

## NEWS RELEASE

February 9, 2026

For immediate release

Media contact: Cara Scarola Hansen

The Lord's Place Public Relations Counsel

cara@yourmissionmarketing.com

561-632-6747

### **Searcy Denney Firm to be Honored for 46 Years of Helping the Homeless**

*The Lord's Place is honoring the law firm with the MARCH Award at its upcoming 2.6 mile walk and ceremony on February 27.*

In 1979, [late Brother Joe Ranieri](#) opened a soup kitchen on Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. Those being served were sleeping in the parking lot, so Brother Joe decided he had to raise money to create a place where the homeless could be housed. To call the community's attention to the problem of homelessness and to solicit financial support, he slept on the steps of St. Ann's Church and later spent weeks living in a dumpster. Jack Scarola, partner with [Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley](#) law firm, admired Ranieri's work and joined him sleeping on St. Ann's steps and in the dumpster. Those efforts raised more than \$100,000 to finance the opening of [The Lord's Place](#) (TLP) first family housing campus in 1983.

This humble beginning of a non-profit organization, that is now the largest homeless agency in Palm Beach County, was also the start of the longstanding and impactful partnership between Searcy Denney and The Lord's Place. For 46 years, Scarola and his team have been steadfast supporters of TLP and participate in the agency's various events—from hosting Dumpster Days in front of their law firm, to being annual sponsors of the Ending Homelessness Breakfast, to spending many nights under the stars at SleepOut, to walking in last year's inaugural March to End Homelessness. The law firm has sponsored countless number of events and its employees have served immeasurable volunteer hours over the last four and a half decades.

“The nature of the work we do in representing the victims of other people's carelessness and greed involves focused attention on the fragile quality of people's lives. Living with that focus every day has produced a corporate culture of service to the community, and for more than 45 years we have found no better way to give back to this community than through the extraordinary, lifesaving and life-changing work of The Lord's Place,” shared Scarola.

Searcy Denney is a testament to how community partnerships and “taking time to care” can assist local agencies in doing the work needed to serve those less fortunate. For these reasons, TLP is recognizing Searcy Denney as an exceptional corporate partner that has made

unparalleled contributions to the quality of life in Palm Beach County. The Lord's Place announces it will honor Searcy Denney with this year's annual MARCH Award (Mobilize, Advocate, Respond, and Commit to end Homelessness) on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the 2nd annual [March to End Homelessness](#).

"The Lord's Place is proud to present the MARCH Award to a partner who has been alongside the agency since its very beginning days—helping make great progress in breaking the cycle of homelessness for many of our neighbors. Thank you Searcy Denney for journeying with us and being part of our foundation of hope, housing, and healing that continues to guide our mission today," stated Christine Frederick, CEO of The Lord's Place.

Homelessness is a serious social and economic issue impacting all levels of our society. The Lord's Place recognizes that all people deserve respect and a place to call home. The March to End Homelessness is part of The Lord's Place's effort to spread community and national awareness, raise the much needed funds to provide the resources, programs, and services needed, and recognize those who are partnering in helping to break the cycle of homelessness.

Frederick added, "Through the remarkable generosity of corporate partners—like Searcy Denney—and individuals, like Jack Scarola, what started as a very modest, storefront soup kitchen has now grown into a comprehensive and highly effective network of programs and housing campuses and serving close to 2,200 homeless men, women, and children this past year."

The significance of the event is to educate participants and change the lives of those who are homeless. By marching through downtown streets of West Palm Beach, The Lord's Place wants to raise awareness of the estimated 3,000 men, women, and children without a home on any given night in Palm Beach County. In the United States, many Americans are forced to choose between basic necessities like purchasing food, paying rent, or going to the doctor. [The fact](#) is more than 770,000 Americans are homeless on a typical night.

"Homelessness is often unseen or pushed aside, but let this be a day to stand strong and march to break the cycle of homelessness for our most vulnerable neighbors living in Palm Beach County. Carry your sign high and show that you believe everyone deserves a roof over their head," commented Frederick.

The 2.6 mile walk starts and ends at Centennial Square in downtown West Palm Beach and is open to everyone in the community. Attendees can choose to march beginning at 2:30 PM or come for the program at the end of the march.

Participants can help raise money for this event by creating a team and challenging their friends and co-workers to help end homelessness. The goal is to have 200 people march and attend the program and to raise a minimum of \$350,000. Funds raised will be matched by The Honorable Ann Brown, in honor of her daughter Cathy Brown.



Since Brother Joe opened the first housing campus, TLP has been finding solutions and providing services to take more people off the streets and into homes. All are invited to join this profound movement advocating for those who are homeless and raising crucial funds to support them.

According to Scarola, “Our undeniable connection with all our neighbors means that every individual and every family we help improves the quality of all our lives. We encourage the members of our community and all businesses to consider marching with us to support the mission to end homelessness one individual and family at a time.”

Visit [TLPMarch.org](https://TLPMarch.org) for more information.

### **About The Lord’s Place**

*For more than 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 85 scattered site apartments, to help house about 300 individuals every night. For more information, visit [thelordsplace.org](https://thelordsplace.org).*

### **PHOTO IDs:**

- [Anita and Jack Scarola at the 2025 March to End Homelessness](#) (Photo Credit: Tracey Benson Photography)
- [Jack Scarola with his family and friends at the 2025 March to End Homelessness](#)

[Click here to view the news release.](#)

###

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

Friday, February 27, 2026

2:00 PM Registration at Centennial Square, Downtown West Palm Beach.

(150 N. Clematis Street 33401)

2:30 PM March Starts

Celebratory Program to begin at conclusions of the walk.

### **WALK ROUTE:**

[Click here to view the route](#)

