Dear Friends of Hope South FL,

I was raised in Broward County, I went to public school and lived in a home with my family in Fort Lauderdale. I never thought twice that one afternoon I might return from school and have no home to go to and yet today, as a healthcare provider I know that this situation occurs daily. I see displaced families with children in my office. I see their cars in parking lots late at night and I am told by their parents which park they are camping or under what bleachers they are sleeping. “What if?”

• What if my parents hadn’t had a consistent job?
• What if my parents had not been able to provide a roof above mine and my sister’s head?
• What if my family had no support to turn to?
• What if my family had lost their faith?

The list goes on and I am humbled by the “what ifs” and thankful for what was and is. One health encounter, one car repair or home repair can send them spiraling into homelessness. There are very few places or financial lenders for these families to turn to for a “quick fix” to their sudden and disruptive financial woes and as a result, they find themselves with no resources, no working vehicle and/or no safe place to lay their head at the end of the day.

Thousands of children in our neighborhoods find themselves in this very scenario. In fact, during SY18-19, 5,445 students were identified as experiencing homelessness (a 10% increase from the prior year). According to Broward County Public School statistics,

- 9% live in shelters
- 12% reside in a hotel or motel
- 74% are doubled-up (sharing the housing of others due to economic necessity)
- 5,000 (or 55%) of these children are preschool and elementary ages (11 years or less).

With steady growth of the ministry (serving more and more families each year), HSF must now complete the renovations of the 2nd floor at our headquarters located at 1100 N. Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. We need your support to help make this happen in 2020. We are hoping we can count on our faithful friends, donors and supporters to invest in this project and of course your faithful support of the mission of HOPE South Florida.

In His service,
Rev. Dr. Ted Greer, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
UPCOMING EVENT

13th Annual ForeHOPE Golf Tournament
Monday, April 20, 2020

Lago Mar Country Club
500 NW 127th Ave., Plantation, FL 33325

7:30am Warm-up & Breakfast
9:00am Shotgun Start
Awards Luncheon to follow

Hosted by Guy Boros
PGA Pro Tour

Register to Play!
Become a Sponsor.

For more information on sponsorship or purchase tickets, please contact
jalers@hopesouthflorida.org - 954.566.2311

In Partnership with

THE CHURCH BY THE SEA

THANK YOU TO:
Our Sponsors for the continued support

Your financial contribution is what helps make our programs possible
*ALL PARTNERS MAY NOT BE INCLUDED DUE TO PRINTING DEADLINES

2019 HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA

HOPE South Florida held its annual signature Gala on November 22, 2019 at the beautiful Bahia Mar Resort located at Fort Lauderdale Beach.

We are so thankful to our guests, sponsors and supporters for joining us in helping provide HOPE for the hopeless and homes for the homeless by supporting our 2019 HOPE for the Holidays Gala. Our signature event brings together over 300 friends and guests for dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our most compassionate communicator and Master of ceremonies, Calvin Hughes, News Anchor for WPLG Channel 10, who undeniably understands and supports our mission and vision.

This event is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts and we are very grateful to our sponsors who make the evening possible. Over the past 5 years, this event has raised thousands to help veterans and homeless families in need!

Our gratitude to our sponsors, supporters and volunteers for making our 2019 HOPE for the Holidays Gala a success!

Proceeds from this event will help provide housing, meals and access to numerous programs, to many homeless families and veterans.
TAKE THE TOUR - Learn more about the comprehensive programs and service we provide to help homeless families and veterans with gaining independence from homelessness.

HAVE US SPEAK – We are available to share our story and mission with our community partners and continue to garner support for those that we serve.

MAKE A MONETARY DONATION - There are numerous ways you can help support what we do. Our Development team is happy to discuss the best vehicle for you.

SERVE A MEAL – Our Shared meals program served over 50,000 hot and nutritious meals in 2018. We are on track to surpass that for 2019. We could not provide those meals 7 days a week, 365 days a year without your help. We are always open to partnering with civic and professional organizations, corporations, individuals, families and our church partners to help in this endeavor of sharing food and love.

SHARE A JOB – Our Employment Specialist is always searching for job and career opportunities for our clients so that they can once again gain financial independence.

HOST AN EVENT – Plan and host a special event such as a sports tournament, company employee outings, fashion show, or jeans day that will help raise funds to support our mission.

CELEBRATE WITH US – Commemorate a special occasion by having you or your guests make a donation in your name to HOPE South Florida in lieu of gifts.

ORGANIZE A DRIVE – Call or visit our website to obtain our current list of items needed by our families.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Visit our new website at www.hopesouthflorida.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE ANGELS

We are thankful to plant seeds of faith, love, hope, happiness as well as plant the seed of the future, while celebrating the birthdays of some of our families. They leave their legacy by participating in the creation of our first ever herb and vegetable garden which will feed into our Shared Meals program. We lay the groundwork and HOPE to reap the fruits of our labor through constant nurturing, care and attention. We HOPE you join us for the next celebration on March 14, 2020.

Happy Birthday to the Angels.
Veterans can experience a variety of life events, opportunities and challenges after leaving the army.

Willett’s family of six experienced many of the challenges of homelessness, but never gave up.

Mr. Willett entered the Hope for Vets Program in November 2018. Since then, with the support of Hope South Florida, the future of the Willett family looks much brighter.

- Mr. Willett completed a weekend course for homebuyers for the first time.
- Applied and approved a VA loan in the amount of $270,000 with no down payment required.
- With a bachelor’s degree, Mr. Willett has enrolled and will continue his master’s degree.

Ms. Willett will also seek to advance her career and is currently investigating her new and exciting path, thanks to a daycare referral she received through Hope South Florida.

This homeless and hopeless family has already started their lives as new owners.

Congratulations!
Dave Smith collects "gently used" luggage that its parishioners are no longer using. When asked what is the most enjoyable part of being a FIA church partner, he stated, "We have a sense of having put into practice the words of Christ about doing unto others as we would have done unto us. In partnering up with FIA, we walk the walk, both literally and spiritually as mandated and shown to us by Jesus’s own examples. We end the week knowing that we have done our little part in helping families not only get back on their feet, but to also see the light of Christ through our service to them. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta was once asked how she was going to eradicate poverty and homelessness, her answer of "one person at a time" is essentially the way that we at All Saints Episcopal Church endearingly refers to this quarantine ministry as "Beds Around the Altar". While guests of the All Saints family, FIA families have a physically, emotionally and spiritually safe place for the week. Families are fed three meals, have access to showering facilities, and laundry facilities. Children can play in the playground, and sometimes just sit by the river and watch boats pass. All Saints also collects "gently used" luggage that its parishioners are no longer using. This luggage is then offered each time that they host families so that the families have a more dignified way of getting their belongings around, other than garbage bags, which is the norm. Gregg Geenty-Prudhomme, the current host coordinator.

Kimberly Wilson, Faith in Action
Kimberly used to work as a Probation Officer and DCFS Child Protective Investigator, prior to joining the Hope South Florida family to be part of the Day Center. She manages the day to day operations of the family day center including completing program intakes and providing meals for the families we serve in the day center.

Tameka Thomas, Rapid Re-Housing
Tameka spent several years in the field of child welfare. She worked as a live-in foster parent at a group home which inspired her to want to work more directly with families. She then spent 3 years as a child advocate for Childnet. After that, she worked one-on-one with at-risk youth/young adults as a life coach helping to motivate young people to reach their goals. Most recently, she worked as part of a research team for a nationwide federal study on child welfare. The focus of the study was on creating a more family centered model of case management.

Her responsibilities at Hope South Florida are: Conduct intake appointments with clients, provide support and case management to clients on a regular basis, help clients with goal setting and budget planning, create case plan along with client that includes measurable goals and objectives.

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Merrim Martinez, Faith in Action
Merrim brings over 20 years of professional experience in Community Outreach, Transition and Job Development; most recently with the Job Corps Program. She served as Sr. Manager of Outreach & Career Transition for David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center.

Merrim established Memorandums of Understanding as well as partnerships with several national not for profit organizations including WIGA, the Workforce Development Board, AmeriCorps Pride Center, American GI Forum, and the Children Center.

With Hope South Florida, Merrim is charged with working closely with all local employers in the community, building essential relationships in order to match clients with corresponding jobs. She also helps our clients with resume preparation, assist individuals with applications, as well as perform mock interviews. Merrim has started a “Career Closet” taking in donations of professional attire in that first impressions are lasting impressions!

Jael Listte, Rapid Re-Housing
Jael has a Bachelor’s Degree in Science in Psychology. She used to work as a Shelter Case Manager in Orlando for the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida from February 2017 to January 2020, first as a Case Manager, then promoted to a Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager.

Jael recently moved to South Florida where she has joined Hope South Florida to assist homeless individuals and families with housing search, financial assistance with their move-in costs and some portions of their rent. Furthermore, she will be a support to the client throughout the first months of their lease to assist with day-care referrals, employment specialist referrals, creating individual executive plans, monthly budgeting, and connecting them to community resources to help with certain barriers that may impede their progress towards self-sufficiency.

Chania received this recognition due to her continuous progress and professional growth in her role as Assistant Director of Housing for HSF. Chania has proven to be reliable and is a constant professional. She has excelled in her supervisory responsibilities, oral presentations in the community serving as a key program ambassador, supporting her supervisor with staffing program audits and site visits with funding agencies. More recently, Chania’s supervisor was out on Maternity Leave and Chania was tasked with taking the lead in providing oversight of the Housing and Case Management division. Chania stepped up to the challenge and was publicly commended by her supervisor, COO and CEO for a job well done. During this period of time, Chania provided critical staff support to the division, communicated with funding agencies, completed required monthly reports and attended key external meetings representing HSF. Please join us in Congratulating Chania for a job well done and becoming our Employee of the Quarter.