they receive.

As I join the fabric of your community in doing the necessary work to end homelessness, I invite you to join me in ensuring that these pathways to hope continue. It is my hope that as each individual graduates from our programs or supportive housing, they will be thriving—not just surviving—in Palm Beach County where they have the opportunity to find work and housing and can afford to live.

Together, let's be a part of the solution in moving the needle forward. Together, let's share our time, talents, and increased wealth to decrease and end homelessness. Together, let's make Palm Beach County better than today.

For more information on The Lord's Place's essential and hopeful work that helps ensure a better Palm Beach County, visit www.TheLordsPlace.org.

About The Lord's Place

For 45 years, The Lord's Place, a non-sectarian agency, 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. The Fortin Family Campus in West Palm Beach provides training and support services including: the operation of Café Joshua; job training and placement services; clinical and care coordination; community engagement services; and a reentry program helping men and women transitioning from incarceration. The agency also owns or rents 15 supportive and graduate housing locations, as well as 82 scattered site apartments, to help house about 300 individuals every night. For more information, visit thelordsplace.org.

Photo ID:

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