

PARTNERS



The Newsletter of Community Partnership for Homeless, Inc.

Fall 2003

Pianist finds spiritual awakening at CPHI

I am known as Billy Ray. That is not my name but it is what I have been called since I was a very young man. Now that I am an old man it is still the same. Some things change; others never do. This, then, is my story: To begin: I am not a derelict; I am not a bum; I am not a drunk (or "alcoholic," if you prefer); I am not a drug addict and I shower regularly.

How then, with this profile, one may reasonably ask, did you arrive at CPHI, more formally known as Community Partnership for Homeless?

I am a musician, specifically, a pianist. I was playing jazz by ear at the age of 5 and learning to read classical music. My father was a drummer with Duke Ellington's big band and through this connection my own career began.

Duke Ellington took me under his wing and I made my public debut with him and his band at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem. I was 9 years old. Formal education, for me, was the Performing Arts School in New York City from which I graduated at 17. A few years later, opportunity suddenly knocked when Sammy Davis, Jr., appeared on the scene and guided me to Grossingers famous resort in the Catskills where I became the boy wonder pianist in residence.

A little fame, a little power and a little wealth rather quickly followed. I thought I owned the little world in which I lived and worked.

From Grossingers, I went on to play in most of the great cities in the United States and many cities in Europe. My career took me to, in its heyday, the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, but much of my time was spent playing the hot spots of New York City.

With passing years, however, my career, almost imperceptibly, seemed to plateau. I married and had a family. Slowly, my dream castles came down. I became basically a bar entertainer, belting jazz and rasping songs according to requests. My family disintegrated.

I might have lived out my life in this fashion but other plans already had been made for me. I had a stroke. There was no paralysis but my speech was impaired and so was my

right hand. No more music for a long, long time.

There was much rehabilitation effort, including hand therapy, and of course, exhaustion of all resources – savings, insurance, loans, charity.

Slowly, my hand improved to a point that I could play and work a little when I could find it. I guess I was at about 45 percent of pre-stroke capacity when I decided to try the "greener pasture" cure. I scraped the money together and boarded a bus for the Magic City.

Fate, this time, truly intervened once more. Shortly after getting off the bus in Miami, I was held up at gunpoint by two men who took everything I had, which was not much. The police were perplexed as to what to do with me. But one of them, to his everlasting credit, and whose name I do not know to this day, arranged for me to be admitted to CPHI.

Although I was not a derelict, I certainly was destitute, with no friends and no connections. I was not 100 percent healthy and still somewhat slow mentally. But I must say, candidly, that it came as a shocking and depressing jolt to find myself in a homeless shelter, spacious and comfortable as this one is.

Here, however, I found some answers to many questions I had never addressed nor even identified. And with these answers, the inner fears and demons and recurring bouts of depression disappeared. More important, now, I could function physically, mentally and spiritually.

I cannot put into words what I found at CPHI. The degree of warmth, love, sharing and generosity that goes on there at all times, among all — whether staff, residents, family, children, or executives — is a continuing miracle.

I believe that the end result, for me, has been a genuine spiritual awakening for which I shall be eternally grateful.

To CPHI, and all connected with it, and to those who made it possible, I can only say: Thank you, again and again and again.

-BILLY RAY

Editor's note: Billy Ray is now working as a pianist at a local restaurant.



William Morrison presents a bouquet to Amanda Batchelor at CPHI's second annual gala

...see page 3

Our Mission

We offer dignity and hope to all so that no persons sleep on the streets of our community.

Inside

Chairman's Message	... 2
Wishing Upon A Star	... 2
10th Anniversary Gala	... 3
Early Head Start	... 3
New Board Members,	
Board List, Board Dates	4
Focus on Kids	... 5
A Gift of Giving	... 5
Celebrate the Holidays	... 6

Chairman's Message



As we mark Community Partnership for Homeless' tenth anniversary, there is much to celebrate. There is also much that remains to be done.

Two Homeless Assistance Centers — The Chapman Center in downtown Miami and one in far South Miami-Dade County — now provide not only food and shelter to "the least, the last and the lost," but also a means to rebuild their lives.

Despite the uncertain economic conditions of the past few years, "on the street" homelessness in our community has been reduced by 43 percent since 1993. More significantly, more than 57 percent of the 38,000+ people who have received homeless assistance services now live independently and fruitfully — more than double the 25 percent success rate most homeless assistance programs achieve. Given a chance to address their problems and learn new skills, former "street people" have been given new hope and are now fully contributing members of the community.

On October 17, we honored Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas with the Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. Humanitarian Award at CPHI's second annual fundraising gala at the JW Marriott Hotel.

"A Place for Us" was an apropos theme for the evening, at which we recognized those, including Mayor Penelas, who have led the fight to create a supportive place in which homeless men, women and families can regain their independence.

Alvah Chapman himself, CPHI's founding chairman and fundraiser extraordinaire, presented Mayor Penelas with the award.

As second recipient of the Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the mayor recognized early in his political career that Miami-Dade could only realize its potential for greatness if the homelessness issue was dealt with compassionately and creatively. He has since become one of CPHI's champions and has vigorously supported a "continuum of care" approach which has brought our community national recognition.

Like Mayor Penelas and Alvah Chapman, we who are committed to ending homelessness will continue to wrestle with the uncertainty of raising funds and meeting budgets in an unpredictable economy, with many people's complacent belief that the problem of homelessness has been solved, with all of the challenges attendant to bringing about social change.

Led by people of vision, like Mayor Penelas and Alvah Chapman, our progress has been remarkable. Skeptics have become believers. People who had no hope can now look to the future with confidence.

At the 10-year mark, it's fitting that we evaluate our progress, celebrate our successes and map our goals for the future. We are grateful for our generous contributors and for everyone who helped us achieve all that we have over the past decade. We are grateful for leaders like Mayor Penelas and Alvah Chapman and remain committed to continue our work until not one person sleeps on the streets of Miami.

R. Ray Goode

Wishing Upon a Star

The need for these items continues to grow every day. You may donate items or money to purchase them. Drop offs are accepted at 1550 N. Miami Avenue or 28205 SW 125 Avenue. For additional information, please call our Donation Hotline (305) 329-3030 or e-mail tbflowers@cphi.org

PERSONAL HYGIENE:

Shampoo/Bath Soap
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Deodorant/Shaving Cream
Feminine Hygiene Items
Diapers (Children and Adults)
Hair Brushes/Combs
Baby Powder/Lotion/Baby Wipes/Formula

GENTLY USED CLOTHING FOR MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN:

Men's and Women's Business Attire
Shorts
Tee Shirts
Shoes
Plus Sized Women's Clothing
Maternity Clothing
Socks
Infant Clothing
Underwear

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Beds
Cribs
Dressers
Mattress/Box Spring/Frame
Kitchen Tables w/Chairs
Lamps
Sofas
Coffee Tables
Night Stands
Dishes/Glasses
Pots/Pans/Silverware
Small Household Appliances (Microwaves, Toaster Ovens, Coffee Pots, Toasters)
Towels/Wash Cloths
Sheets/Blankets/Pillows

OFFICE NEEDS:

Filing Cabinets
Bulletin Boards
Fax Machines
Typewriters
Workable Computers
Office Chairs

KITCHEN NEEDS:

Baked Goods (pre-packaged: sweet rolls, cookies, cakes, pies or donuts)
Milk

Juice

Canned Goods (potted meats, vegetables, soups, fruit)
Soda

MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS:

Arts & Crafts Supplies (glue, construction paper, markers, pens, paper, scissors)
Board Games/Decks of Cards/Educational Games/Balls
Videos/DVDs (G and GP rated please)
Backpacks/Vinyl Bags
Computer Software Games
General School Supplies
Books (Children and Adults)
Suitcases/Overnight Bags
Baby Bottles
Pacifiers
Wheel Chairs (Children and Adult)
Walkers (Tri and Quad)
Canes/Crutches
Baby Blankets
Car Seats
Strollers (Double and Single)

HOLIDAY ITEMS:

Gifts - Adults & Children
Decorations - Children Parties
Christmas Trees

10th Anniversary Gala Honors Alex Penelas

The board of directors of Community Partnership for Homeless (CPHI) recently honored Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas for his "vision and compassion for the homeless community" by selecting him to receive the Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. Humanitarian Award.

The award is given each year to someone who has been instrumental in leading the challenge of helping homeless men, women and children in Miami-Dade County. Penelas accepted the tribute at CPHI's second annual fundraising gala on October 17th at the JW Marriott Hotel.

The event, whose theme, "A Place for Us," incorporated music from Leonard Bernstein's 1950s musical "West Side Story," marked CPHI's tenth anniversary and its mission to provide a place where homeless people can rebuild their lives with dignity.

After a reception enlivened by K. Wayne Bumpers' piano performance, talented young artists Niki Clark and David Pereira performed the musicals signature "Tonight". Guests celebrated a decade of remarkable progress and the dedication of many people, including Penelas, who have

courageously tackled the issue of homelessness.

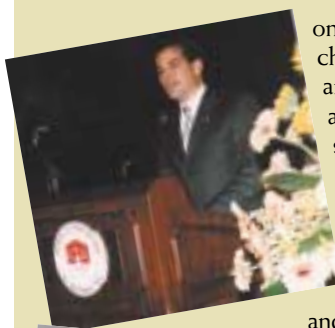
"Mayor Penelas worked very hard to help us get Community Partnership started," said R. Ray Goode, CPHI chairman. "His tireless efforts and dedication have brought in the strong and continuous support and partnership of our community and government."

As dinner was served, George Gregory Hobbs conducted Clark and Pereira in selections from "West Side Story," underscoring the hope, energy and enthusiasm CPHI has brought to its mission of creating "a place for" the homeless in Miami-Dade County. The event raised \$626,000, thanks to the generosity of corporate, individual and in-kind contributors, who were recognized throughout the evening. As he was last year, the late aviation pioneer and philanthropist George E. Batchelor was recognized as the "Angel to the Homeless." The George E. Batchelor Foundation generously agreed, once again, to match "table sales" up to \$250,000, enhancing the gala's fundraising success.

At the conclusion of the evening, Chapman, CPHI's founding chairman, presented the award that bears his name to Penelas and presented a brief recap of the organization's history.

Since its founding, CPHI, a public-private partnership with the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, has developed two homeless assistance centers and a "continuum of care" model that has received national acclaim. In the past eight years, more than 57 percent of the 38,000+ people who have received homeless assistance services have been outplaced successfully — more than double the 25 percent success rate most such programs achieve.

More than just an elegant evening in a beautiful setting, "A Place for Us," was an opportunity for CPHI to thank and honor those who have fought tirelessly to bring opportunity and hope to the homeless men, women and children of Miami-Dade County. It was also an opportunity to affirm that the fight will continue "until no persons sleep on the streets of our community."



Top Left: Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas; Bottom Left: (L to R) Amarilis Osorio (CPHI director), Betty Chapman, Alvah Chapman (founding chairman, CPHI), Brenda Nestor Castellano (Honorary Dinner chairman, CPHI director); Top Right: (L to R) Senator Larcenia Bullard, Sid Levin of FPL and Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Commission.

Head Start/Early Head Start Program

By David Allison-McPherson

The Miami-Dade Community Action Agency Head Start/Early Head Start Program has played an important role in Community Partnership for Homeless (CPHI)'s mission to assist individuals and families overcome homelessness.

At both CPHI centers, Head Start is a crucial tool for people on their path back to a rewarding and meaningful life.

"The value of the service we provide in partnership with CPHI is important, if you look at the obstacles that lack of childcare can cause for someone who is trying to improve their situation," said Vanessa Wallace, Center Director for Chapman Center. "Head Start gives parents an opportunity to focus on other areas of their lives that may need to be improved in order to get them back on their feet. As a parent myself, I know that my main concern would be the care of my child, but knowing that my child is being taken care of in a loving and nurturing environment, I can focus on getting a job, locating a more stable place to live and getting myself back on track."

The Head Start/Early Head Start program currently serves about 70 children in the two centers. An additional classroom was just added to CPHI Chapman center to allow expansion of the Early Head Start program, which provides care for children newborn to age 3.

Demand for services is on the increase at both locations. Head Start

staff works in conjunction with CPHI Program Services to ensure that the goals of the residents are met, by developing individual plans that meet the specific needs of each family.

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their children's education even as they pursue their own learning goals, which may include a Literacy Workshop to improve adult reading skills. They are also encouraged to attend monthly meetings to discuss their child's development. Head Start will help them find additional program locations so that progress can continue once they are ready to transition out of the center.



CPHI Welcomes Three New Board Members



Carlos R. Fernandez-Guzman is the executive vice president of the marketing division for BankUnited, Florida's largest Florida-based bank with branches located throughout south and west Florida. During his 30-year career, Fernandez-Guzman has served as a top executive at various companies in the Miami area including XTec, Southeast Banks, American Savings of Florida, Riverdale Investments and Consolidated Bank. He is active in many civic organizations including the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Dade County as well as the board of directors of United Home Health Care.



Michael G. Joseph is chief executive officer of HCA Healthcare Corporation's Cedars Medical Center, a 575-bed full service teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Miami School of Medicine. A native Floridian, he earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Miami. Active in numerous organizations throughout the community, Joseph is an active board member of the South Florida Hospital Association, St. Jude Catholic Church and he is a past board member for the Broward County Heart Association. Joseph also participated in fundraising efforts for Relay for Life.



Carol Renick is the administrative director of the Bureau of Adult/Vocational and Dropout Prevention Programs at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). During her 20-year career at M-DCPS, she has served as executive director of the Division of Community Education and Participation, director of the Department of Community Relations and Participation and supervisor of the Department of Community Participation. Renick is active in numerous organizations throughout the community including the Florida Commissioners Community Involvement Council, the National Association for Partners in Education Advisory Council and she serves as a board member for the Adult and Community Educators of Florida. In 2001, Renick received the Hall of Fame Award from the Dade Coalition of Community Education.



CPHI Board List

Officers

Chairman
R. Ray Goode

Founding Chairman
Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.

Co-Chairs
James L. Armstrong, III, PA
Dr. Evalina Bestman
John P. Hashagen

Secretary
Lynn B. Lewis, PA

Treasurer
Sherrill W. Hudson

Executive Director
H. Daniel Vincent

Members

The Honorable Mike H. Abrams
Richard B. Adams, Jr., Esq.
Timothy M. Adams
William H. Allen, Jr.
Sandy Batchelor
Jill Beach
Yolanda C. Berkowitz
Stephen H. Bittel
Creed C. Black
Philip F. Blumberg
The Honorable Edward Bullard
Robert E. Chisholm, FAIA
Ira C. Clark
Claudia Clunis
Armando Codina
Thomas M. Cornish
Deborah Davidson
Nancy J. Davis
Jose M. Diaz, AIA
Dr. Stephen J. Dresnick
Annette Eisenberg
Tomas P. Erban
Bill Fauerbach
Gerardo B. (Jerry) Fernandez
Carlos R. Fernandez-Guzman
Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields
Fr. Roberto Garza
Mehdi Ghomeshi
Robert V. Glaser
Dr. Rosemary F. Hall, RN
Nancy Hector
Adolfo Henriques
Robert E. (Robb) Hilson
Osmond C. Howe, Jr., PA
Tom Huston, Jr.

Dr. Frank Jacobs
Michael G. Joseph
William A. Kaynor
Joseph P. (Joe) Lacher
R. Kirk Landon
Rev. Richard Ledgister
Joseph H. Mathos
J. Porter McClean
Carlos Migoya
Carmen Millares
William L. Morrison
Albert H. Nahmad
Brenda Nestor
Amarilis Moran Osorio
Maj. Tom Overton
Theodore M. Parsons
Dennis Pastrana
Aaron S. Podhurst, Esq.
Jonah Pruitt, III
Rev. Dr. David Rees
Carol Renick
John W. Reynolds
Dr. Willie C. Robinson
Rebecca Rosen
Wayne S. Schuchts
The Honorable
Caryn Canner Schwartz
Jean D. Shehan
Mark Small
Roger Soman
Sash Spencer
Amancio Suarez
Stewart P. Thomas
Bill R. Tillet
Dr. John Uribe
Rev. Tommy Watson
Joanna Wragg, APR

Emeritus Board Members

Dr. Douglas C. Harris
Glendon Johnson

Associate Board Members

Sara Adler
Thomas Franklin
Maritza Gutierrez
Robert McKinney, Esq.
Irene Porter
Ilija Rivera
Bruce Rubin
Jacob Solomon
Jay Weiss

2003/2004 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are scheduled on the second Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at 1550 North Miami Avenue, unless otherwise advised.

December 11, 2003	March 11, 2004
January 8, 2004	April 8, 2004
February 12, 2004	May 13, 2004

Focus On Kids

Kids received special attention these past few months at Community Partnership for Homeless (CPHI). A number of events centered around our youngest residents as the summer months rolled by.

In June, CPHI and the **Leonie's Light Foundation** hosted a children's event to celebrate the seventh birthday of the late Leonie Argutty at the Chapman Center downtown.

More than 200 children from the CPHI Downtown and Homestead centers celebrated Leonie's birthday with all kinds of rides, clowns, face painting, music and food.

Leonie Argutty passed away last year in a skiing accident in Colorado — she was not wearing a helmet. Two months after her tragic death, the Leonie's Light Foundation was founded to assist those struggling through the mourning process. Their perspective is to focus on the light of a life rather than the sadness of death.

"The children living in our centers were thrilled to take part in Leonie's birthday celebration," said Trev Flowers, director of community relations at CPHI. "Life is a precious gift that should not be taken for granted and hopefully our children will learn this after hearing Leonie's story."

"We hope her birthday celebration will remind people that the spirit of loved ones can live on, and remembrance of life is a beautiful and happy thing," said Eyal Peretz, director of Leonie's Light. "The light of a person's life can go on with the help of those who remember."

Flowers and Peretz said they hope the event will trigger a ripple effect and that other communities will create similar programs.

In July, **Florida Marlins' president David Samson** spoke to children at the Chapman Center in downtown Miami about following childhood dreams. There were approximately 40 people present. After his speech and a tour of the downtown facility, Samson surprised the children with tickets for a field trip to watch the Miami-Montreal game.

This summer the kids from our Homestead Center, joined by children from the Chapman Center downtown, were treated to some special visitors — a talking parrot, a Burmese python and a cheetah — from **Metro Zoo**. Everyone enjoyed the parrot, and all of the words and sounds it made. "It took eight of us to hold the python," one of the children exclaimed. The cheetah retreated back to its crate as soon she encountered all of our children, but peeked out several times so everyone had a chance to see just how beautiful she is. Children from the Head Start program were able to participate in the event, and the children from downtown were able to stay for lunch and play games before heading back.

The **Little Farm** visited the Homestead Center this summer, and a petting zoo visited the Chapman Center. All of the daycare children in the Head Start program enjoyed being able to touch and see the animals up close. Our kids learned a lot about baby animals and were thrilled with the visits.

These events helped bring smiles to our little ones who will remember those special moments for many years to come.

The Gift of Giving

APRIL 2003

Victor Posner Foundation	\$ 50,000
Food Industry Crusade Against Hunger	\$ 20,000
Jean Shehan	\$ 10,000
John West Thatcher	\$ 10,000
Tim Adams	\$ 5,000
Phoenix National Trust	\$ 5,000

MAY 2003

The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.	\$250,000
Joseph Weintraub Family Foundation, Inc.	\$ 25,000
The Chatlos Foundation, Inc.	\$ 25,000
Ronald Book	\$ 5,000
Braman Family Foundation	\$ 5,000
The Paul J. DiMare Foundation	\$ 5,000
Ratiener, Reyes & O Shea, P.A.	\$ 5,000
Wachovia Corporation	\$ 5,000

JUNE 2003

Jeff & Yolanda Berkowitz	\$ 25,000
1997 Charitable Lead Unitrust	
James H. T. McConnell, Jr.	\$ 25,000
Cedars Medical Center	\$ 10,000
CPHI Staff	\$ 10,000
Israel Discount Bank of New York	\$ 5,000
Sash Spencer	\$ 5,000
Union Planters	\$ 5,000

JULY 2003

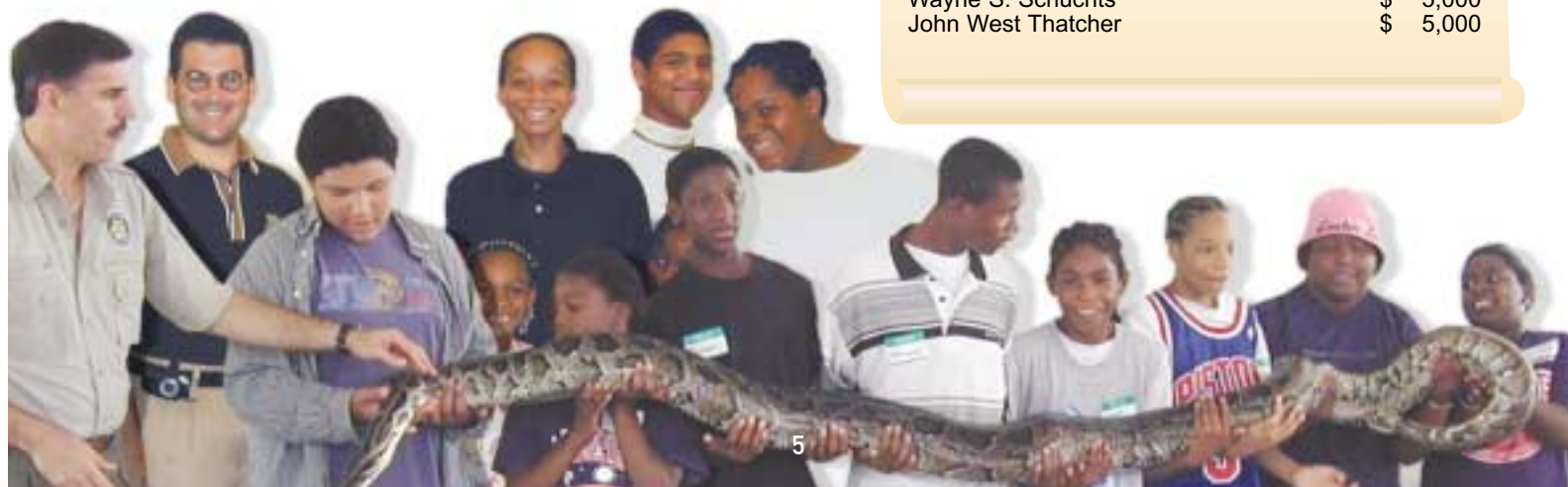
HFSF Grants Management, Inc.	\$ 72,200
Alvah & Betty Chapman	\$ 10,200
Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco	
Burt & Pucillo	\$ 10,000
S. Lawrence Kahn, III	\$ 10,000
Turner Construction	\$ 10,000
Alvah H. & Wylina P. Chapman Foundation	\$ 5,000
William Kaynor	\$ 5,000

AUGUST 2003

Ryder System Charitable Foundation, Inc.	\$ 10,000
Health Foundation of South Florida	\$ 5,000

SEPTEMBER 2003

Claudio & Amarilis Osorio	\$ 50,000
The Kirk Foundation	\$ 35,000
1997 Charitable Lead Unitrust/	
James H. T. McConnell, Jr.	\$ 25,000
Gus Machado	\$ 25,000
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation	\$ 20,000
Carnival Cruise Lines	\$ 10,000
Knight Ridder	\$ 10,000
Northern Trust Bank of Florida N.A.	\$ 10,000
Coconut Grove Gallery, Inc.	\$ 9,100
Judy & Jonah Pruitt, III	\$ 5,000
Henry B. Sayler	\$ 5,000
Wayne S. Schuchts	\$ 5,000
John West Thatcher	\$ 5,000



Celebrating the Holidays

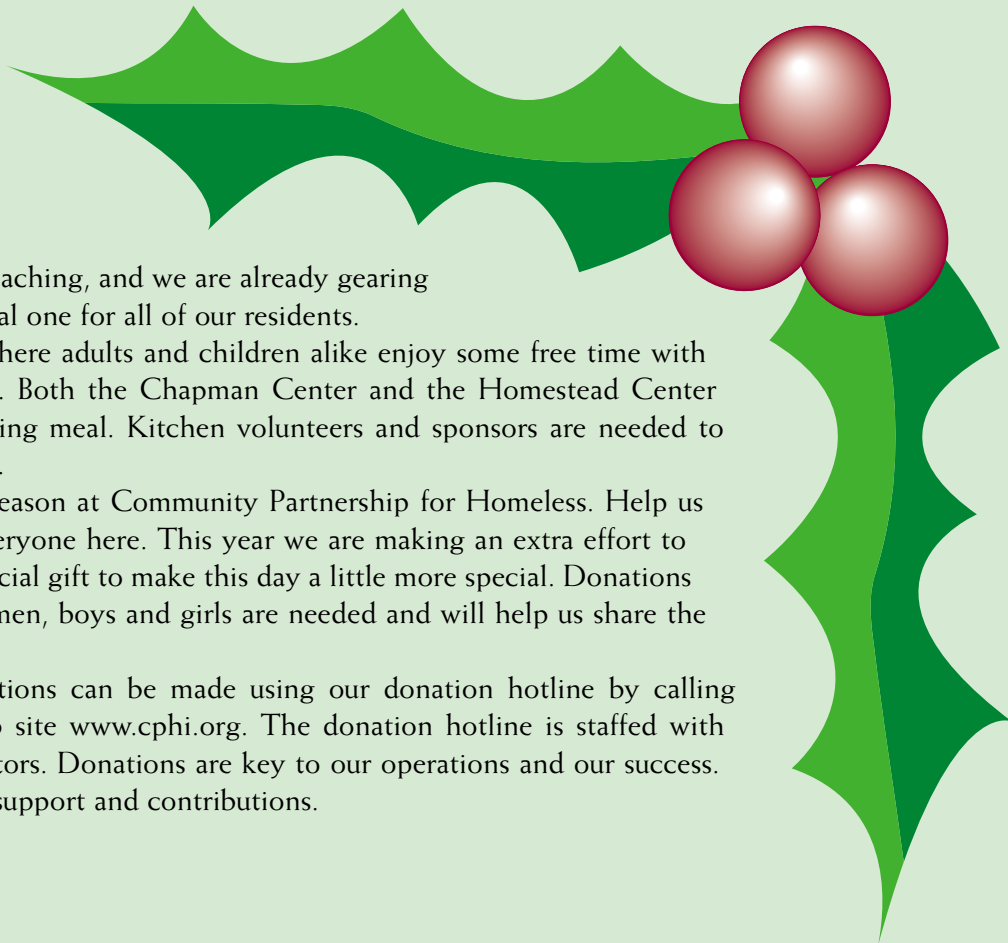
The Holidays are quickly approaching, and we are already gearing up to make this season a very special one for all of our residents.

Thanksgiving is a special day where adults and children alike enjoy some free time with family, friends and other residents. Both the Chapman Center and the Homestead Center will be serving a special thanksgiving meal. Kitchen volunteers and sponsors are needed to make this special day a real success.

We also celebrate the holiday season at Community Partnership for Homeless. Help us make this Christmas special for everyone here. This year we are making an extra effort to reach all of our residents with a special gift to make this day a little more special. Donations of specialty items for women and men, boys and girls are needed and will help us share the joy of the holiday season.

In-kind and monetary contributions can be made using our donation hotline by calling 305-329-3030 or through our web site www.cphi.org. The donation hotline is staffed with English, Spanish and Creole operators. Donations are key to our operations and our success. Thank you in advance for all your support and contributions.

Happy Holidays!



Community Partnership
for Homeless, Inc.

1550 North Miami Avenue
Miami, Florida 33136

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT NO. 2590

