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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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An Enchanted Evening

Guests experienced an enchanted evening at the second annual Mayor's Ball. The black tie gala benefiting the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County topped expectations for fun and fundraising. More than 560 people attended the February 28th event at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Patrons were swept into a magical atmosphere of trees filled with twinkling lights, butterflies and characters dressed as living flowers. The night's entertainment included a cirque du soleil style performance by Rainbow Circus and music by "The Jeff Clemens All Star Band."

As attendees enjoyed cocktails, they read stories about homeless individuals and families who have been helped by homeless service providers in Palm Beach County. "These stories show how the first Mayor's Ball helped change lives," said Marilyn Munoz, the Homeless Coalition's executive director. "These are the stories that prove we are making an impact and inspire us to keep working."

The Mayor's Ball raised about \$225,000 for Homeless Coalition programs, including Rapid Re-housing and Creating Choices Vouchers which pay rental deposits to move those who are experiencing homelessness or living in temporary housing into permanent homes.

During her speech at the dinner and dance, Palm Beach County Mayor Shelley Vana shared how simply providing a home can change a person. Vana told a story about not recognizing two homeless men who she helped get off the streets and into housing.

"Ending homelessness comes down to providing homes," said Homeless Coalition board president Pamela Goodman. "It really can be that simple, and that's why we're here."

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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 to motivate a community-wide response to raise funding, resources, partners and involved citizens to end homelessness in Palm Beach County.