

## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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### **Announcing The Lord's Place Board Chair Transition**

*Jim Kukla steps in as board chair, replacing Cornie Thornburgh who moves to chair of the agency's foundation board.*

[The Lord's Place](#) (TLP) announces James "Jim" Kukla as the new chair of the board of directors. Effective April 9, Kukla replaced Cornie Thornburgh after 10 years serving as the chair. Thornburgh moved into the role as chair of [TLP's foundation](#) to help raise major gifts to endow and sustain The Lord's Place into the future.

For the past 10 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 chaired 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. Kukla has also been instrumental in the renovation and development of Bill's Place—a housing facility for men 55 years and older—scheduled to open this summer.

"Jim has an unyielding passion for our mission. He shows up week after week to assist homeless and formerly homeless individuals in building strong resumes and preparing for job interviews. Jim helps equip our clients with the skills they need to regain stability and independence. Over the years, he has also volunteered countless hours helping us construct the Fortin Family Campus and other ongoing projects, like Bill's Place. Jim is a shining example of compassion, expertise, and dedication—making him the perfect person to now lead our visionary board of directors," commented Christine Frederick, chief executive officer of TLP.

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

Since joining The Lord's Place board in 2012, Thornburgh made a profound impact on how the agency serves the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in Palm Beach County. She served 14 years as a director and trustee, including 10 years as board chair. Her strategic vision came to fruition through her leadership in guiding the board through a \$20 million Home for Good campaign. She opened doors and worked in tandem with staff to build new relationships and

connect donors who shared a similar vision of hope and compassion, successfully raising funds to construct a new 25,000 square foot facility, expand housing, and start the conversation of sustainability.

“Cornie continuously exemplifies extraordinary dedication to breaking the cycle of homelessness. She has been instrumental in transforming our agency’s capacity to serve those most in need. We are beyond grateful for her governance and for her staying connected to TLP through our foundation,” said Frederick.

Under Thornburgh’s leadership, The Lords’ Place board has grown into a well-recognized entity in the community, now viewed as the gold standard.

Frederick added, “I am confident that, like Cornie, Jim will continue to challenge our board to think differently and transform challenging moments into strategic opportunities.”

Current members of TLP’s board of directors include: James Kukla, chair; Chief Sean Baker, vice chair; Dr. Willy Philius, secretary; Christian Searcy, Jr, treasurer, finance and investment committee chair; Luisa Borges, The Honorable Ann Brown, Julie Fisher Cummings; Kerry Diaz; Carey Haughwout; Talmedge Hayes; Rob Indresano, housing and facilities chair; Laura Lofaro Freeman; The Honorable Jeri Muoio, social impact and innovation committee chair; Dror Paley, M.D.; Bill Proctor; Mary Quick, advancement committee chair; Bryna Rogers; Jack Scarola, governance committee chair; Rabbi Howard Shapiro, centered in engagement committee chair; Kate Stengle, audit committee chair; Adrienne Weissman.

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:**

[Jim Kukla](#) (Photo credit: David Scarola Photography)

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

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