

Report to the Community 2010-2011

Message from the President



Pauline Clarke-Trotman
Board President

Letter from the Executive Director



Barbara "Bobbie" Ibarra
Executive Director

About the Coalition

The Miami Coalition for the Homeless was organized in 1987 to promote community efforts to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida by establishing alliances with agencies and organizations. The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of community leaders who have demonstrated a strong commitment to eliminating homelessness.

The Coalition was instrumental in the creation of the Homeless Providers Forum, the Miami Supportive Housing Corporation, and is a founding member of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust. The Coalition has also funded several community prevention initiatives, and has sponsored numerous conferences and educational efforts that target issues related to homelessness.

State Legislative Day

Homeless advocates from across the state gathered in Tallahassee on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 to raise awareness about homeless issues and funding needs. Advocates called on lawmakers and Governor Scott to support funding for the state's homeless assistance programs that is vital to helping Floridians in these difficult times. A press conference was held at 9 a.m. on the 4th floor of the Capitol Building, Rotunda area. Speakers include: Richard Martin, president of the

Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Rep. Betty Reed (Tampa), and Rayme L. Nuckles, Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County on behalf of the Campaign to End Child Homelessness, The National Center on Family Homelessness released the Campaign's plan to address child homelessness in Florida.

The Coalition organized a delegation of people from Miami-Dade County to visit with their legislators in Tallahassee. Homeless consumers were able to have a voice and make a contribution towards policy related to homelessness at the State level. The Miami-Dade County delegation visited over 25 legislative offices over two days, spreading the word about our top advocacy issues, including: 1) create a local homeless prevention grant by reallocating dollars from a state prevention program; 2) create a voluntary contribution to relieve homelessness option on DMV forms; 3) provide businesses that hire homeless people a tax credit; 4) provide incentives for developers who build housing affordable to persons with special needs including homeless, youth aging out of foster care, persons with a disabling condition, domestic violence survivors and persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security Supplement Income (SSI) and/or from veterans' disability programs; and 5) remove the cap on the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund; While not every agenda item succeeded, progress was made with our advocacy agenda in Tallahassee.

The annual Homeless Awareness Day is presented by the Florida Coalition for the Homeless and is aimed to educate state lawmakers about the needs of the nearly 60,000 homeless men, women and children living in Florida.

Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative

5th Year Student Film Competition



On Sunday, March 6th, 2011, The Miami Coalition for the Homeless held a special screening of the public service announcement entries and short film entries from its fifth annual Student Competition which was held in conjunction with the Miami International Film Festival. The theme for the competitions this year was "Homelessness: Just Look Around".

We received 65 entries for the Competition, 54 in the PSA category and 11 for the short film. Several schools participated in the competition which was open to Miami-Dade and Broward counties. All of the entries received were shown at the free event at the Tower Theater in Little Havana. Winners were selected by a prestigious panel of judges: Lynne Cameron - Executive Director for Neighbors 4 Neighbors, Andres Castillo - Programmer for Miami International Film Festival, Linda Gaiter - President for the Homeless/Formerly Homeless Forum, George Jorge -

Vice President for Compass Financial Federal Credit Union, John LaBonia - General Manager for WLRN, Luis Martinez - Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, Joshua Miller - Director of C & I Studios, Judge Jeff Rosinek - Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. and Lee Zimmerman – Director of Communications for CBS4/TV33.

Following are this year's winners:

Public Service Announcement Winner

Student: Eric Flemons

School: University School of NSU

Teacher: Frank Mullin

Short Film Winner

Students: Kasey Gonzalez, Lauren Thermes, Emily Galvez

School: South Dade Senior High School

Teacher: Joanne Carroll



L to R: Eric Flemons, (University School of NSU), Luiza Georgescu (Miami Beach Senior High School), Gina Cunningham (Miami Beach Senior High School), Lynne Cameron, Executive Director, Neighbors 4 Neighbors, Nicole Maristany, Neighbors 4 Neighbors & CBS4, Pauline Clarke-Trotman, President, Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Victoria Palacio, John A. Ferguson Senior High School, Kasey Gonzalez (South Dade Senior High School), Emily Galvez (South Dade Senior High School), Connor Guest (Ransom Everglades). Not pictured is Lauren Thermes (South Dade Senior High School)

We thank the many partners who made this event possible: Miami International Film Festival, Miami Dade County Public Schools, Neighbors 4 Neighbors, CBS Miami Channel 4, TV 33, Compass Financial Federal Credit Union, Bank Atlantic Foundation, Publix, Tenbrook Associates and The Short Chef.

The Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau



Members of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau

The Many Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau is a collaborative project of local homeless coalitions in Florida, the Florida Coalition for the Homeless and the National Coalition for the Homeless. This project is supported by AmeriCorps VISTAs throughout the state and country. The Many Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau is one of the most visible public education and advocacy tools of the Coalition.

The VISTA member organizes workshops and trainings to ensure that community members are educated on the challenges and issues related to homelessness. The goal is to engage everyone in a "community call to action" for solutions to end homelessness.

In terms of speakers, the Many Faces of Homelessness is made up of single men and women, young people and families of all ethnicities and backgrounds. For the speaker, being a member of the Bureau builds opportunities for each individual to advocate for themselves and others and to build bridges within their community. The speakers become involved in advocating for policy changes on local, state, and national levels to address the needs of homeless individuals and families. Using their own experiences, speakers put a human "face" on homelessness and dispel the stereotypes many people have. By fostering an environment of self-worth, respect, and understanding for all people, the Bureau fosters a greater awareness of the myriad of causes leading to homelessness (i.e., lack of affordable housing, loss of employment, lack of affordable health care, domestic violence, and lack of beds in treatment facilities). To date, the Miami Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau has spoken to over 4,500 youth and community members. We currently have a roster of over 22 speakers and the program is continuing to grow and expand.

Board of Directors

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Vice-President	Dr. Luther Brewster – <i>Florida International University</i>
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Linda Whitehead – *UM, Dept. of Family Medicine*

Staff

Barbara “Bobbie” Ibarra, *Executive Director*
Michelle Cerrato Dominguez, *Director of Administration*
Mabel Colón, *AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer*
Devin Floyd, *AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer*

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