Something miraculous is happening. Families who once were without a home are moving into their very own apartment. Jacaranda Place, a new mid-rise housing community, is changing the game for the homeless community in Southwest Florida. The Homeless Coalition has been working closely with Jacaranda Place to provide stable, affordable housing for those in need, and the impact has been profound.

For our clients who have been in our Rapid Rehousing Program and Emergency Shelter awaiting the opportunity for a home of their own, the prospect of finding one seemed daunting. The unaffordability of rent in the area, worsened by Hurricane Ian’s devastation, has created a housing crisis that is felt by so many. The opening of Jacaranda Place has enabled The Homeless Coalition to place 30 households into permanent housing, providing a fair housing opportunity for our clients. The impact of this achievement cannot be overstated. For those families who have been seeking housing for so long, the ability to finally have a place to call home is life-changing. It means stability, security, and the opportunity to create a brighter future. The Homeless Coalition is proud to have played a role in making this happen.

Additionally, The Homeless Coalition’s Fabulous Finds ReSale Shop, has been instrumental in furnishing these new homes. With no-cost vouchers, clients are able to get the items they need from the shop to create a comfortable and functional living space.

Although The Homeless Coalition does not own Jacaranda Place, our partnership with this wonderful community is just the start of what’s possible. Their opening is an exciting step forward for The Homeless Coalition and our community as a whole. As we celebrate the 30 households who have moved into their new homes, we are reminded of the critical need for more fair and affordable housing solutions in the area.

The shortage of affordable housing options combined with the devastation of Hurricane Ian has made finding safe and stable housing incredibly difficult for many of our clients. We are grateful for the partnership with Jacaranda Place and remain committed to working towards a future where everyone in our community has access to the housing they need to thrive.

Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness and continue to execute on our mission to alleviate and prevent homelessness and hunger in our area, one family at a time.
As we move into a new season, I would like to reflect on the past six months since Hurricane Ian hit our community directly, devastating countless homes and businesses, and leaving many of our most vulnerable residents without shelter or food.

In the aftermath of this catastrophic event, our community came together in a truly remarkable way. We saw countless acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness, as individuals and organizations alike banded together to support one another and begin the long process of recovery.

But even as we continue to heal and rebuild, the impact of Hurricane Ian continues to be felt by many in our community, especially those who are experiencing homelessness and hunger. The changing face of both have become more visible than ever, as more and more individuals and families struggle to make ends meet in the wake of this crisis.

At The Homeless Coalition, we remain steadfast in our commitment to helping those in need, and I am so proud of the incredible work that our team continues to do each and every day. From providing Emergency Shelter and food to connecting clients with Case Managers who can help them secure permanent housing, we are dedicated to doing everything we can to support those who are struggling.

Finally, you'll read about our Fabulous Finds ReSale Shop, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary in its new, larger location. Thanks to the support of our community and the Margin & Mission Ignition endeavor from The Patterson Foundation, this earned income opportunity has been able to raise even more funds to support our Programs and Services.

As always, we couldn't do any of this without your support. Whether you're able to donate, volunteer your time, or simply help us spread the word about the important work that we're doing, every little bit helps. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are experiencing homelessness and hunger in our community.
What Do We Need?

We are often asked, “What do you need?” The answer is simple: donations. Donations make an immediate difference in our ability to provide shelter, support, food, and connect resources for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and hunger in our community. In many cases, these funds provide a critical and swift response to the ever-changing needs of Southwest Florida residents to meet their needs and empower their financial independence.

With ongoing funding, we can continue to help those in need in our Emergency Shelter while working with our skilled Case Management team to guide individuals to a more secure and stable living environment. Case Management, Rapid Rehoming, and Veterans Services are crucial for the success of our clients since navigating the system has challenging obstacles. These supportive services are crucial to rebuilding lives and regaining stability.

In addition to Emergency Shelter, we assist people every day with basic needs like food, clothing, and hygiene products. The aftermath of Hurricane Ian highlighted an even greater need in our community for these essential items.

Our Hunger Prevention Program provides food and resources to an increasing number of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in our community each month. Your donations can help us feed the hungry and ensure that no one goes without a meal.

We are constantly working to raise awareness about the issue of homelessness and hunger, while addressing their root causes. Donations to The Homeless Coalition have a ripple effect that goes far beyond providing immediate assistance to those at risk of experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. Your contributions enhance the overall well-being of our community.

When you donate to The Homeless Coalition, you are not only providing critical support to those in need, but you are also investing in the future of our community. By working together to address the issues of homelessness and hunger, we can create a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous community for everyone.

Your donations make a real, tangible difference. Whether it’s providing Emergency Shelter, offering supportive services, helping with food insecurity, meeting basic needs, or promoting lasting change, every dollar counts and can help positively impact the community by bolstering and strengthening the lives of those we serve.

Please, consider donating today and join us in this important mission. Your one-time or monthly donations through our Key Holder Program not only offer consistent support to those we serve, but they also help us plan for the future and fortify the fabric of our community as a whole. Visit our website, cchomelesscoalition.org, to learn more about The Homeless Coalition and become part of the solution.
We are excited to introduce you to one of our dedicated team members, Heidi Ganski, our Development Coordinator. Heidi joined our team in November of 2021 and has been an invaluable asset to our organization ever since.

Heidi’s motivation to join The Homeless Coalition was her “heart for homelessness” and her personal experience with family members and friends who have faced similar situations. She wanted to work at a place where she could make a difference in people’s lives and contribute to their success and self-sufficiency. Her passion for the cause is evident in her work, and we are grateful to have her on our team.

Heidi’s previous experience working in a law firm has equipped her with skills that have been beneficial in her role at The Homeless Coalition. She has become an expert in Donor Perfect, a fundraising and donor management software that is widely used in the nonprofit sector. She also invoices our State Grant monthly for some of the case management services we provide. Her knowledge and experience have helped streamline our processes and improve our organizational efficacy.

Heidi is thorough, thoughtful, and deliberate in her duties, and she always goes above and beyond to help her coworkers and the clients we serve. As a lifelong resident of Punta Gorda, Heidi has a deep connection to the community we serve. She is happily married to her husband Michael and has two children, Willow and Banyan, who also volunteer at The Homeless Coalition. Their family is full of musicians, with Heidi playing the guitar and trumpet, Michael playing the trumpet, Willow playing the trumpet, and Banyan playing the trombone in the school band. Heidi is also highly creative and quite the artist, mostly painting, but also dabbling in woodworking and sculpting. She has donated her skills to help build intricate and beautiful sets for our biggest annual fundraiser, The Mistletoe Ball.

We are incredibly grateful to have Heidi as a part of our team. Her passion, expertise, and commitment to our mission have made a tremendous impact on the work we do. She is a shining example of how each of us can use our skills and talents to help those in need in our community.

We are thrilled to introduce our new Board President, Tammy Nenadovich, who has been volunteering with The Homeless Coalition since 2018 and a Board Member for the last two years. Tammy’s passion for helping others and dedication to customer service make her a valuable asset.

With 30 years of experience in pediatric nursing, Tammy has transitioned to a new role as Field Manager at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals. Her skills and strengths align perfectly with our mission and vision, as she is passionate about educating others and developing processes that positively impact patient care.

Tammy’s involvement with us started by picking up food from community partners and soon progressed to working at our front desk. Her exceptional personal communication skills and "can do" attitude have been invaluable in meeting the needs of our clients.

In October 2022, Tammy was elected as the new Board President of The Homeless Coalition. With her calm demeanor and adaptability in difficult situations, Tammy is a natural leader who is committed to providing support and resources to alleviate and prevent homelessness and hunger throughout the Southwest Florida community.

When she isn’t working hard, Tammy enjoys spending time with her family, watching Steelers football, and boating in Boca Grande with her rescued standard poodle, Lucy. We are honored to have Tammy Nenadovich as our Board President and look forward to the great things she will accomplish with us at The Homeless Coalition.
Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop
Celebrates One-Year Anniversary and Launches Online Sales!

We are excited to share with you some big news from our Fabulous Finds Re-Sale Shop, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary in its new, larger location this past February. Thanks to the support of our community partners, Board Members, volunteers, staff, and incredible patrons, we have been able to successfully make the transition to this new space and continue our mission to alleviate and prevent homelessness and hunger throughout Southwest Florida.

Over the past year, we have seen significant growth in our sales, thanks in large part to the increased visibility of our storefront. We owe a debt of gratitude to The Patterson Foundation and their Margin & Mission Ignition initiative, which has helped us adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and focus our efforts on increasing operational efficacy. By leveraging the power of our Fabulous Finds store, we have been able to build a fund of unrestricted dollars that will give us the necessary resources needed to employ a safety net and fill the gaps of our current methods.

One of the exciting new developments we are rolling out within the next month is our online sales platform, available on our website at www.fabulousfinds.org. This will allow us to reach even more customers and expand our impact in the community. We believe that this new platform will help us generate an additional impact toward our Programs and Services in the first year alone, with even greater revenue generation to come in the years ahead.

Be sure to follow us on social media and visit our website to stay up-to-date on the roll-out of our new, online sales feature coming soon!
New Life Church

Nestled in the historic district of Punta Gorda stands the New Life Church, formerly known as “The United Methodist Church of Punta Gorda,” which has been an integral part of the community since 1887. Recently, members of this congregation took a tour of The Homeless Coalition to learn about our Programs and Services. As regular donors of food and quilts, and previously providing weekly dinners for our Hot Meals Program, they are always willing to lend a helping hand by volunteering their time and resources.

Their involvement in Feed the Harbor and gathering of food items for our weekly Food Pantry distribution has had a significant and positive impact on our operations. During the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, their generosity was on full display as they donated shoes, toiletries, and food to help those in need in our community. We are grateful for their continued and multifaceted contributions.

It is through the kindness and commitment of supporters like the New Life Church that we can continue to fulfill our mission of alleviating and preventing homelessness and hunger in our community. Their efforts enable us to provide shelter, food, and assistance to those in need, all while increasing awareness about homelessness and working towards meaningful change. We thank them for their unwavering support, and we hope that others in our community will follow their lead and support The Homeless Coalition in any way they can.

Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church has been an invaluable partner in our mission to alleviate and prevent homelessness and hunger in our community. On the second Sunday of each month, they hold a second offering for a local non-profit, and we were honored to be the guest speaker at a recent event. During our presentation, we were delighted to find that the congregation was receptive to learning about our Programs and Services.

Not only are members of the church regular donors and volunteers, but they also raised the idea of hosting a food drive to help stock our pantry shelves. Before the pandemic, they were even regular volunteers at our dinner service, and we look forward to their return to the café when it is safe to do so.

We are grateful for the Unitarian Universalist Church’s ongoing support, which allows us to continue providing shelter, food, and other essential resources to those in need in our community.
Cynthia’s Calling to Serve

Cynthia, a former employee of New York Presbyterian Hospital and native of New York, has been a dedicated volunteer at The Homeless Coalition for almost a year. Her journey with the Coalition began after watching a news story about two working women who still faced homelessness. She felt a strong pull to serve, and that led her to our organization.

In her time with us, Cynthia has become an essential member of our team. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Virginia Milano (Ginny), describes her as a “ray of sunshine” who is always willing to help. Other volunteers have expressed their gratitude, saying they “couldn’t do my job without her” and “everybody loves Cynthia.” Despite all the praise, Cynthia remains humble and soft-spoken.

Cynthia has a genuine love for people and serving others, and this is evident in her work with us. She is a valuable asset to our organization, and we are grateful for her dedication and hard work. Her contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve, and we are honored to have her as a part of our team.

At The Homeless Coalition, our volunteers are the heart of our organization. They play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission to end homelessness and provide support to those in need. We are always looking for volunteers to join us in our efforts. Whether it’s lending a helping hand at our Fabulous Finds ReSale Shop, preparing and serving meals at our community kitchen, or assisting with administrative tasks, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please visit our website or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Ginny, by calling (941) 627-4313, Ext. 134 or online at cchomelesscoalition.org. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers Are Always Needed

- Committee Members - Do you like events?
- Kitchen - Do you like to cook, prep and create meals?
- Clerical - Do you like to be in the office?
- Fabulous Finds - Do you enjoy the excitement of retail?
- Pick-ups - Do you have one hour a week to pick up food?

We invite you to join our amazing group of volunteers! Call Ginny Milano at (941) 627-4313, Ext. 134 or email her at virginia.milano@cchomelesscoalition.org.
Save The Date

December 9, 2023

Mistletoe Ball 23

Christmas on the Monticello Casino

For Sponsorship Opportunities call (941) 627-4313

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