



Message from Board President

MONICA VIGUES-PITAN

As I complete my first term as President of the Miami Coalition for the Homeless, I want to take this opportunity to thank our past and current board members for all their efforts. Since our inception, our board members have always demonstrated a strong passion for fighting the causes of homelessness. These dedicated community activists stayed with us, some, for more than twenty years. During their terms, they set the standard for the Coalition's activism, advocacy and dedication to ending homelessness. Their varied personal and professional experiences were an asset. It also demonstrated the reality that Miami-Dade County can only end homelessness through collaborations with all sectors of our community. Although their leadership will be missed, it inspired other community leaders to work towards ending homelessness. In the past year, we have welcomed the following new members who are continuing these efforts. Maria Cristina Barros, NBC/Telemundo, a seasoned grant administrator and media professional; Gus Barrera former Chair of the Dade County Public School System Board, architect and Vice-President for AECOM. Judge Cindy Lederman from the juvenile dependency court, a key partner in dealing with homelessness issues and child welfare cases. Also joining are, Vance Aloupis, the Statewide Director for the Children's Movement; Tony Brunson, partner with Sharpton, Brunson & Company, P.A. and Ana Castilla with the Federal Reserve Bank. Their varied backgrounds in media, law, politics, advocacy and finance demonstrate the Coalition's continued efforts to battle the causes of homelessness on all fronts.

This board is truly committed to the ideals that founded MCH almost thirty years ago and which past board members, dedicated a good deal of their life's energy. We remain committed to the national agenda of ending homelessness in the years to come. To do so however we need to educate and embrace new voices who are willing to learn about the issues and challenges surrounding homelessness and be prepared to prevent and end it through their dedication and hard work. We are very fortunate to have some of Miami's key leaders to assist us in this effort.

Message from Executive Director

BARBARA "BOBBIE" IBARRA

This year has been a truly transformative time for the Miami Coalition for the Homeless (MCH). One of the key goals established during our strategic planning process last year was to decrease spending of our endowment on our operating expenses by pursuing public and private funding opportunities. The board decided that in our efforts to prevent and end homelessness, we needed to continue providing essential resources to our community for years to come. To that end, we are proud to report that this first year of fundraising we exceeded our goal by 50% and in return were able to provide additional funds to the community via our grant process.

The implementation of our revised grant review process was yet another major accomplishment this year. We publicly announced our grants for the first time in several years and received over 21 grant letters of intents. Our grant review committee, whose membership consists of former and current MCH board members, invited 14 of the 21 applicants to submit final applications for funding consideration in the areas of: advocacy, prevention and intervention. At the end of this process, MCH hopes to award more than \$100,000 in grants to the community.

Another groundbreaking initiative this year is the collaborative implementation of a first ever homeless youth count. In partnership with the Miami Dade Homeless Trust, the University of Miami and 15 other youth oriented organizations, we are undertaking a pilot youth count based on best practice experience of other major urban areas. This population is recognized for its ability to remain invisible and we are attempting to engage them through extensive outreach. Through this pilot experience we will obtain an accurate count of this population, which has historically gone uncounted. Once we have documented the need, then our community will be able to apply for additional federal funds from various agencies, resulting in increased resources that will be critical to addressing these oftentimes underserved population.

Last but not least of our innovative efforts this year was to focus significant attention on our social media platforms. Thanks to a team effort, led by one of our AmeriCorps Vista's, we were able to connect nationally with many like-minded organizations via our visible presence on Face Book, Twitter and our monthly articles on the Huffington Post.



WE HAVE MOVED OFFICE SPACE

The Miami Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) has relocated our offices to **140 West Flagler Street, Suite #105, Miami, FL 33130**. By moving into this new space, MCH increased office space and reduced costs allowing us to increase grant funds out to the community. Further, the relocation puts MCH in the heart of downtown to better engage the

local business community in its mission and address the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

We also have a new phone and fax number:

786-469-2060 (Main Number)

305-372-6337 (Fax Number)

Please come visit us in our new office space.

Please come visit us in our new office space: 140 West Flagler Street, Suite # 105.

INDOOR MEAL PROGRAM

Through the Miami Coalition for the Homeless contributions to the Indoor Meals Program over 8,000 meals will be provided in our community.



THE MIAMI HOMES FOR ALL INITIATIVE

The Miami Homes For All (MHFA) initiative is an innovative project patterned after best practices from Boston (www.homefunders.org) and Los Angeles (www.unitedwayla.org/home-for-good) to address Miami-Dade County's severe shortage of rental housing affordable to extremely-low-income (ELI) households – those living on incomes of approximately \$15,000 per year or less. Many of these households work full time at minimum wage jobs but cannot afford market rents. Existing federal and state funding subsidies focus on households with somewhat higher income (approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year). As a result, housing in Miami-Dade County is not affordable to those most in need, and a large number of families live in precarious situations or become homeless.

Through MHFA, the Miami Coalition for the Homeless proposes to enlist private funders to provide program related investments (PRI's) in a low-cost loan pool that will be used to incentivize development of ELI housing as a percentage of a mixed income development. The private funding will supplement affordable housing funding from the public sector. The project also aims to take advantage of the unique opportunity presented by the large number of foreclosed properties in our county. Although assuming an initial lead role, the Miami Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is committed to exploring the MHFA initiative as a collaborative venture and wants to work jointly with all those interested in increasing the supply of housing affordable to ELI households.



YOUTH COUNT INITIATIVE

In early 2013, Miami Coalition for the Homeless (MCH), in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (HT), the University of Miami and members of the youth service providers community as well as youth centered advocates, began to undertake the first ever piloted youth count initiative in Miami-Dade County. This youth focused count will help garner a better understanding of youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness ages 13- 24 in our county. Our efforts have been based heavily on best practice models developed through the 2013 Interagency Government Initiative *Youth Count!*, which is a coordinated effort by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education (ED).

Nine diverse and dynamic communities were selected nationwide to participate in this initiative as test pilot cities; we here at MCH have communicated with many of these communities in hopes of getting experienced insight on how they went about conducting successful youth point-in-time (PIT) counts. We are gaining tremendous momentum as we close in on the count date that is set for August 29.

MCH and HT have held regular committee/stakeholder meetings to work toward completing the necessary steps for a successful count. Some of these steps included creating a survey instrument we will be administering on the day/night of the count and coordinating outreach/marketing efforts to get the word out in the community. In addition, incorporating youth who have, are currently or are at risk of experiencing homelessness as members of our collaborative has served as a valuable resource in helping us better understand this often overlooked/invisible population.

Further, through the Homeless Trust's and Miami-Dade Public School system's annual poster contest, the count's logo was designed from the annual poster contest winning entry. Overall, with continued community collaboration, we are poised to gain a much better understanding of the prevalence of youth and young adult homelessness or at risk of homelessness in Miami-Dade County. Our goal will be to create proactive measures needed to assist this under served and often times unrecognized population. We want to take this opportunity to thank the Miami Foundation and USHUD for their grant support of this critical initiative.

THANK YOU TO MIAMI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS DONORS

The Miami Coalition for the Homeless has been blessed with the receipt of donations received over the past year. We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and grantors for their generous contributions to our organization. ***Without such donations, the Miami Coalition would not be able to accomplish all of this year's achievements.***

Rainier Leon

Lulwa Al Thawadi

Toby Berk

Lorena Siqueira

Alvin Shelton

Ulrike Stadler

Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A.

Patrick Kerr

Ines Faló Beecher

JP Morgan Chase

Steve Weaver

Kittivoothi Pleesonti

Jenny Gamito

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Solove

Peter Dollard

Manuel Correa

BJ's

Paul de la Cruz

Wells Fargo

Hilton Grand Hotel

The Miami Foundation

BB&T

Victoria Castells



THANK YOU

JORGE DE LA PAZ

Jorge's primary project as an AmeriCorps VISTA has been providing research material related to our affordable housing initiative, 'Miami Homes for All.' His responsibilities have included gathering data for a background study to substantiate the viability of the initiative, evaluating potential financing mechanisms, preparing various briefs and informational materials, as well as researching any topics important to the Coalition's programmatic priorities. He also created presentations for and attended all relevant community meetings. These tasks were instrumental in further developing this initiative and we are thankful for his brief involvement.

THANK YOU

SEAN DOLLARD

One of our strategic goals this year was to improve our social media platform. To this end we welcomed an AmeriCorps VISTA, Sean Dollard, who worked diligently to accomplish our goals. We are so proud to report that during this past year our Facebook page experienced praise on a national level with many of our posts receiving likes, which increased over 400% during this year. Similarly our Twitter presence, now having over 350 followers, regularly received "shout-outs" "retweets" as well as recognition from national organizations such as the National Coalition for the Homeless, Funders Together to End Homelessness and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. We also regularly published monthly blogs about relevant issues surrounding homelessness on the Huffington Post Impact Blog which also received national exposure. Sean's year experience catapulted us into a whole new vibrant world of technology. We will strive to maintain his momentum but it will be challenging. Thank you Sean for your significant contribution to MCH!

THE FACES OF HOMELESSNESS SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Miami Coalition for the Homeless strives to be one of the premier advocates for the homeless population. The Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau is one of the most visible public education and advocacy tools for the Coalition. By educating our community, spreading awareness and dispelling myths and stereotypes we hope to put an end to the negative connotations surrounding homelessness. The AmeriCorps VISTA member that leads the program coordinates workshops and trainings for Speakers, individuals who have experienced homelessness. The program conducts outreach to groups of all ages and backgrounds. Being a speaker for the Bureau gives the opportunity for formerly homeless individuals to gain public speaking skills and educate the community on issues that are often misunderstood with the hope of inspiring the community to become more proactive on such issues.

This past year the Speakers' Bureau collaborated with numerous organizations and educational institutions allowing it to expand its presence throughout Miami-Dade County. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, more than 2,000 Miami Dade residents participated in more than 50 workshops throughout the county.

Here are some events that highlight the work that has taken place:

- Through an ongoing partnership with Florida International University's (FIU) Communications Department, the Bureau was able to offer public speaking trainings to its participants through service learning classes that help enhance the way in

which speakers presented their testimonies.

- At Nova Southeastern University, 7 formerly homeless speakers shared their experiences and their health concerns with 350 first-year medical students of the Homeless in Osteopathic Pre-doctoral Education Project. This event was a close dialogue between speakers and students which resulted in a more intimate view and perspective of the health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- An established relationship with the City of Hialeah Early Prevention and Intervention Program (EPI) has allowed the Speakers' Bureau to reach at-risk youth in the community. The program consists of a 6-week developmental program to help at-risk youth make informative decisions that will lead them in the right path.

The Speakers' Bureau program intervenes allowing for a formerly homeless individual to share stories of why staying out of trouble is beneficial for the future of the youth. This allows the speaker to use their story as a source of inspiration to encourage the youth to make better decisions. We look forward to continuing this relationship as the Speakers' Bureau continues to make a difference in each and every community.

ADVOCACY

We are living in unprecedented times with the increased efforts to marginalize people. Thus, more than ever there is a great need for diligent advocacy work each and every day.

This year MCH continued its relentless efforts to monitor and respond to various legislative initiatives at the local, state and federal levels. In Miami Dade County, we worked steadfastly with our public leadership to ensure that the rights of persons experiencing homelessness were protected and that their status was not criminalized. At the City of Miami, the commission voted to support a reopening of the Pottinger settlement, which is the precedent setting case that has protected the rights of those individuals living on the streets of Miami. We are remaining engaged and attentive in this effort as we do not believe that criminalizing homelessness in any way prevents or addresses the underlying causes of homelessness.

Another issue which MCH has been actively engaged in over the years but continues to be a local issue is the Indoor Meals program. Over the last few years there has been a significant loss of collaborating partners providing meals to the poor and homeless of our community. Working with the Homeless Trust, additional financial support has been granted to the three organizations that continue to provide these needed meals and access to service: The Miami Rescue Mission is the lead agency, supported by the Sisters of Charity, whom the City of Miami attempted to close earlier this year, and the Historic Mt. Zion Church located in Over-

town. At the state level we successfully advocated for the preservation of Miami Dade County's wage theft ordinance which the legislature was trying to overturn. And while the Sadowski Housing Trust fund was once again swept into the general revenue fund, the National Mortgage Settlement appropriation did include, in part, \$50 million for new rental assistance for seniors and extremely low income households (ELI), which is the cornerstone of our Miami Homes for All Initiative.

At the federal level, we continue to support the National Low Income Housing coalition with their strong leadership and advocacy for funding the National Housing Trust Fund. Along with the National Alliance to end Homelessness, we have voiced our support for the President's budget for USHUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants and the HHS's runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs, as well as advocate for the renewal of all existing Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers as well as the replacement of those vouchers lost via Sequestration. We also coordinated community support to advocate for the replacement of funds cut in non-defense, discretionary spending under Sequestration that is having a significant impact on the poor in our communities.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who responded to our request for advocacy support over the year. The good work accomplished would not have occurred if it were not for the community voice of which you played a significant role.

THANK YOU

PORTIA DUDLEY

Portia Dudley began her one year adventure as an AmeriCorps VISTA in the summer of 2012. During her year she has played an active role in many projects at MCH. Portia has helped to sustain the positive impact that the Faces of the Homelessness Speakers' Bureau has within the community. Portia's VISTA year allowed her to learn and actively assist in the first ever Miami-Dade County unaccompanied and runaway youth count. These projects opened the door for her to serve as a site supervisor, mentoring two Miami-Dade Public School interns. The Miami Coalition for the Homeless would like to thank her for a year dedicated to serve. We wish her much success as she continues her life journey!



Portia Dudley, AmeriCorps Vista

MIAMI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

was organized in 1985 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.

Our mission is to promote community collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in South Florida.

Our vision is to afford everyone the opportunity to NOT be homeless.

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Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

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Agustin "Gus" J. Barrera, *AECOM*

Maria Cristina Barros, *NBC/Telemundo*

Lt. Wayne Jones, *Miami Beach Police Department*

Barbara L. Romani, *Citibank*

Curtis Taylor, *Carrfour Supportive Housing*

Farewell – Outgoing Board Members



Aaron Alvin



Maria Barcus



Dr. Luther Brewster



Barbara Junge

Hello – Incoming New Board Members



Vance Aloupis



Anthony Brunson



Ana Castilla



Judge Cindy Lederman

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