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## Local Chefs Gather to Help Feed Homeless

Being homeless is not a crime, but residents at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center eat the same food as the inmates at the Palm Beach County Detention Center. The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County has enlisted local chefs to help provide alternate meals to the 70 men and women who temporarily reside at the homeless resource center.

“The Lewis Center provides transitional housing and three meals a day and the guests are grateful, but we want to do more,” said Homeless Coalition Executive Director, Marilyn Munoz. “People who are experiencing homelessness often feel invisible to the world. They get used to being overlooked or treated poorly. So when you look them in the eye, hand them a really nice meal and engage them in conversation you are truly giving them a gift. You are restoring their dignity,” Munoz continued.

On **Tuesday, June 28, 2016** more than two dozen local chefs and restaurant representatives will learn how they can make a difference through the Homeless Coalition’s *Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers* program. The meal program invites community members, organizations and businesses to sponsor and serve meals to residents at the Lewis Center. The meals nourish the guests who are seeking to change their lives and create awareness about homeless issues and increase the community’s interaction with the resource center.

During the **Lunch & Learn** chefs will have a typical meal served at the Lewis Center and hear from volunteers who have faithfully stepped up to help like Chef John Carlino from ChefCorp. “The Breaking Bread program offers me and my staff the unique opportunity to prepare a meal for those who directly consume my donation. Each person is so appreciative and thankful. It is an added satisfaction when we serve the meal to the homeless community and immediately see the impact of our work,” Carlino said.

The Senator Philip D. Lewis Center consists of a partnership of homeless services providers: Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Health Care District of Palm Beach County, Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, The Lord's Place and the Palm Beach County Homeless Services Program.

**The media is invited to attend the Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 2pm in the multi-purpose room at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center: 1000 45<sup>th</sup> Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33407.**

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**The Homeless Coalition:** For 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.