



Responding to the Needs of the Community

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Editor's Note: For planning purposes, please see meeting timeline at end of release.

Homeless Coalition Annual Meeting *Part of Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week Activities*

TAMPA, Fla. – (Thursday, November 9, 2006) – The Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County will bring together more than 60 homeless advocates as part of National Homeless and Hunger Awareness Week at the organization's annual meeting. The meeting, being held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sam Seltzer's Steakhouse on N. Dale Mabry in Tampa, will feature the presentation of proclamations from Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, recognition of the Coalition's 2006 Homeless Hero Awards, and reflection and presentation of the accomplishments of the Coalition during its 2005-2006 fiscal year.

“Raising awareness about the needs of homeless and near homeless men, women and children living in our community is one of the Coalition's top priorities,” said Rayme L. Nuckles, CEO of the Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County. “Our annual meeting is one way we can educate others about the diverse solutions and resources the Coalition is working on and invite them to be part of the process.”

National Hunger and Homeless Awareness is November 12 through November 18. An annual event sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, it is a time for communities to take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

This is just one of several different community events being held in Hillsborough County to raise awareness about the plight of homeless and hungry men, women and children in our community. The University of South Florida will be holding several events and the Hillsborough County Public Schools Homeless Education and Literacy Project will host a week long food drive.

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.

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Meeting TimeLine - Approximate

11:00 a.m.	Welcome
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Lunch
11:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks
Noon	Proclamation Presentations
12:10 p.m.	Annual Report Presentation
12:30 p.m.	Homeless Hero Awards Presentation
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn