

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 17, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT:
Shelli Lockhart
(561)355-HOME
(816)550-8808 cell

Palm Beach County Homeless Count National Homeless Campaign Comes to Palm Beach County

Ed Tague is on the lookout for fellow veterans, specifically homeless veterans. The former Marine is leading a team of volunteers and Palm Beach County workers doing a homeless registry this month. Beginning March 26, Tague and his group will visit soup kitchens, homeless camps and anywhere the homeless congregate.

“We will be in parks at 4:30 in the morning, wherever they’re going to be,” said Tague. While he understands parts of the assignment could be dangerous if some of the homeless have weapons or dogs, Tague says, “the most important thing is being patient and trying to understand their situation.” For their own safety, the task force will be accompanied by officers from the West Palm Beach Police Department and Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office.

The 31 year old Wellington native did three tours of duty in Iraq and admits he faced challenges when returning to civilian life. He says he signed on for the job hoping his experience will help him relate to veterans he may encounter. “Many don’t know how to transition out of military life. They are used to being told what to wear, what to eat how high to jump. They are not ready to transition so they self-medicate with alcohol or drugs.”

The three day count which will stretch across the county is part of the “100,000 Homes Campaign.” The 100,000 Homes Campaign is a national movement involving more than 230 cities, counties and states. Tague, along with volunteers, staff and partners of Palm Beach County Human and Veteran Services will create a database to identify the most vulnerable homeless individuals in our area to get them immediate, permanent housing.

The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County is funding the coordination of the project. The last day of the registry coincides with Project Homeless Connect, a quarterly event that brings together service providers. “This is a community effort,” said Marilyn Munoz, Homeless Coalition Executive Director. “That’s what it will take to end the issue of homelessness in Palm Beach County, all of us committing to work together.”

To date the 100,000 Homes Campaign has identified and housed more than 75,000 people, including 1,000 families and 20,000 military veterans.

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.