There are more than **2,800 homeless** men, women and children on any given night in Broward County.

Their future depends on what we do **today**.











Who Is Homeless in Broward County?

Total number of homeless **2,803**





Children under 18
305

Adults 18-24 **131**

Adults over 60 **420**



Female*
858

Male* **1,934**

Veterans 219



Chronically homeless 914



WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

Homelessness is defined as living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as on the street or in a park, a car, a storage unit or an emergency shelter. **Chronic homelessness** describes people who have experienced repeated homelessness along with other social conditions.

Imagine not knowing where you're going to sleep safely tonight or when you'll take your next shower. Imagine battling not only heat, humidity and rain, but also physical violence, sexual abuse and untold trauma.

This is the reality on any given night for more than **2,800 people, from children to the elderly**, in Broward County. People who, due to any number of reasons – including childhood homelessness, mental health and physical health issues, substance abuse and job loss – find themselves homeless.

How Do We Solve Homelessness? The "Housing First" model is widely recognized as the most cost-effective, humane and successful approach to homelessness. It provides housing along with case management and other needed supportive services. "Housing First" recognizes that safe shelter, along with food, is a basic human need that must be addressed before a person can address other issues.

United We End Homelessness Supports "Housing First"

Rapid Re-Housing

(Short-term assistance for those needing help getting back on their feet) Apartment rent
plus connections to
community-based
health care, treatment,
employment services,
food and more

PROVIDE

Permanent Supportive Housing

(Long-term assistance for the disabled and chronically homeless) Successfully used in a number of large American cities, "Housing First" has resulted in:

- Diminishing and/or eradicating chronic homelessness. More than 90% of people placed in housing remain housed and have not returned to homelessness.
- Drastically reducing the number of stays in hospitals, jail and shelters. In fact, national best practices show that providing an individual or family with stable housing helps to reduce the cost of homelessness to taxpayers.

Ultimately, the goal of the Broward Business Council on Homelessness is to improve the health, well-being and stability of the homeless, and make Broward County's streets, parks, beaches and public spaces clean, safe and accessible to all our residents and visitors.

Collaborative Partners:

- City and county government
- Service providers
- · Law enforcement
- Faith community
- Private individuals and companies
- Health care organizations

Supportive Services, Such as:

- · Job training and placement
- · Benefits applications
- Medical treatment
- Substance abuse treatment
- · Mental health counseling
- And more

Lives Impacted

Dester and Ashlyn were living in the downtown Fort Lauderdale library homeless encampment with a cardboard box, an umbrella and a blanket as their only possessions. Then they were approached with help from the United We End Homelessness initiative - a partnership of United Way of Broward County, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward Business Council on Homelessness, Broward County, City of Fort Lauderdale and numerous other entities. The initiative provided the couple with a home to live in, along with a variety of supportive services. Today, Ashlyn is pursuing a nursing degree, Dester is working full-time and both are enjoying having a safe place to call home.

Christina lived in a leaky tent at the downtown Fort Lauderdale encampment for more than four years and experienced violence, hunger and despair. She had no hope and feared for her safety every night. The Broward Business Council on Homelessness helped her move into a studio apartment and assisted with rent, furnishings, food and more. She also received help finding a full-time job, where she is thriving and saving money.



Seeking to find new solutions and strategies to end homelessness as we know it, United Way of Broward County and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance created the Broward Business Council on Homelessness, which supports a joint initiative called **United We End Homelessness**.

United We End Homelessness, the initiative of the Broward Business Council on Homelessness, focuses on:

- Education and awareness to understand the true costs of homelessness
- Community engagement and advocacy
- Recruiting landlords to provide housing for individuals and families
- Identifying employment opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Securing private and public financial resources toward permanent solutions to homelessness

Please join us by supporting this important endeavor.









