

## NEWS RELEASE

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Media contact: Cara Scarola Hansen

The Lord's Place Public Relations Counsel

cara@yourmissionmarketing.com

561-632-6747

### **Palm Beach Leaders Celebrated for Their Contributions to Ending Homelessness**

*Cornie Thornburgh, Chuck Ward, and Wes Lang contribute a combined 25 years of service to The Lord's Place Board of Directors.*

[The Lord's Place](#) (TLP) celebrates three remarkable community members, Cornie Thornburgh, Chuck Ward, and Wes Lang, who are transitioning off of its board of directors. Together, these Palm Beach community leaders have contributed a combined 25 years of visionary leadership, passionate advocacy, and profound personal investment to one of the nation's foremost providers of services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Under their collective stewardship, The Lord's Place has grown from a locally respected organization into a nationally recognized leader in homeless services, now serving close to 2,200 clients annually across Palm Beach County. Their tenure has been marked by sound governance and bold strategy, as well as by deep personal commitment—giving of their hearts, their minds, and their own resources to ensure that every man, woman, and child served by TLP has the opportunity to reclaim their life with dignity and hope.

“Cornie, Chuck and Wes have been the backbone of this organization during some of its most pivotal years of growth,” said Christine Frederick, chief executive officer of The Lord's Place. “They didn't just serve on our board—they believed in our mission with every part of themselves. Their leadership has helped us build a model of care that is now looked to, not only here in Palm Beach County but also nationally, as a gold standard for compassionate, effective services to those experiencing homelessness.”

Thornburgh served a decade as board chair, offering remarkable dedication, strategic vision, and warmth throughout her tenure. She was instrumental in launching the agency's first capital campaign, which led to the creation of a 25,000-square-foot engagement center in West Palm Beach. She championed housing development, expanded programming, and laid the groundwork for the creation of a new foundation that will provide an endowment to sustain TLP's mission well into the future. Her passion for breaking the cycle of homelessness was evident in every meeting, every event, and every dollar raised.

Ward joined the board in 2016, serving as chair of the finance committee and treasurer of the organization. A steady voice for bold thinking and community partnership, his financial stewardship helped position the agency for long-term sustainability and growth.

Lang served as vice chair of the board, bringing strong business acumen and deep community connections to his role. Most recently, he led the national search for the organization's new chief executive officer—successfully guiding a seamless leadership transition following the 17-year tenure of the prior CEO. He has served with integrity and genuine care for clients, leaving a lasting mark on how TLP operates.

Together, these three leaders have helped The Lord's Place build a comprehensive continuum of care—encompassing street outreach, wraparound services, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and job training—that addresses the root causes of homelessness and opens doors to lasting stability.

The Lord's Place will honor Thornburgh, Ward, and Lang at the board's annual meeting this spring, where directors, staff, and supporters will gather to celebrate the enduring legacy they have built.

“We are who we are today because of people like Cornie, Chuck, and Wes,” commented fellow director Jack Scarola, a prominent attorney and widely recognized humanitarian who has served on TLP's board since its inception. “Palm Beach County is a better, more compassionate community because of the years they dedicated to this work.”

In a fitting continuation of their commitment, both Thornburgh and Ward will remain deeply connected to The Lord's Place as they transition to leadership roles on the newly established TLP Foundation Board, where Thornburgh will serve as chair and Ward as vice chair.

For more information on The Lord's Place and its leadership, visit: [thelordsplace.org](http://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 14 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](http://thelordsplace.org).*

### **PHOTO IDs:**

[Cornelia Thornburgh](#) (Photo credit: David Scarola Photography)

[Chuck Ward](#)

[Wes Lang](#)



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