

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Media contact: Cara Scarola Hansen

The Lord's Place Public Relations Counsel

cara@yourmissionmarketing.com

561-632-6747

Lord's Place Donors Celebrated at Donna and Chuck Ward's Home

The Lord's Place Board Treasurer Chuck Ward and his wife Donna hosted an evening celebrating the generosity of members of the [Home Today Society](#), [Home Forever Society](#), and [Board of Directors](#) on Tuesday, March 10 at their Palm Beach home.

The Home Today Society consists of 197 members who donate \$5,000+ to The Lord's Place annually to assist in its mission to break the cycle of homelessness in Palm Beach County. The Society collectively gave \$4,329,872 throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year. [The Home Forever Society members](#), 34 currently living, have included The Lord's Place in their estate plans.

Close to 90 donors enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. They heard words of thanks and strategy, as well as an impactful testimony from a staff member with lived experience who attributes the agency's successful outcomes to the many donors who keep The Lord's Place's programs and services running.

Board Chair Cornie Thornburgh expressed extraordinary gratitude to the guests on behalf of the entire board of directors, "It's because of you that our clients find stability in their lives, they find dignity, and they find hope. So, I think you should all really salute yourselves for what you've done to change the lives of the people we work with day in and day out."

As part of Thornburgh's remarks, she shared that the agency's board leadership will soon transition to Jim Kukla serving as the new chair. For the past ten years, Kukla has demonstrated unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to TLP—dedicating his time and energy as a volunteer in the Job Ready program and a vital member of the organization's leadership and board of directors, where he chairs the Housing and Facilities Committee. He is an architect by trade and played a pivotal role in the development and construction of the Fortin Family Campus at 2808 North Australian Avenue in West Palm Beach.

Thornburgh will move into the role as chair of TLP's foundation: working with former CEO Diana Stanely, who is now president of the foundation, to raise the major gifts to endow and sustain TLP as it moves forward.

“We hope that we won’t ever have to be here forever—that we solve the problem of homelessness, that we break the cycle, but until that day, we’re here for those who need us,” said Thornburgh.

Current staff member Penny Causey explained the benefits of being able to share her lived experience of substance abuse disorder when helping clients through their unique journeys in ending homelessness. Penny serves as a PATH peer specialist and advocate.

“I can offer our clients something no degree or credential can fully teach. I can offer hope. And without hope—no matter our circumstances—what do any of us really have? Because of my own experience...I can answer the hard questions about what rehab is really like—the good, the difficult, the losses along the way. The job. The family. The sense of self. And I can tell them what’s waiting on the other side...school...work...mend what was broken. All things become possible again.”

Christine Frederick, CEO of The Lord’s Place, referred to Causey and the many other staff like her, who have lived experience in homelessness or substance misuse, as their “special sauce.”

“Folks like Penny, and those who Penny helps, is why we do what we do.”

Frederick provided an update on TLP’s housing projects and funding streams. She announced that Bill’s Place—a 15-bed campus for males 55+ who will be able to age with dignity until the end of their lives—is nearing completion. Frederick also shared that TLP is working in partnership with another organization to lease 30 beds to provide homeless, housing shelter for those on the low end of the acuity scale.

“Our goal is to work with them extensively for 45 days, getting them loaded with services and back to stability by moving them back into a home where they aren’t waiting on the streets for the year to year and a half that’s needed to meet the chronicity level that qualifies them to go into the shelters that exist here right now in Palm Beach County.”

TLP leadership with the guidance from the board of directors continues to look for ways to be innovative and fill gaps in our community, offering programs and services that are impactful and not duplicative.

According to Frederick, the “end game is always to develop more housing. So, we are working with housing partners to develop more housing opportunities where people can be stable and live for a long time.”

For more information on The Lord’s Place and its programs and services, visit: thelordsplace.org.

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 82 scattered site apartments, to help house about 300 individuals every night. For more information, visit thelordsplace.org.

PHOTO IDs:

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- [001](#): Christine Frederick and Cornelia Thornburgh
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