



Left to right: GL Homes President Misha Ezratti, GL Homes Vice President of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom with The Lord's Place CEO Diana Stanley standing in front of the Meal Mobile, a comprehensive service delivery bus for those experiencing homelessness. [TRACEY BENSON]

The Lord's Place and GL Homes partner on the Meal Mobile – bringing services directly to those living on the streets

The 16th annual Ending Homelessness Breakfast (theme: “Welcome Home”) on Nov. 16 will help raise funds for this, and other, initiatives to help local folks who have fallen on hard times.

By Steve Dorfman • Notables Staff Writer

For those among us who don't have a permanent home, life's challenges can seem overwhelming.

Simply knowing when and where your next meal is coming from should not be something any of us worry about.

And that's why The Lord's Place and GL Homes have begun a partnership focused on delivering hot meals and engagement services to help those who are homeless get food in their bellies – and bring an end to their time on the streets.

On Sept. 28, The Lord's Place began operating the Meal Mobile – a comprehensive service delivery bus for those experiencing homelessness.

Among the features of the Meal Mobile are a kitchen for serving nutritious 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, thus giving clients the necessary 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,” said Diana Stanley, CEO of The Lord's Place. “Whether we engage with our clients at our physical engagement center at 2808 N.



Ending Homelessness Breakfast Honorary Chairs Kerry and Michael Diaz [DAVID SCAROLA]

Australian Ave. in West Palm Beach 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.”

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

“We are 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,” said Stanley. “This bus is the first 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.”

Over the years, GL Homes has been instrumental in both supporting the mission of The Lord's Place and raising funds for the organization – most notably via the annual Ending Homelessness Breakfast, which this year takes place on Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion (701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach).

“The Ending Homelessness Breakfast hits all the right notes,” said GL Homes President Misha Ezratti. “This sold-out event creates awareness about the issue of homelessness and invites business and community leaders to be part of the solution. GL Homes is proud to walk hand in hand with The Lord's Place to highlight the inspiring success stories at the breakfast and to change lives by serving people living on the streets with the game-changing Meal Mobile.”

See MEAL MOBILE, 2D

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Diana Stanley, CEO of The Lord's Place



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On Sept. 28, The Lord's Place began operating the Meal Mobile — a comprehensive service delivery bus for those experiencing homelessness that features a kitchen for serving nutritious meals and an office for engaging clients to expedite their journey out of homelessness. [CAPEHART]

MEAL MOBILE

from 1D

In helping launch the Meal Mobile, GL Homes donated more than \$100,000 and staff members spent more than 500 volunteer hours helping convert the 41-foot-long bus from a mobile command unit into a food truck and engagement office. GL Homes employees also assisted with concept development, equipment selection, kitchen design, interior architectural design, exterior graphic design, and obtaining city permits.

“The Meal Mobile will deliver high-impact, life-changing services to those experiencing homelessness,” said GL Homes Vice President of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom. “There is nothing else like this social service delivery system on wheels in our community. Together, The Lord's Place and GL Homes will help break the cycle of homelessness.”

The bus will travel to various locations throughout Palm Beach County, including the following: Victory City Church in Riviera Beach, Journey Church in Boynton Beach, and The Ramp in Belle Glade. More Palm Beach County cities will be added to the schedule in 2024.



Left to right: The Lord's Place team: Director of Homeless Outreach Joey Nieves, Chef Jim Collins and COO Jessica Parrish [TRACEY BENSON]



GL Homes Executive Vice President Alan Fant [CAPEHART]

IF YOU GO

What: 16th annual Ending Homelessness Breakfast. At the event, the Ending Homelessness Award will be presented to local architect and longtime The Lord's Place volunteer Jim Kukla.

When: Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:30 a.m.

Where: Kravis Center for the Performing Arts Cohen Pavilion, West Palm Beach

Tickets: \$100; sponsorships start at \$2,500

Website: thelordsplace.org



GL Homes COO Marcie DePlaza, left, and Chief Marketing Officer Jill DiDonna

[CAPEHART]