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Homeless Luncheon Offers Guests Solutions as a Take Away

Every guest at the 6th Annual Senator Philip D. Lewis Center Luncheon left the May 17 event with two things; a copy of keynote speaker Liz Murray's book and a challenge to help end homelessness in our community.

Murray, the author of *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* captivated the crowd with how she escaped homelessness. Murray shared how neighbors offered her help from buying groceries and doing her laundry to pooling their money to pay her rent.

Murray encouraged the audience not to let the enormity of an issue, like homelessness, prevent them for taking action. She told guests they cannot afford to wait for someone else to solve a problem, they must do something.

"Liz Murray really pinpointed what it will take to end homelessness in our community," said Homeless Coalition Executive Director, Marilyn Munoz. "If every person gives what they can, our combined efforts will be enough to help house every person who is experiencing homelessness."

The Senator Philip D. Lewis Center is a collaboration of homeless service providers; it is the front door to homeless services in Palm Beach County. Since opening in 2012, the Lewis Center has helped 35,000 men, women and children find the path to end their homelessness. The Homeless Coalition hosts the annual luncheon to fund these partners and the programs they provide through the Lewis Center.

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The Homeless Coalition
For over 30 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.