

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Five new members join The Lord's Place Board of Directors, Ready to Make an Impact to End Homelessness

Carey Haughwout, Talmedge Hayes, Dror Paley, M.D., Christian D. Searcy, Jr., and Adrienne Weissman recently accepted appointment to [The Lord's Place Board of Directors](#), effective July 1, 2025. They join the existing members in bringing their professional and personal talents to address the issues of homelessness and provide strategic guidance, financial leadership, and to uphold the values of The Lord's Place.

Current members of the board include: Cornelia Thornburgh, chair; Wes Lang, vice-chair; Willy Philiias, secretary; Kate Stengle, audit chair; Charles Ward, treasurer, finance committee chair; George Bachman, IT committee chair; Chief Sean Baker; The Honorable Ann Brown; Julie Fisher Cummings; James Kukla, housing and facilities committee chair; Laura Lofaro Freeman; The Honorable Jeri Muoio, risk assessment committee chair; Bill Proctor; Mary Quick, advancement committee chair; Jack Scarola, governance committee chair; Rabbi Howard Shapiro, centered in equity (CIE) committee chair.

Carey Haughwout

Haughwout has practiced criminal defense since 1983 and has been the Public Defender for Palm Beach County since 2001. As the immediate past President of the Florida Association of Public Defenders, she works with the legislature on criminal justice policy. She is a board-certified criminal trial lawyer and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Haughwout established and chaired the Reentry Task Force for the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission which has been credited with establishing services for ex-offenders to reduce recidivism. Besides the administrative duties of managing a 200-person law office, Haughwout maintains an active trial practice of serious cases and death penalty cases.

Haughwout has been a financial supporter of The Lord's Place since 2001.

"I am thrilled to be joining the board of directors for The Lord's Place (TLP). In my many years as Public Defender representing the poor and marginalized in our community, I frequently worked with TLP on finding needed services to keep people out of the criminal

legal system. Obtaining housing and wrap-around services through TLP enabled so many to start a new, productive and law-abiding life. I look forward to the opportunity to play a role in supporting and growing this wonderful organization that has changed so many lives.”

Talmedge Hayes

Hayes joins The Lord’s Place board of directors as its client advocate representative. Given a second chance, Hayes has rebuilt his life. He went from 27 consecutive years in prison to a transitional program in Tampa, [Abe Brown Ministries](#). In order to accept a job as a printer at Palm Beach County’s in-house printing press, Hayes had to find a place to live across the state. The Lord’s Place stepped in and provided Hayes with housing and the wrap-around services needed to support his reentry into society so he could become a productive citizen once again.

This past April, Hayes celebrated his nine-year anniversary of being free, and he continues to hold his job as a master printer for Palm Beach County.

According to Hayes, “We all need a measure of grace, peace, mercy, and favor. We do.”

Outside of printing County brochures, newsletters, and other materials, Hayes shares his story with other men currently in prison to bring them hope that “there is a way other than the way that you used to have.”

Hayes also serves on the board of trustees of Abe Brown Ministries.

Dror Paley, M.D.

Dr. Paley is the CEO, Founder, and Medical Director of the Paley Orthopedic and Spine Institute in West Palm Beach, established in 2009, and the Founder of the Paley European Institute in Warsaw, Poland, 2018, Paley Middle East Clinic in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2023, and Instituto Paley Latino America in Medellin, Colombia, 2024. Dr. Paley is internationally recognized for his expertise in limb lengthening and reconstruction.

Since 2021, Paley has made The Lord’s Place his “charity of choice,” making significant financial contributions each year.

“Homelessness is an issue that I care deeply about and one that I feel is tangible and can be addressed by community service groups. I am looking forward to applying my innovative mind to help find solutions to one of the nation’s most difficult problems, including in our community.”

Christian D. Searcy, Jr.

Searcy started in the financial services industry in 1999 and, after spending two decades at UBS Financial Services, co-founded Pursuit Wealth Management in 2019. He emphasizes holistic planning as the key to achieving wealth management goals.

Currently, Searcy serves on the Finance Committee of the Lord’s Place, and he formally



served as the President of the local University of Virginia Alumni Club and has served on the Audit Committee of the Village of North Palm Beach.

In addition to being a financial supporter of The Lord's Place since 1999, Searcy is an avid attendee at the Ending Homelessness Breakfast and participant in SleepOut and the March to End Homelessness.

"From a young age, my parents instilled in me the importance of helping those in need, and I've carried that value forward by supporting local causes—because I believe charity should always start closest to home. As a longtime supporter of The Lord's Place and their life-changing work in our community, I'm proud and honored to now serve officially on their board of directors."

Adrienne Weissman

Weissman started her career in the Macy's New York Executive Training Program and spent her career at Macy's as the buyer of men's and women's fine watches and men's gold and diamond jewelry and in housewares and electronics.

Weissman moved to Florida in 1986 to help her parents, Evelyn & Arthur, expand the business which they opened the previous year. She has worked in the stores handling all aspects from personnel, buying, selling, and ticketing and customer service—whatever is needed to make the customers and sales people happy and the store successful. Today, Weissman serves as the president of Evelyn & Arthur.

In addition to making significant financial contributions to The Lord's Place since 2015, Weissman previously served on the agency's board of directors. She often makes gift-in-kind donations through Evelyn & Arthur and sets up "pop-up" shops for the women who reside at the agency's various campuses.

"One of the contributions that I feel most proud of is the area of giving back to the community. I feel it is our responsibility to take care of those around us."

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:

[Carey Haughwout](#)

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