



Community Update

Our vision is a community free of hunger and homelessness.

In February of 2017, Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda, received notification from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, that we had become the 39<sup>th</sup> community in the United States to **effectively end veteran homelessness**. Although we recognize that housing instability will continue to be an ongoing issue, the community now has a program to shorten the duration of homelessness when it does occur, and establish sustained housing security for those who were once homeless. By implementing a strategic process for housing any homeless veteran within our community, Charlotte County has joined Houston, New Orleans, as well as Phoenix and Salt Lake City in this achievement

With strong federal and state support, our local collaboration is applying the lessons learned from the successful strategic “Opening Doors” model to end veterans’ homelessness to other populations that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The collaborative effort catalyzed a sustained partnership with more than 10 agencies and organizations known as Functional Zero Teams. There is now a Team dedicated to the chronically homeless population and partnerships to assist individuals with pervasive mental illness. The Team’s work is an ongoing commitment to ensure that formerly homeless individuals receive the supportive services to maintain permanent housing.

This integrated effort provides continuity among formerly isolated homeless service providers; closing service gaps and increasing resources for individuals without homes. In the case of veteran homelessness, this change put the veteran at the heart of the system, making the processes in place work seamlessly and with immediacy to provide housing. .

**The collaborative has proven to be very effective. In ending veteran homelessness, the teams provided housing for more than 250 homeless veterans between June 2015 and December 2016.**

Lessons from the work to end veteran homelessness have shaped the community’s approach to ending chronic and family homelessness, and the work of the collaborative has dramatically reduced overall homelessness in the county.

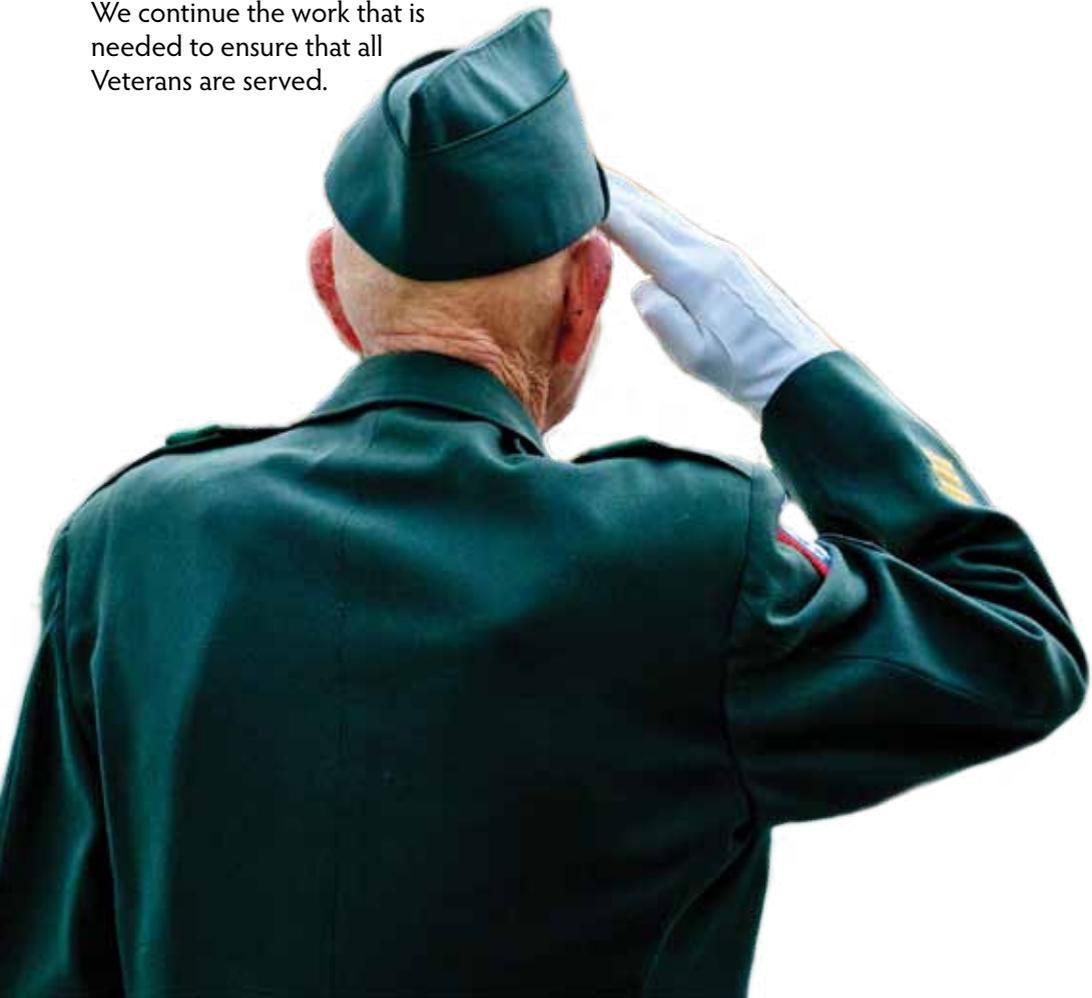
# What it means to end Veteran Homelessness?

The ultimate goal of this project has been a well-coordinated and efficient community response that assures homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring and no Veteran lives on the streets. **Effectively ending Veteran Homelessness means that every Veteran has access to the supports and resources they need to avoid staying on the street and move quickly to permanent housing.**

**Here at the Homeless Coalition we have 20 beds available in our Emergency Shelter for Veterans.** Dedicated case managers connect Veterans to services and resources they are unaware of. Whether it is obtaining legal documents, accessing medical or financial benefits, the Homeless Coalition ensures they receive the necessary assistance.

**In the past year we have exited over 135 Homeless Veterans into permanent housing.**

We continue the work that is needed to ensure that all Veterans are served.



# Hunger Prevention

The Homeless Coalition's Hunger Prevention Program offers our Hot Meal Program and access to our weekly Food Pantry.

The Hot Meals Program is open 365 days per year and serves breakfast and lunch to our Veterans and Shelter residents, and dinner to the general public in the Homeless Coalition's Café. Evening snacks to the shelter's children are also given for a healthy end to the day. **Over the last year, the Hot Meals Program has served more than 82,480 hot meals and snacks.**

The Homeless Coalition's Food Pantry offers a variety of foods, and fresh fruits and vegetables are available once a week. **The pantry has distributed food to more than 4,553 people in the last year. That's over 515 households in our community.**

Now in its second successful year, the Kibble Kafe provides doggie bags of pet food to those who attend our dinner service and weekly food pantry so they can bring food home to their pets. Community contributors and volunteers continue to work with the Suncoast Humane Society who provide the pet food donations.

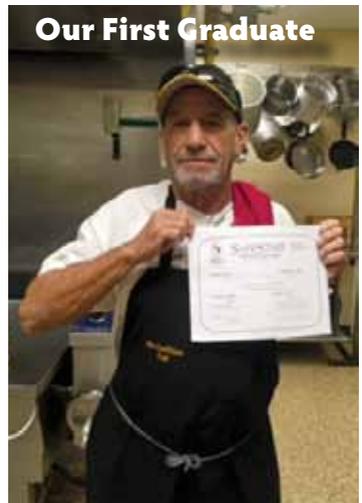
25% of  
our Food Pantry  
guests are  
Seniors

# What's New!!

As the economy is improving, so are the openings for talented and skilled kitchen workers – the growth potential for the program is boundless. **The Homeless Coalition Culinary Training Program trains residents living in our Emergency Shelter the skills and techniques essential to successful employment and promotion into the culinary industry.**

The 2-week culinary class is specifically designed for residents to learn the basic techniques in prep-cooking in order to attain the skills necessary to secure an entry-level position in the food service industry. Trainees also study and take the Safestaff food handler's license which provides a step ahead of other applicants leading to more stable employment opportunities.

**As this program progresses our goal is 100% of the program participants have employment within the industry.**



Our First Graduate



## Emergency Shelter

Homelessness is an exhausting, consuming battle. It's hard to focus on anything but survival. We know that when families, individuals and Veterans have safe shelter and their basic needs are met, they can focus on the things they need to do to get out of homelessness permanently. **In the past year over 437 families, individuals and Veterans called our Emergency Shelter "Home." Of those, 155 were children under the age of 18 and 137 were Veterans. More than 372 residents who left the shelter went on to permanent housing and did not become homeless again.**

The Homeless Coalition's Emergency Shelter is the only one of its kind in our community. **The shelter provides safety and security to keep families, men, women and Veterans intact for the 30 day stay.** The shelter's services include intensive case management that help residents obtain necessary documents; seek affordable housing options and a host of other needs. Shelter Case Managers and volunteers work on housing first to stabilize those in crisis and then set attainable goals on how to maintain stabilization.



**Fabulous Finds**  
Re-Sale Shop

**4265 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33980**

Website: <http://cchomelesscoalition.org/fabulous-finds-re-sale-shop/>

Facebook: Fabulous Finds Resale Shop

**(941) 979-8230**

# Bridges Out of Poverty

Getting Ahead is a program that supports people in poverty as they develop their own plan for stability. It embeds the concepts of Bridges Out of Poverty into a co-created format with trained facilitators in a powerful 14-week curriculum. The Getting Ahead class shows participants how to use the hidden rules of class to build up financial, emotional, social, and other resources. Understanding the hidden rules of the middle class and wealth, and choosing to use them, can open doors to new relationships, new jobs, and different visions of success. They develop a series of mental models to examine their own lives and create new future stories. In 14 sessions, participants explore the impact that poverty has had on them, investigate economic realities, complete a self-assessment of their own resources and make plans to build and develop self-initiated prosperity.



**Since the beginning of this program the Bridges out of Poverty has had over 250 graduates complete the program successfully.** Many graduates choose to return, out of gratitude for their new life, and volunteer to inspire others succeed.

Join us and shop at Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop, located at 4265 Tamiami Trail, Unit N in Port Charlotte (Town & Country Plaza)! Whether you are thrifty or fancy, at Fabulous Finds you will find a bargain. The shop features items including furniture, housewares, appliances, clothes, purses and shoes. The Boutique side of the shop features new or nearly new name brands at a reasonable cost.

Fabulous Finds also accepts donations at its location for everyone spring cleaning early. The shop is always seeking volunteers. All of the shop's net profits support the Homeless Coalition's Programs and Services. Come by and see why we are Fabulous!!

For more information on donating or volunteering contact the shop at (941) 979-8230 or email [Alison.barone@cchomelesscoalition.org](mailto:Alison.barone@cchomelesscoalition.org)

# Did you know?

Fiscal 2016-2017



**372** people secured permanent housing,  
**137** of them were HOMELESS VETERANS



More than 400 volunteers give their time every month.



Over **9,500** calls for assistance were made to the Homeless Coalition



Weekly triage and a medical doctor has seen over **105** patients who otherwise may have visited local Emergency Rooms for non-emergency care



**86** Adults graduated from the "Getting Ahead Classes" through the Bridges out of Poverty Curriculum



**437** people were housed in our Emergency Shelter, **46** were families, **155** were children



**25%** of our guests for food pantry are seniors



**\$1,358,310** in donated food, clothing and household goods

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Tina Figliuolo, *Chief Executive Officer*

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Robin Clark, *Re-Sale Store Manager*

## Friends of the Foundation

The Homeless Coalition Foundation exists to raise vital funds to support the mission of the Homeless Coalition and plans for the future investment of the Homeless Coalition's Endowment Funds for further growth and sustainability.

Last year, an amazing and generous group of people formed Friends of the Foundation. This group is comprised exclusively of donors who give unrestricted gifts of over \$1,000 every year. Please join us. Help us invest in our community.

### Thank You Founding Friends!

Curtis and Tonya Abel

Thomas and Yoko Cappiello

Justin and Katrin Gerow

Thomas and Manuela Gruber

Cynthia Guffey

John and Angela Hogan

Joe and Diane Jesuele

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Randy and Toni Simpson

Ted and Sandy Wierzbarowski

### and New Friends!

Meera and B.G. Adhinarayanan

Judy Gammeter

Joann Helphenstine

Joe and Diane Jesuele



### HOMELESS COALITION

1476 Kenesaw ST

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

941-627-4313

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