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Protecting the Homeless from the Zika Virus

Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County Distributes Mosquito Protection

The summer rainy season is here and so are the South Florida mosquitoes. To combat the threat of the Zika Virus the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County is distributing mosquito repellent to those who are experiencing homelessness.

“If you live outside, you are more susceptible to mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry,” said Homeless Coalition Executive Director Marilyn Munoz. “Until we have the resources and space to house everyone in our community, we must find ways to meet basic needs and to protect our most vulnerable citizens,” Munoz continued.

Thanks to an anonymous donation, *the* Homeless Coalition will provide bottles of mosquito repellent during **Project Homeless Connect on Wednesday, June 8th**. More than 200 individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness are expected to attend the event next month at Gaines Park & Community Center. Project Homeless Connect brings agencies that serve the homeless together in one location for one day. Another Project Homeless Connect is planned for July in Greenacres; the Homeless Coalition hopes donors will step forward to fund products for that event.

According to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* and the *Florida Department of Health* there are 591 confirmed Zika cases in the United States, 121 cases in Florida and seven in Palm Beach County. All of the cases are travel related; however health officials are still advising residents to take precaution against mosquitoes.

What: Project Homeless Connect
Who: Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County
When: Wednesday, June 8, 2016
9am-1pm
Where: Gaines Park & Community Center
1501 N. Australian Ave
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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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.