

Party Pics

HOMELESS COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Mayor's Ball draws over 650 guests to support ending homelessness in Palm Beach County

Saturday, Feb. 23 — Palm Beach County Convention Center, West Palm Beach



Bill Bone and Peter Cruise PHOTOS BY CAPEHART



James and Michelle Green



Howard Hazle and Gabrielle Finley-Hazle

The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County Sixth Annual Mayor's Ball was a sold-out affair. The evening attracted more than 650 guests, all coming together to support efforts to end homelessness in Palm Beach County. Funds raised from the event are used in every municipality throughout Palm Beach County for initiatives that include Creating Housing Opportunities, which has helped fund moving costs for permanent housing for over 2,300 men, women, children and families.

Mayor Mack Bernard of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners hosted this year's ball and delivered a heartfelt presentation in which he shared his journey from Haiti to Palm Beach County, his support of the Homeless Coalition's efforts, and his commitment to ending homelessness.

"Our theme this year is Be Part of the Solution, and we want everyone to take an active role in ending homelessness, and I do mean everyone. This is very personal to me. My sister and I, until graduating high school, were one step away from homelessness," said Mayor Bernard. "I know the struggle of being school age and the fear of not knowing where you are going to sleep. The true success of the Mayor's Ball is not measured in the number of people who are in attendance, but by how many individuals end up with a safe place to sleep. Be assured that Palm Beach County will continue its commitment to end homelessness. I urge everyone to embrace the challenge and work with us and our partner agencies, so that one day every person in this county will be able to honestly say, 'It's good to be home.'"

"Events like the Mayor's Ball are important as it conveys the message that everyone has a role and can be part of the solution to end homelessness. Especially when it comes to making low-income housing affordable and accessible to our community neighbors, specifically those who have nowhere to live. This event generated funds which will help 50 families move back into housing," said Marilyn Munoz, executive director of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County.

The Homeless Coalition is Palm Beach County's leader in homeless funding, collaboration and advocacy. It connects donors to partner agencies to provide gap funding for programs that end homelessness in Palm Beach County. For more information, call 561-355-4663 or visit homelesscoalitionpbc.org.



Jay and Kelly Cashmere, Sophia Eccleston, and Earl Phalen



Claudia Kirk Barto, Melissa McKinley and Erica Whitfield



Steve and Krista Basore



Above: Kelly Smallridge and Rex Kirby
Left: Jason and Kelsey Emmett, Jessica and Misha Ezratti