

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

* Number not determined to be male or female: 11.



WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

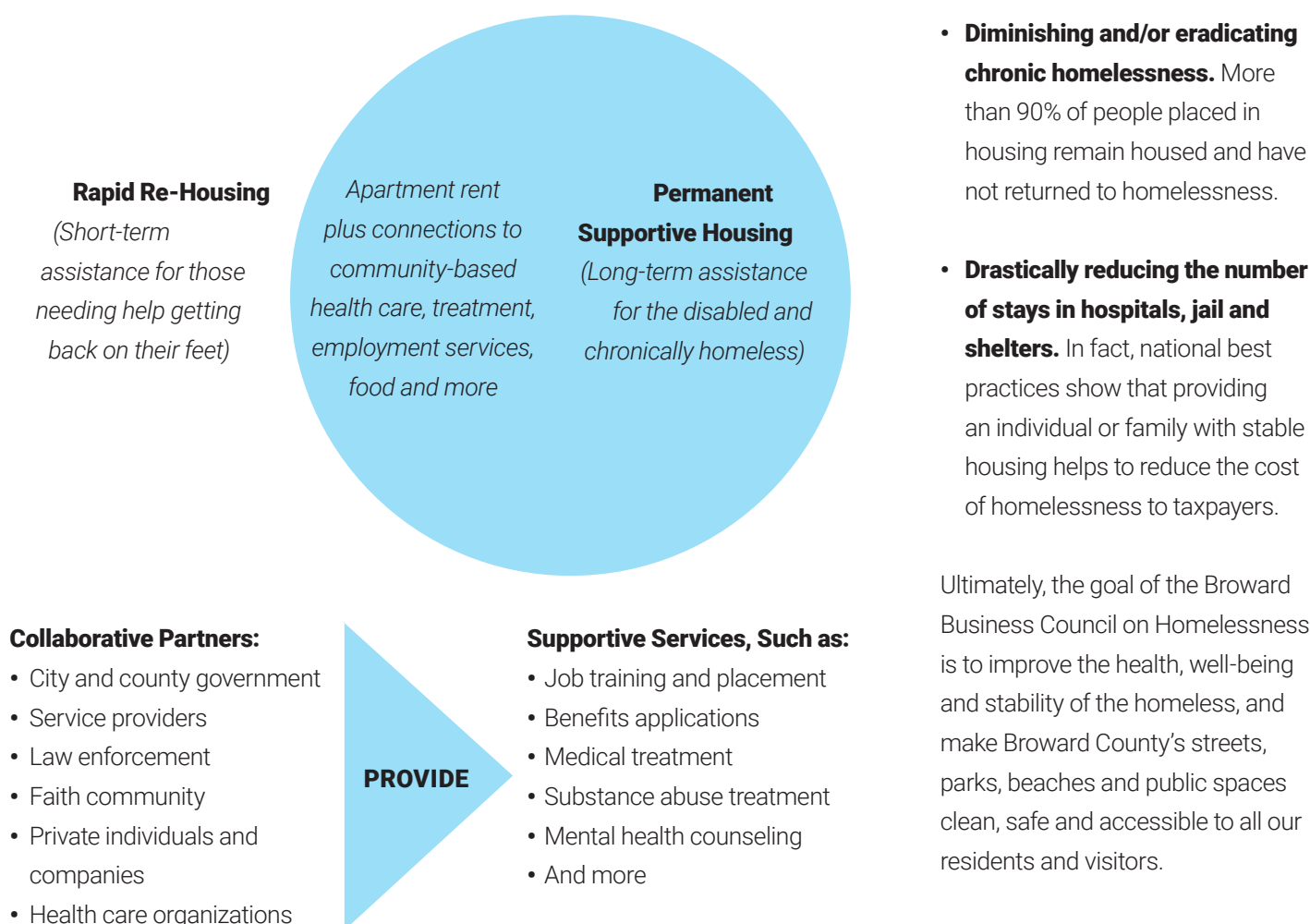
Homelessness is defined as living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as on the street or in a park, a car, a storage unit or an emergency shelter. **Chronic homelessness** describes people who have experienced repeated homelessness along with other social conditions.

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.

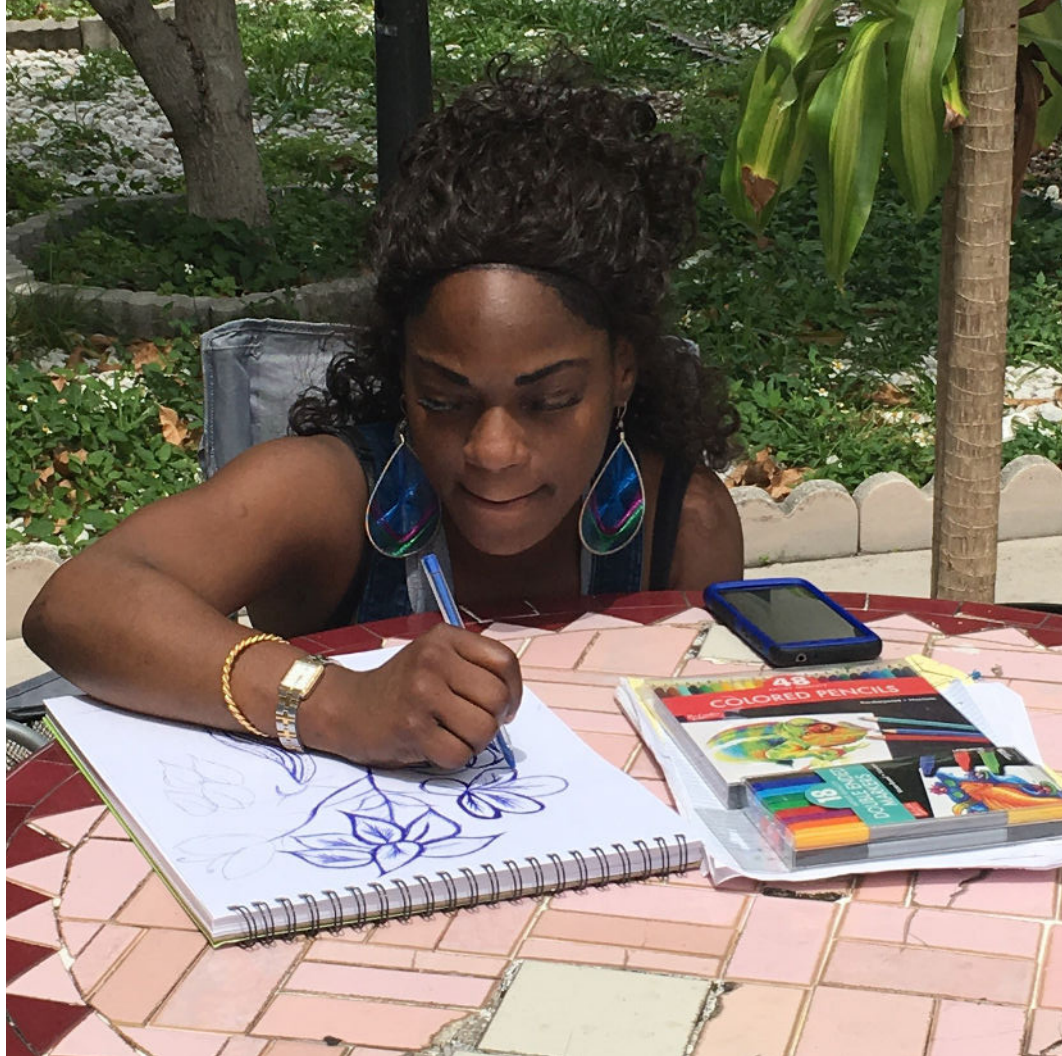
United We End Homelessness Supports “Housing First”



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.



To donate, visit UnitedWeEndHomelessness.org or text "UWEH" to 91999