



*Responding to the Needs of the Community*

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Homeless Coalition Elects New Board Members

TAMPA, Fla. – (February 14, 2006) – The Hillsborough County Homeless Coalition membership elected their 2006 Board of Directors on February 2, 2006. The directors, representing social service agencies, government entities and the business community, will guide the Coalition in fulfilling the recommendations of the Tampa/Hillsborough Citizens Taskforce on Homelessness to provide long-term constructive solutions that address the underlying causes of homelessness and meet the immediate needs of homeless men, women and children living in Hillsborough County. Each board member will serve a two-year term.

The new board members are:

**Dr. Larry Carey**, deputy chief of staff and associate chief of staff for education, James A. Haley VA Medical Center

**Joan Boles**, deputy director, Bay Area Legal Services

**Bonnie Christiano**, executive director, Alpha House

**Christine Long**, senior director of programs at Metropolitan Ministries

**Julianne A. Holt**, Hillsborough County public defender, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

**Patricia J. Langford**, community representative

**Karen McKinney**, corporate communications director, McKibbon Hotel Management

**Roxanne Amoroso**, vice-president, community development banking, Bank of America

**Colleen Fitzgerald**, attorney, Gray Robinson, P.A.

**Sharon West**, manager, City of Tampa Housing and Community Development

**Linda Oberhaus**, executive director, The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.

**Lisa DeVitto**, director of public policy and advocacy, The Children's Board of Hillsborough County

**Dianne Zambito**, Independent Living coordinator, Hillsborough Kid's Inc.

**Christine Burdick**, president, Tampa Downtown Partnership

**Carol Griffiths**, clinical coordinator, Homeless Women's Veterans Program, Veterans Administration

Additionally, the following board members were elected to the Coalition's executive committee.

Dr. Larry Carey, president

Joan Boles, vice-president

Christine Long, secretary

Bonnie Christiano, treasurer

The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County is a 501 (C) 3 organization responsible for establishing and maintaining concentrated strategic efforts to develop long-term constructive solutions that address the underlying causes of homelessness and meet the immediate needs of homeless people. Governed by coalition members, the Coalition promotes collaboration and coordination among social service providers, businesses, funding institutions, housing providers, state and federal agencies, faith-based communities and other supportive organizations and individuals to organize and deliver, without duplication, support services, emergency shelters, transitional housing and affordable housing to meet the specific needs of all homeless people. The Coalition also operates the UNITY Information Network that "virtually" links service providers in Hillsborough County. UNITY offers integrated referrals, creates a base of data to better understand homelessness to plan effective intervention, and shows "real-time" availability of services – all essential to securing funding to meet the level of need within the community. For more information visit [www.homelessofhc.org](http://www.homelessofhc.org).

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