



## 2008-2009 Annual Report



**HOMELESS COALITION  
OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County

813.223.6115 | [info@homelessofhc.org](mailto:info@homelessofhc.org)

P.O. Box 360181 | Tampa, Florida 33673-0181



**HOMELESS  
COALITION  
OF  
HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY**



Our homeless neighbors are as diverse as the rest of the community we live. While popular opinion tends to lump homeless people into a single category for a single reason, the truth is each arrived from different directions; from different locations. Yet, they share a common goal - to get out of homelessness or not become homeless in the first place.

Just as there is not a single school, faith organization, restaurant, civic group, gym or business that fits every resident in Hillsborough County, no single program, organization or direction can address the needs of all our homeless neighbors.

Many directions. One goal. End homelessness. I believe this phrase sums up our community's approach to helping our homeless neighbors. At the center is the common destination and the map of routes is the Tampa/Hillsborough 10-year plan to end homelessness and the Tampa-Hillsborough Citizens Task Force on Homelessness. These complementary plans, developed by a broad group of people from the community, map out four nationally recognized best practices of homeless housing and services with the same common goal.

Just as there is a community process for planning what roads to improve, build, expand, place speed bumps and close, so too such a process is needed in planning homeless housing and services. Through such a process, the input of many can help ensure one project doesn't overshadow another; doesn't create a 'bottleneck' in the service process or unduly overburden a strained system. The Coalition serves as the forum for discussing and planning of services and housing options; coordinating programs, maximizing funding opportunities and keeping the destination of long-term solutions to end homelessness in sight.

Thus, the accomplishments you'll read about in the following pages- whether it be increasing beds, raising awareness, passing needed legislation or improving UNITY - they are the shared accomplishments of the community working through and with the Coalition. They are the accomplishments that lead us through the implementation of our community-developed plans to our common goal of ending homelessness.

I want to thank all the Coalition members, partners, funders and supporters for being part of these accomplishments and for the "direction" you and your organization provide on the route to our common destination of ending homelessness.

Sincerely,  
Rayme L. Nuckles  
Chief Executive Officer

## I WANT TO HELP...

...my homeless neighbors by supporting the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County to continue its work to implement the community-developed plans to maintain and expand housing and services needed by our homeless neighbors.

Donate online at [www.homelessofhc.org/donate](http://www.homelessofhc.org/donate).

Make a donation by check. Mail the check, payable to the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County, to P.O. Box 360181, Tampa, FL 33673-0181.

Use GoodSearch Search Engine and donate \$.01 to the Coalition each time you search the Internet. Go to [www.goodsearch.org](http://www.goodsearch.org) to get started.

Sign up to receive action alerts about local and state homeless issues. Visit [www.homelessofhc.org](http://www.homelessofhc.org) to get involved.

Become a member of the Coalition as an individual, organization or business. For membership information, visit [www.homelessofhc.org/HCMembership](http://www.homelessofhc.org/HCMembership).

Schedule a speaker and/or Brown Bag Project Display for your civic or professional group, church, synagogue, class, neighborhood association or other group. Email [info@homelessofhc.org](mailto:info@homelessofhc.org) to get started.



UFUP speakers Jason, Colleen and Lee share their experiences with college students from Hillel.

UFUP speaker Barbara tells her story.



THE HOMELESS COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IS A 501(c) 3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (#CH-21811) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE

## THANK YOU

Without the support of the entities and agencies that provide funding to and through the Coalition, the accomplishments listed in the previous pages could not have been achieved.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 State of Florida, Department of Children and Families  
 Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners  
 City of Tampa  
 Housing Finance Authority of Hillsborough County  
 Children's Board of Hillsborough County  
 Allegany Franciscan Ministries  
 Miami Coalition for the Homeless  
 Venture Harvest Fund

**THANK YOU** to all the Coalition members and partners who provide direct services to our homeless neighbors and who support work to implement long-term solutions. Your efforts and partnerships were integral in the Coalition's accomplishments.

## 2008 HOMELESS HEROES

The Coalition congratulates the 2008 Homeless Heroes. These individuals have made a difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors by working with or on behalf of the thousands of homeless men, women and children in Hillsborough County through education, service, advocacy, leadership and/or perseverance.

**Direct Service:** Thomas Chandler

**Homeless/Formerly Homeless:** Lee Hoffman

**Advocacy/Awareness Building:** Representative Faye Culp (R-Tampa)



Homeless Hero Lee Hoffman (c) with Coalition Board president Joan Boles (l) and vice president Patricia Langford (r).

I am so proud to be a part of the Homeless Coalition. Every year I have seen more growth and greater collaboration throughout the Coalition's membership, partners and the community.



One of the highlights for me was the way everyone came together around the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing grant planning and application process. As a community we decided, within the federal guidelines, how we wanted to use these new dollars so that the most people possible could be helped. And we decided that there would be one grant application from the "Coalition." Though it happened after this fiscal year ended, the Coalition was awarded HPRP funding from both the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County for the clients of our member and partner agencies.

Another great collaborative effort was working with the United Way of Tampa Bay and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grantees to begin utilizing the UNITY Information Network as a tool to track rental, mortgage and utility assistance provided by the EFSP program - streamlining data collection and increasing the usage of this valuable service coordination tool.

Our board continued to grow and diversify bringing more people to the table with various expertise needed to help implement the community-developed plans to assist our homeless neighbors. At the board table we have representation from:

- formerly homeless persons;
- the legal/judicial, medical, financial, and educational fields;
- banking and housing development;
- faith-based, business and nonprofit organizations;
- governmental entities and social services; and
- community members.

As you read through the accomplishments of the Coalition in the pages that follow, know that each member, partner, funder, supporter and board member has played a vital role in these successes. Our success, our strength, is our partnerships with you.

We, as a Coalition, exemplify what it will take to implement long-term solutions to help our homeless and near homeless neighbors - different backgrounds, skills, knowledge and beliefs combined with a single passion to help our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,  
 Joan Cain Boles

The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County is responsible for advancing the community-developed plans - "Places for People," the Tampa/Hillsborough 10-year plan to end homelessness and the Tampa-Hillsborough Citizens Task Force on Homelessness - to help our homeless neighbors. Designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Florida's Department of Children and Families, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Tampa, the Homeless Coalition is the lead agency for our community's homeless continuum of care.

To that end, the Coalition, in conjunction with our member and partner agencies, board of directors and community, we:

- promote collaboration to organize and deliver, without duplication, and support housing and services to meet the needs of all homeless people.
- coordinate nearly \$7 million federal, state and local resources for homeless housing and services in Hillsborough County.
- advocate on behalf of homeless people for local, state and federal legislation and funding that will have a positive impact on our homeless neighbors, and maintain, expand and/or establish programs and funding to meet their needs.
- educate the public about homelessness by dispelling the myths and misperceptions about people who are homeless, their needs and how people can help their homeless neighbors.

Through these efforts we focus on accomplishing the goals set forth in community-developed plans, and assist the community in implementing these long-term and best practice solutions to meet the housing and supportive service needs of the nearly 10,000 homeless men, women and children living in Hillsborough County.

We invite every one interested in helping our homeless neighbors to support the Coalition's effort and be part of implementing long-term solutions that will meet the needs of our neighbors in need.

### Our Mission

To bring together various entities, agencies, service organizations, and individuals to establish and maintain a concentrated effort to break the cycle of homelessness in Hillsborough County, Florida.

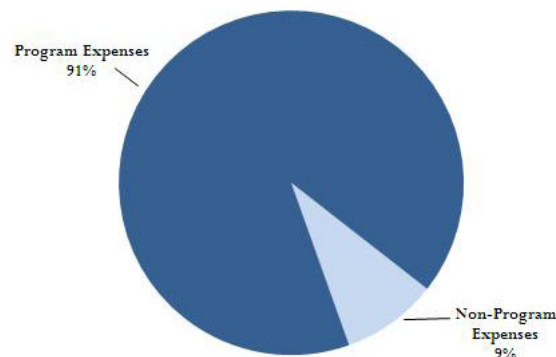
### Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2009

ASSETS	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$390,964
Grants and contracts receivable	236,406
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	627,370
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	
Building and land	210,815
Building improvements	51,480
Computer software	38,400
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	160,951
	461,646
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(102,048)
Net property and equipment	359,598
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$986,968
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable	\$40,810
Accrued expenses	24,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	64,810
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Deferred contract revenue	23,482
Contingent note payable	262,500
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	285,982
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	350,792
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted:	
Undesignated	276,578
Investment in property and equipment	359,598
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	636,176
Temporarily restricted	—
Permanently restricted	—
	—
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	636,176
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	\$986,968

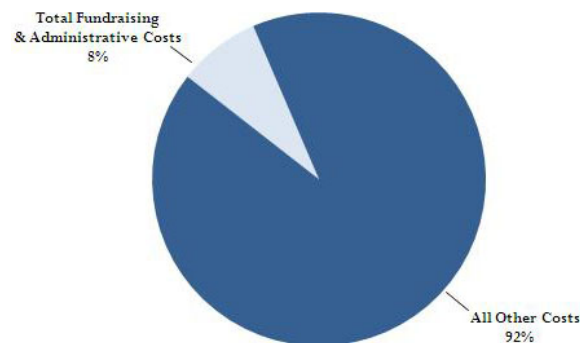
*This is an audited statement provided by an independent auditor.*

The Coalition is proud of its fiscal accountability and responsibility for the resources entrusted to the organization. We continue to exceed the minimum guidelines for charitable organizations established by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, Combined Federal Campaign Standard and the American Institute of Philanthropy.

At least 65 percent of expenses are spent on program activities.



Total fundraising and administration expenses are less than 25 percent of total revenue.



## Honorary Members

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners

City of Tampa

## Sustaining Members

ACTS	Metropolitan Ministries
Bailey Family Foundation	Tampa Family Health Centers
DACCO	Tampa Housing Authority
Lainey Goodrich	TECO Energy Foundation
John Talbot Land	The Salvation Army
Peggy Land	The Spring of Tampa Bay
Mental Health Care	

## Nonprofit Members

Alpha House	New Beginnings of Tampa
Bay Area Legal Services	Positive SPIN
BayCare Life Management	Project Return
Camelot Community Care	Sharpe's Haven
Catholic Charities	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Center for Manifestation	Success 4 Kids and Families
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network	Tampa Crossroads
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay	The Children's Home, Inc.
East Hillsborough Network	Turning Hearts Ministries
Faith Café	University Community Ministries
Hillsborough Kids, Inc.	Volunteers of America of Florida
Hispanic Services Council	Women's Resource Center of Tampa
Mary and Martha House	Youth Advocate Programs

## Individual Members

Brian Cain	Larry Carey, M.D.
Candy Olson	Lisa DeVitto
David Finkel	Patricia McGlinchey
Elaine Thomas	Robert Byrne
George Guthrie	Sondra Fogel
Gerald P. Giglia, CPA	Susan Caron
Kathy Troy	

The Coalition provided funding to homeless and near homeless individuals and families through member and partner agencies, that assisted these households to maintain and/or obtain permanent housing.

Financial housing assistance was provided to 132 households (156 adults and 243 children), through four programs with funding from the Housing Finance Authority of Hillsborough County (Up and Out), State of Florida Challenge Grant, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Shelter Plus Care) and Venture Harvest Fund (Security Deposit Assistance Program). Private donations were also used for the Up and Out and Security Deposit Assistance programs.

Up & Out assisted 15 households (17 adults and 25 children) with rental subsidy for the two-year transitional housing program. Expanded the Up & Out program's capacity by five households through an increase in funding from the Hillsborough County Housing Finance Authority.

Challenge Grant assisted 91 households (105 adults and 170 children) with assistance to either prevent them from becoming homeless or to move the household from transitional to permanent housing. At least 75 percent of the households assisted remained housed for six months or more. *(Six months is the standard length of time used to assess the success of financial housing assistance.)*

Shelter Plus Care provided eight households (eight adults and nine children), with rent subsidy. Supportive services were provided by member and partner agencies. The households in the program rent from private landlords and pay 30 percent of their income on housing costs; the other 70 percent is paid by the program.

Security Deposit Assistance Program provided 18 households (26 adults and 39 children) with security deposits to secure permanent housing.

Through a partnership with Mental Health Care, connections were made with 1,970 homeless people through expanded outreach in downtown Tampa between December 2008 and March 2009. Outreach provided information about community resources, and assessed barriers faced by the homeless family or individual in accessing housing. When appropriate referrals and/or assistance with direct access to an appropriate program and/or transitional housing. The funding, which was awarded for a 12-month period, was expended in just three months.

**Joan Boles, President**

Bay Area Legal Services, Deputy Director

**Patricia J. Langford, Vice President**

Community Representative

**Gerald Giglia, CPA, Treasurer**

Cherry Bekaert & Holland, Partner

**Christine Burdick, Secretary**

Tampa Downtown Partnership, President

**Dr. Larry Carey, Past President**

James A. Haley VA Medical Center, Deputy Chief of Staff  
and Associate Chief of Staff for Education

**Lisa DeVitto**

Community Representative

**Vince Ferraro, CPA**

Ferraro, Higginbotham & Hayes, PA, Chairman

**Julianne A. Holt**

13th District Circuit Court, Public Defender

**Jesus "Jesse" Leon**

Bank of America, Assistant Vice President

**Candy Olson**

Hillsborough County School Board, District 2

**David Rogoff**

Hillsborough County Health and Social Services, Director

**Reverend Vicki Walker**

Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Minister of Outreach

The following members served on the board for part of the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

**Stacy Sher Conroy**

Holland & Knight LLP, Associate  
*(Joined the board in March 2009)*

**William Henry**

Reliable Group Architects, President  
*(Left the board in September 2008)*

**Vivian Grajales King**

Gray Robinson, PA, Attorney  
*(Left the board in January 2009)*

**Sharon West**

Tampa Housing and Community  
Development, Manager  
*(Left the board in May 2009)*

The UNITY Information Network (UNITY) is our community's homeless management information system (HMIS). UNITY helps ensure continuity of care through client information sharing and collection of valuable data needed to document the needs of our homeless neighbors including unmet needs.

Increased the number of participating agencies by 72 percent – from 18 to 31 agencies.

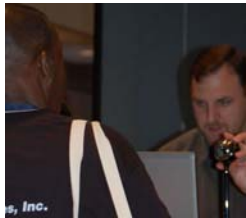
Increased the number of non-required\* agencies participating in UNITY by 25 percent – from 3 to 12.

Trained 64 users through 33 trainings.

Expanded UNITY to include the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) in cooperation with the United Way of Tampa Bay.

Launched the ScanCard pilot program with two agencies and 673 ScanCards were issued to homeless men and women. The ScanCards allows case managers at these agencies to quickly look up clients in the UNITY Information Network and expedites the process of providing services. This process is more dignified for the client as they do not have to give the same information at every visit. Additionally, Hillsborough County Health and Social Services accept these cards as proof of residency in Hillsborough County for the County's Health Plan.

Invited to and provided data (for the first time) for HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. For these efforts, staff member Rich Boozell was awarded the "Herculean Award" by HUD.



A homeless man gets his picture taken for his UNITY ScanCard.

*\* Programs funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Florida's Department of Children and Families are required by law to participate in HMIS. The addition of non-required agencies improves community coordination and better client data.*

Capacity Building activities help the community increase its ability to meet the housing and service needs of our homeless neighbors.

Provided more than 65 organizations and individuals with advice and guidance (technical assistance) on starting and/or expanding housing and service programs for homeless and near homeless people in Hillsborough County.

Wrote, co-wrote and provided support on 34 grants to support and expand homeless housing and services in our community.

- Of the 21 grants written by Coalition staff, 10 (48 percent) were awarded to the community for a total of \$6,865,440 federal, state, local and private dollars.
- Of the three grants co-written by the Coalition with the County, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration grant (HVRG) was awarded to assist homeless veterans to return to self-sufficiency and the Family Unification Program (FUP) grant was awarded to keep families in crisis together.
- Provided support on 10 grants for 11 organizations.

Conducted the biennial homeless count in Hillsborough County in February 2009 to collect information about our homeless neighbors and estimate how many people are experiencing homelessness on a single day. More than 250 volunteers participated.

Assisted in the development of 300 new housing units for homeless people with 143 units opening during the 2008-2009 fiscal year and 157 in various stages of the development process.

Completed the homeless housing and services inventories for the continuum of care.

Assisted in expanding the Outreach for Life program by facilitating the addition of HIV/AIDS testing and helping fund equipment for Tampa Family Health Center's new mobile medical van.

Count volunteers review the list of locations they'll visit during their four-hour shift.



Through community awareness activities we seek to raise awareness about homelessness, our homeless neighbors and generate greater community support to maintain and expand services needed by our homeless and near homeless neighbors.

Launched the “Unexpected Faces, Unexpected Places” Speakers Bureau to educate the community about homelessness and our homeless neighbors through presentations by homeless and formerly homeless people. The speakers bureau is a partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless and AmeriCorp\*VISTA.

Seventeen homeless and formerly homeless people were screened to be speakers and nine joined the speakers bureau. These speakers spoke to 45 groups reaching more than 2,500 people of all ages.

Continued building the “Unexpected Faces, Unexpected Faces” awareness message through the redesign of Coalition publications, letterhead, and business cards.

Fifty-three organizations, businesses, churches and individuals joined the Coalition as members.

Organized the 2008 Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day service to remember the 53 homeless men and women known to have died on the streets of Hillsborough County in 2008. The service was attended by 140 people; 12 percent more than attended the 2007 service.

Produced and distributed 1,000 “Hurricane Preparedness and Evacuation Information for Our Homeless Neighbors in Hillsborough County” pamphlet to educate homeless people about how to keep themselves safe during a hurricane.

Increased visits to the Coalition’s Web site by 70 percent and to the Unexpected Faces Web site by 95 percent.

Entered the world of social media by creating a presence on Brand Tampa, Facebook and Twitter.

A candle burns for each of the 53 people known and one for all whose names are not known who died in 2008 while living on the streets of Hillsborough County. A trio from Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church sings “Make Me a Channel for Your Peace.”



Advocacy provides the Coalition, its members and partners the opportunity to work with elected officials at the local, state and federal levels on policies and funding that positively affect homeless men, women and children.

Continued our relationship with the Miami Coalition for the Homeless and received funding from them to coordinate statewide advocacy efforts on behalf of the Florida Coalition for the Homeless.

Developed and conducted four tele-trainings on the issues and how to be an advocate. Fifty-three people from throughout the state, including seven local advocates participated.

Coordinated the 2009 Homeless Legislative Day in Tallahassee which was attended by 100 advocates from around the state. Six advocates from Hillsborough County attended.

Worked closely with Representative Betty Reed (D-Tampa) and Senator Victor Crist (R-Tampa) on a comprehensive homelessness bill. The bill passed the Florida Legislature, was signed by Governor Crist on June 11, 2009, and became law on July 1, 2009. The new law:

- Created a single state definition of homeless person that includes not only the HUD definition but also includes persons “sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; living in a motel, hotel, travel trailer park, or camping ground due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations.”
- Encourages local homeless coalitions to adopt the Housing First approach to helping homeless individuals and families.
- Encourages the Department of Children and Families Services, its agents, and community-based care providers to develop and implement procedures to reduce the number of youth aging out of foster care from becoming homeless.
- Minor changes to the representation on the Council on Homelessness to ensure the ‘right’ people and entities are at the table.

Worked closely with state representatives and senators to maintain funding for the state’s Challenge Grant and Homeless Housing Assistance grant at the previous year’s level despite significant state budget cuts.