

SOCIETY

“Start the Engine” key presentation, The Lord’s Place



Jim Kukla and Kerry Diaz

1. Cristina Lucier, Anne Noble, Calvin Phillips, Gerald Cody and Jessica Parrish
2. Julie Swindler and Wendy Tippet
3. Marcie DePlaza, Charlie Saenz and Jill DiDonna
4. John Linden and Joanne Linden
5. Alan Fant, Diana Stanley and Sarah Alsofrom
6. “Start the Engine” key presentation
7. Shalonda Warren, Mack Bernard, Marci Woodward, Gregg Weiss and Anne Gannon
8. Joey Nieves and Britni Harpster



GAIL V. HAINES / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email ssimmons@floridaweekly.com.

Lord’s Place launches Meal Mobile

The Lord’s Place has started the engine to the Meal Mobile, a comprehensive service delivery bus for those living on the streets.

Thanks to the long-standing partnership and financial support of GL Homes, the local social impact agency is now able to drive its wrap-around services directly to the most vulnerable individuals living on the streets.

The vehicle has a full-service kitchen for serving freshly cooked meals and an office for engaging clients to expedite their journey out of homelessness. The bus also serves as an extension of The Lord’s Place’s culinary training program, which gives clients the foundational skills to acquire an entry-level position in most commercial kitchens.

“The Meal Mobile embraces our philosophy of using food as an engagement tool. Whether we engage with our clients at our physical engagement center at 2808 N. Australian Avenue or directly where they are living on the streets, we know the first necessity is curbing their hunger. Once we

address the essential need for food, we can begin the conversation of how to meet their other needs to ultimately end their homelessness,” Diana Stanley, CEO of The Lord’s Place, said in a news release.

The mobile engagement office will allow the outreach team to pass out clothes and hygiene products and connect homeless individuals to healthcare, mental health services, shelter/ housing and more.

During a formal presentation, Stanley introduced GL Homes Executive Vice President Alan Fant, Palm Beach County Mayor Gregg Weiss, Palm Beach County Commissioner Mack Bernard, and Palm Beach County Commissioner Marci Woodward who addressed the attendees about this “labor of love,” which took seven years from initial concept to starting the engine.

“We are most grateful to our partners at GL Homes and to our county officials for recognizing the need in our community to bring our services directly to where our homeless neighbors are. This bus is the first



CAPEHART PHOTOGRAPHY
The Lord’s Place’s Meal Mobile offers fresh food and a mobile engagement office to help those living on the streets.

of its kind in Palm Beach County, and we are thrilled to be able to expand the way we are delivering services to our clients,” Stanley said.

In addition to donating more than \$100,000, the GL Homes team also contributed more than 500 volunteer hours to purchase and convert the 41-foot-long bus

from a mobile command unit into a food truck and engagement office. GL Homes employees assisted with concept development, equipment selection, kitchen design, interior architectural design, exterior graphic design and obtaining city permits.

Weiss also emphasized the importance of community partnerships: “It’s our responsibility to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to have a safe, clean place to live so that they can live a respected life as they choose here in our community...We have a responsibility for others and taking care of others in our community,” he said. “You all live it. You live it each and every day. And to our partners at GL Homes, your commitment, your support, we couldn’t do this without people that are willing to step forward and help provide the resources.”

The bus will travel to various locations throughout Palm Beach County, beginning with Victory City Church in Riviera Beach, Journey Church in Boynton Beach and The Ramp in Belle Glade. ■