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Palm Beach County Mayor Meets Homeless Families

Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick greeted Carnell Olofin with her customary fist bump then thanked him for serving as an inspiration. The single father of four became homeless after his wife died of cancer and he lost his job. Olofin met Mayor Burdick Friday at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center as the mayor encouraged the public to support the upcoming Mayor's Ball.

The Olofin family is one of nearly 900 people who have been helped by the annual fundraiser. The April 1st gala, presented by the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, raises funds for homeless services and service providers in Palm Beach County.

"People always want to know what's being done, why they still see homeless people on the streets," said Marilyn Munoz, Executive Director of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County. "The answer is the programs are working. People are getting help, but we need more affordable housing. The number of people who need housing far outweighs the supply."

Mayor Burdick wants affordable housing to be a priority during her year-long term, particularly for families with children. As a former Palm Beach County School Board member she knows homelessness is an issue in the schools. The Palm Beach County School District currently lists 3,777 children as homeless.

"How can you go to school every day without having a home? Having mom drop you off at school and you've slept in the car for two weeks, or under a bridge. How can children learn in school? They can't," Burdick says.

The Homeless Coalition invites you to be a part of the solution at the Mayor's Ball on **Saturday, April 1, 2017** at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Tickets are available for \$250 through the Homeless Coalition's website www.homelesscoalitionpbc.org

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The Homeless Coalition

For more than 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.