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### **Art for a Cause**

The Homeless Coalition Palm Beach County took their message to the streets this weekend at the Lake Worth Street Painting festival.

The Coalition sponsored Michelle Howell to help raise awareness about their “paving the way” to end homelessness brick campaign.

Howell, a dedicated Americorps VISTA from the Coalition combined this year’s festival movie theme and the mission to end homelessness.

Michelle chose the “Wizard of Oz” and used pastel chalk to draw large lemon drops melting into brick buildings. This fit perfectly with the organization’s brick campaign and the true meaning of “there’s no place like home.”

Howell says “I am a passionate volunteer. This art work combines my favorite weekend of the year with ending homelessness, a mission I am committed to year round.”

This is weekend spectators had a chance to make a difference in their community while having fun. Michelle’s art conveys a message about a reality that many of us know not know nothing about; homelessness.

There are more than 2,500 homeless people in our area on any given night according to the 2013 Point-in-Time Count. Homeless Coalition executive director Marilyn Munoz says, “Most people think homeless is the man on the corner with a sign but we see more men and women and families reaching out for help every day. We saw sponsoring a local artist as a unique way to educate the public about the changing face of homelessness.”

As patrons scanned Michelle’s art, they picked up information on how to contribute to the cause. For \$100 dollars, supporters can purchase a personalized brick to be placed in the serenity garden at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center. The Lewis Center, which connects homeless individuals and families with services and housing, is part of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

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**The Homeless Coalition**

For over 25 years, the Homeless Coalition's purpose has been to generate awareness through advocacy, education and community outreach and to motivate a community-wide response to raise funding, resources, partners and involved citizens to end homelessness in Palm Beach County.