

# Our Reframed Problem

- The problem is youth who lack a trusted “home” experience trauma in a number of ways, and this can go unnoticed, unacknowledged, and unaddressed.
- This is a problem for youth transitioning from living as minors to living as young adults who don’t have a nurturing “parental presence” during this uniquely pivotal time.
- This is a problem because traumatic childhood experiences can be life-altering, and our current response is not empowering and leaves room for people who are most at risk of losing hope to fall through its holes.



# Ideation

- Developed design criteria and “how might we” questions
- Participated in ideation camp with other cities, providing hundreds of initial ideas to address our insights
- Hosted local workshops with Valencia students, Covenant House staff and residents, etc. to generate ideas

How might we make taking up a service as nourishing and intuitive as taking in a breath of fresh air?	Yes and ask people who have received services to send a message to three other youth who might not know about the service.	Allow multiple ways of expression to share concerns, questions, privately. Also ask youth what apps/services they like and why...	Partner with local personalities/influencers/businesses	Yes, and have this place be in a boba tea shop	Use an app to build the app wireframe...which app to pick?
How might we propel youth transitioning into adulthood into instant positive impact?	Have the youth partner with younger youth to help them through the process	Provide incentives, rewards or feedback for small accomplishments and increasingly independent behavior.	Concerned about "instant" and expectations that creates...mentor/sponsor style program	1:1 Mentoring	instant scratch off lotto style tickets used in some way
How might we propel youth transitioning into adulthood into instant positive impact?	Yes and we could match up mentors/mentees based on the process they want to focus on (getting a job, going to college, etc.)	yes and have those incentives help further push those behaviors by being for things that require some independence.		Yes and make sure that the mentor sticks with the same youth over time so the youth is not switching mentors every few months	
How might we incorporate youth's input throughout the design of services to support them?	Create a panel of SMEs to engage in project creation/design	Create an app for services with an anonymous forum or discussion board/Comment section/Review page	Continuous engagement (dedicated advisory group plus organic feedback mechanisms)	Recruit youth via TikTok, snapchat, etc.	Focus Groups/Feedback Sessions
How might we incorporate youth's input throughout the design of services to support them?	Yes and the panel could be an "advisory group" that has regular opportunities to engage with the city and provide feedback.	Yes and create a webpage for users who do not have a mobile device	Yes and create a scholarship opportunity for those who participate in this advisory board regularly	Yes, and use an influencer who has experience with homelessness	
How might we ensure every youth has a trusted "home"?	Create a traffic light "trust" button that a youth can press regularly and privately.	Open up a house that is open to teens in crisis that is staffed with caring individuals where they can stay with parental permission for a respite.	Build strong block units with block leaders that look out for teens and young adults in crisis and provide a neighborhood based "auntie" on the block.	Through OCPS, ask parents to identify 2 homes where their kids in crisis can go, and have teachers review that information every year with their students.	Develop short survey to assess what a trusted "home" looks like (& what to do if it is not)
How might we ensure every youth has a trusted "home"?	Yes and build it into an app that also provides resources/info to the youth on how to address some of the issues	Yes and advertise this service in classrooms	Yes and create a training program that is located at community centers	Yes and provide training to parents/adults wanting to open their homes to youth to show them the possibilities and resources available to them as well	Gamify - contest to crowd source this input
How might we help youth feel we've got their back and their best interests in mind 24/7?	Have drop in centers at city community centers that are always open	Train OPD/OFD to work with the youth/safe space	Follow up with services and progress more often and in a less regimented way.	Instant messaging apps to connect youth with service providers and mental health professionals	Provide 24-hour resources in our community - hotlines, info & referral, support agencies

# Portfolio of Defined Ideas

- Public boarding school
- College of life
- Coop kitchens
- Services delivered
- Free counseling for all
- Youth / public safety partnership
- Youth at work
- Cash app
- Resources app

**Coop Kitchens** (Ashley)

Create community kitchens throughout several communities where youth come together once a week and learn how to meal prep and cook using simple, healthy ingredients that are affordable, and/or make desserts together. Have trusted adult facilitators there to teach how to cook and develop rapport.

-Potential features of potential "centers" to build activities and/or trust

Ideation Camp

This is a screenshot of a presentation slide. At the top, the title 'Coop Kitchens' is in a pink box, followed by '(Ashley)'. The main text describes creating community kitchens where youth learn to cook. A teal box at the bottom left says 'Ideation Camp'.

**College of Life** (Ashley)

Create a university type setting that includes dorm-style housing, security, access to mentors, wrap around services, classes that lead to immediate (direct connect) job opportunities.

And have the youth partner with younger youth to help them through the process (RA type situation.)

And the residents could work in jobs that support the campus and also provide them empowerment, employment skills and wages.

This is a screenshot of a presentation slide. At the top, the title 'College of Life' is in a pink box, followed by '(Ashley)'. The main text describes creating a university-type setting with dorm-style housing and job opportunities. A yellow speech bubble icon with a '1' is on the left side.

**The problem is homeless youth who lack a trusted “home”, experience trauma, go unnoticed and unacknowledged, and lack a “parental presence” as they transition from being a minor into a young adult.**

### **Idea #1 – College of Life**

*College of Life is a supportive housing dormitory in downtown Orlando that is open to young adults (18-25 years) who can live there while pursuing educational and/or work goals, gaining life skills and building community with other young adults. Residents need not be associated with a particular university to live there.*



### **Idea #2 Kitchen Co-op**

**C**ommunity kitchens where youth come together once a week and learn how to meal prep and cook using simple, healthy ingredients that are affordable. Have trusted adult facilitators there to teach how to cook, develop rapport, and




# Prototypes and Testing

- Starting with low fidelity idea cards and mock-ups
- Testing this week with young people with lived experience, Valencia students and staff, and staff from Covenant House and UCF
- Next steps - evaluate tests, create higher fidelity prototypes, and perform additional tests in October

## Welcome to College of Life!

**What is College of Life?**  
College of Life is a cooperatively-run supportive housing dormitory on/near Valencia College West, open to young adults (18-24 yrs) who can stay for up to 2 yrs, or for a third year as a peer advisor/RA. The building also has 6 crisis beds, staffed with a 24/7 adult presence and 24/7 telehealth counseling. Residents create a plan to pursue educational/work goals while gaining life skills and building community with other young adults.




Photos of 12th Harvard Square

**Our values:**

**Rules that help us all live together:**

**What can you expect at College of Life?**



**Available services:**

- Service 1
- Service 2
- Service 3
- Service 4
- Service 5
- Service 6


**In-house things to do:**

- Service 1
- Service 2
- Service 3
- Service 4
- Service 5
- Service 6

**Length of stay:**

**Location and how to get to us:**

Address:

 map

**Directions**

**Travel compensation:**



# College of Life

(Jacques)

## 1 What services should be provided in house? Place a star on your top 4....



Academic tutors and advisors	Career/Resource Room	24-Hour Licensed Mental Health Services	Case Management with a focus on milestones	Youth employment program with an emphasis on soft skills	Community networking opportunities	Substance abuse services	Dental Center	Fitness Instructors	Diverse support groups	Mentors
Development Teams (Continuous Improvement)	Vocational services	Operational services (financial aid, housing, etc.)	Recreational services (sports, games, etc.)	Social services	Cultural and spiritual experiences	Medical Center with Pharmacy	Educational services based on need	Immigration services	Counseling services	Other? Type here

## 2 Activities In The Area. Drag the HOUSE emoji to the top 2 activities you believe should be offered 'on campus' and the BIKE emoji for top 2 activities that should be accessible via walking or biking.



Movie Theater	Outdoor gaming area	Digital Gaming	Retail shopping	Food court	Pool	Student Union Building	Student interest clubs/organizations	Lakes/Ponds	Student government	Community garden
Parks	24-hour Food Trucks	Library	Grocery Store	Gym	Dining Hall	Monthly Unified Celebrations/Events (Homecoming, Sports Games, Spirit Day, Family Day)	Computer Labs	Arena	Competitions	Other? Type here

"I love that you all are considering how you not just meet the needs of 'shelter' but the needs of the WHOLE person." – Valencia staff

"One thing we've been talking about a lot is needing more of a diverse option for youth (i.e. transitional housing, crisis housing, mental health services)... This idea merges everything we've heard from youth about what they need in an ideal world so it's exciting to see it on paper and come to life." - Covenant House staff

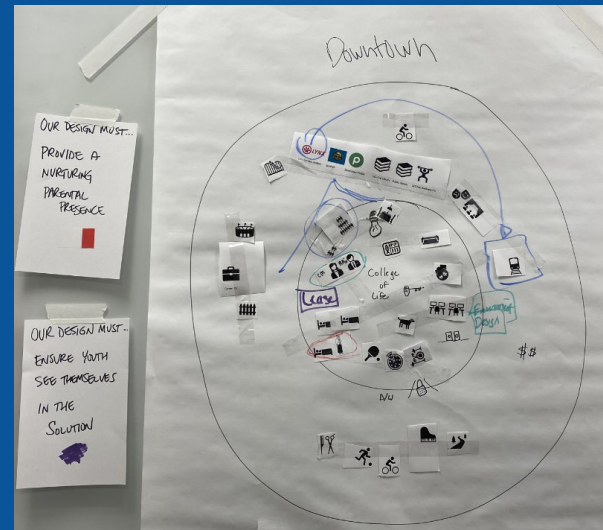
"Adjacencies are really important, but we want to be thoughtful about not duplicating / replicating existing resources. How can we partner to leverage what's already out there?" - Valencia staff

"Being in a room with another person, I was extremely uncomfortable - especially when I'd experienced trauma. Once I got my own room, I could do me. I felt alive!" – Lived experience

Thoughts on the overall idea? Scale, location, partners?



# College of Life



## Key Takeaways

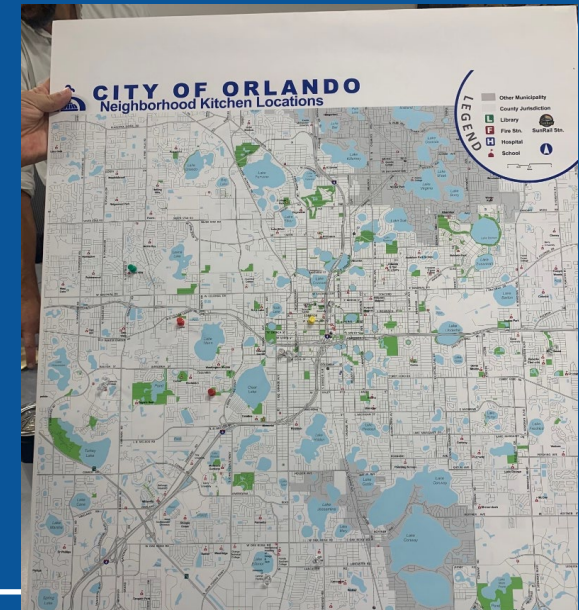
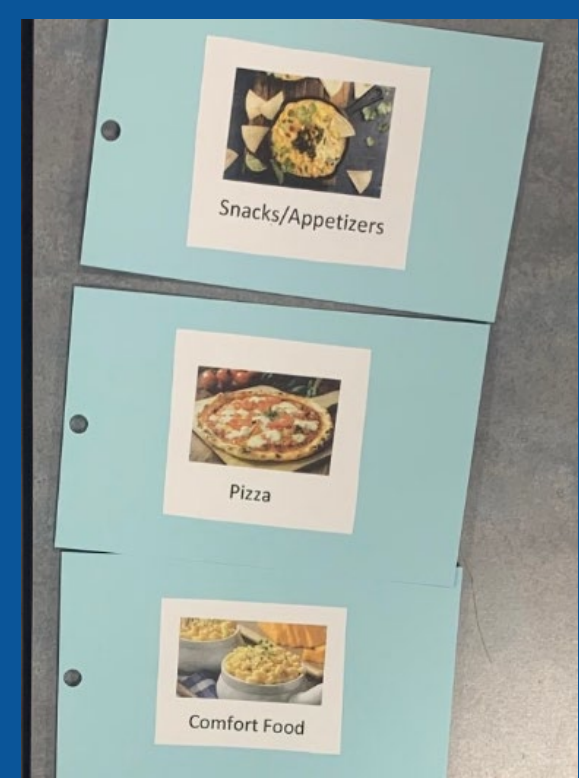
- Downtown location
- Need to have their own room and ownership of the room
- Career development
- Case management and career counseling must be available to all residents
- Mental health support is key
- Wrap around services
- Access to UCF/Valencia



(Jacques)

# Co-Op Kitchen

- Would this poster entice you to go to a co-op kitchen?
- Testing Key assumptions
  - Youth would want to participate in this type of activity.
  - There would be a way for participants to get to the co-op kitchen.
  - The locations/ways that this would be advertised should reach youth where they are.





(Jacques)

# Co-Op Kitchen

- Testing additional assumptions
  - Testing not only that youth would participate in an activity like a co-op kitchen but how they want to learn:
    - Group cooking class
    - On-on-one
    - Take and cook at home





## Key Takeaways:

- *The team immersed themselves in the community. It was rewarding to see the excitement from stakeholders who just wanted to be heard.*
- *We want to continue embracing iteration and letting go of “perfect”. Make something, learn from it and continue to improve.*
- *We are already using what we learned in our digital divide, energy burden, roadway design and digital services*

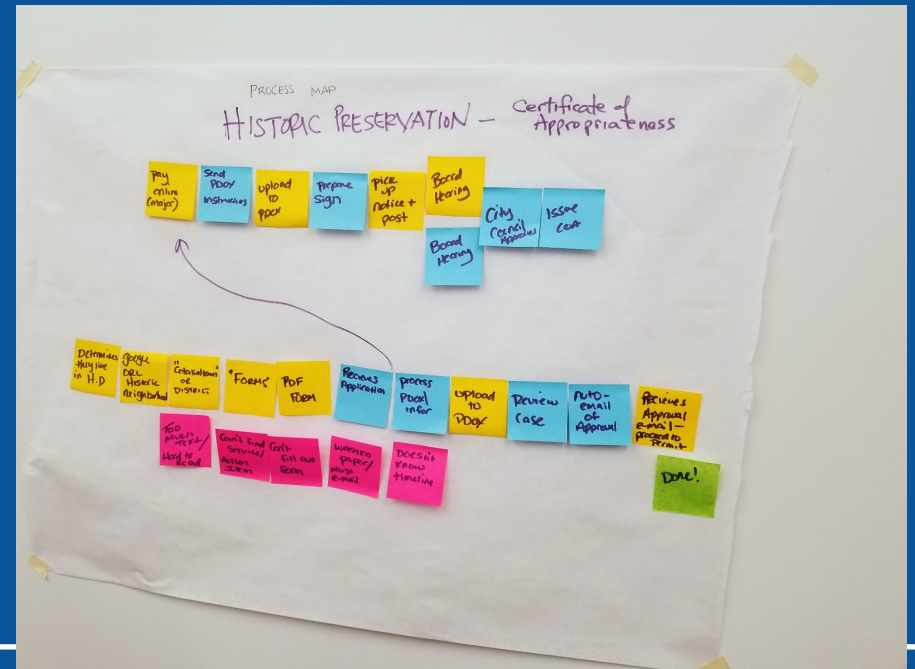
## Quick Wins:

- *Research being leveraged by the City to create new homeless shelters via funding from Blue Meridian*
- *Regional Homeless Services Network referenced our work, won an \$8M youth homelessness grant*
- *The City hired a lived experience interviewee, and may test a new internal mentorship / support program*

(Ashley)

# Next steps

- Complete testing
- Investigate implementation strategies
- Engage in storytelling activities that detail..
  - The problem
  - The solution
  - The benefits
  - The results



# Questions?



Would you like to participate in  
future research & idea testing?

[digitalservices@orlando.gov](mailto:digitalservices@orlando.gov)





# Co-Sheltering People and Animals Together

Presented by Christine Kim, MSW;  
Founder of My Dog Is My Home

Presented to the Homeless Services  
Network of Central Florida  
November 22, 2022



**MY DOG IS MY HOME**

# About My Dog Is My Home

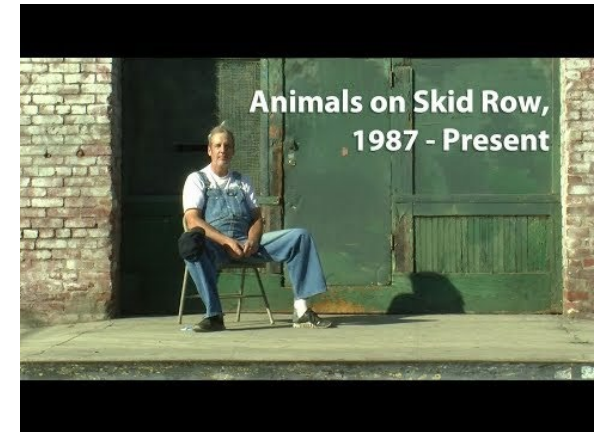
My Dog Is My Home is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit dedicated to **expanding access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.** By securing their ability to maintain their most important relationships and find adequate shelter, we ensure every family's right to build a home.

## How We Work Towards Our Mission

We assist service providers like homeless shelters in expanding their programming to allow humans and their companion animals to remain together. My Dog Is My Home's programs currently fall into three categories: storytelling, community building, and technical assistance.

# Our Programs: Storytelling

People with lived experience of homelessness and animal companionship have the most to share and are our greatest sources of information about how co-sheltering contributes to an end to homelessness.





# Our Programs: Community Building

We hold space for members of the homeless services and animal welfare communities to come together to connect, learn from one another, and solve mutual problems.

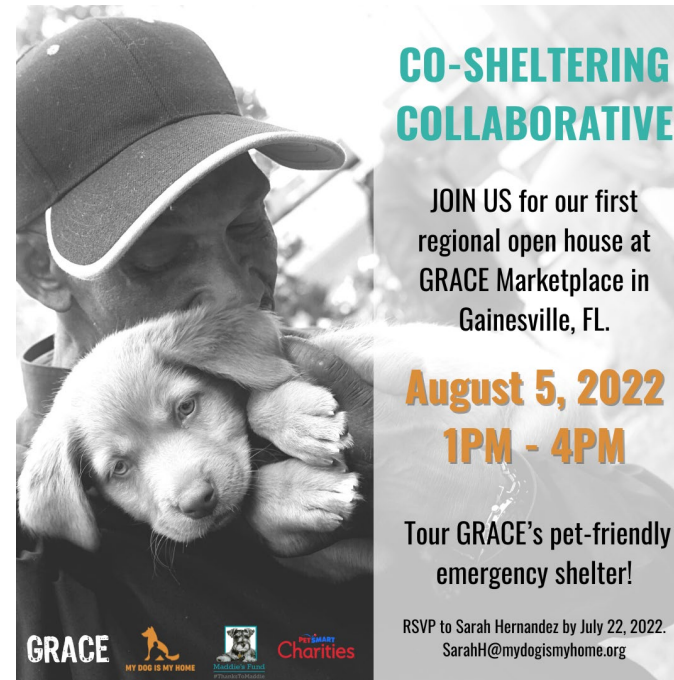


MY DOG IS MY HOME

My Dog Is My Home's  
**CO-SHELTERING  
CONFERENCE 2023**

Save The Date  
**March 21-23, 2023**

A circular inset image shows a man with a beard and a baseball cap holding a small, light-colored dog.



**CO-SHELTERING  
COLLABORATIVE**

JOIN US for our first regional open house at GRACE Marketplace in Gainesville, FL.

**August 5, 2022  
1PM - 4PM**

Tour GRACE's pet-friendly emergency shelter!

RSVP to Sarah Hernandez by July 22, 2022.  
SarahH@mydogismyhome.org

Logos for GRACE, MY DOG IS MY HOME, and PET SMART Charities are visible at the bottom.

- [Co-Sheltering Conference page](#)
- [Co-Sheltering Collaborative sign-up form](#)


# Our Programs: Technical Assistance

We provide customized training, consultation on policies, and resource coordination to ensure a successful co-sheltering program.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES  
IN HOMELESSNESS:

## Keeping People *and* Pets Together



“I don’t think I’ve ever had a dog that I could just give away because I became homeless. However, you have to make that a priority. Every single second of the day he has to be top of the list. You have to worry about his food, his health, his safety and where everything is coming from next. And then, you know, it’s definitely not easy. I’ll be glad to be off the streets when I do get off of them with him.”

—ADAM & CHIEF/UW CENTER FOR ONE HEALTH

*Through a grant from the University of Washington Population Health Initiative, UW’s Center for One Health Research pop-up galleries feature autobiographical photographs made by people experiencing homelessness with pets. Learn more about One Health’s pilot clinics for including animals in health care services for people experiencing homelessness.*


OVERVIEW

## Homeless Response Systems and Animal Welfare Organizations

*To understand how homeless service providers can build meaningful partnerships with animal welfare organizations, it is essential to understand how homeless response systems and animal welfare organizations are typically structured across the nation to reduce and end homelessness for both people and pets.*

**HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS**  
The National Alliance to End Homelessness identifies the following as essential to a high-functioning system that ends homelessness:

- A systems response to ending homelessness
- Housing first orientation
- Coordinated entry system
- Homeless prevention
- Diversion and rapid exit strategies
- Housing-focused outreach
- Low-barrier and housing-focused emergency housing and crisis services
- Permanent housing solutions, including rapid re-housing (RRH) and permanent supportive housing (PSH)
- Outcomes-focused system



7 | Improving Outcomes in Homelessness: Keeping People and Pets Together

Get the National Alliance to End Homelessness’ [Keeping People & Pets Together Toolkit](#).

## **Pre-Assessment Chat**

What words come to mind to describe the relationship between people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals?

What are the service gaps for people experiencing homelessness with animals?

Does your organization currently accept pets (not just emotional support and service animals)?

If not, what do you perceive as the biggest barriers to implementing co-sheltering?

## **Brigitte + Nubeian**

What words come to mind to describe the relationship between people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals?



**MY DOG IS MY HOME**

THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN-ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS

# Qualities of the Bond

- Motivation and responsibility
- Protection and safety
- Mental health benefits
- Vulnerability to future problems
- Social support and connection
- Barriers to housing, employment, and services

Kerman, N., Gran-Ruaz, S., & Lem, M. (2019). Pet ownership and homelessness: a scoping review. *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, 28*(2), 106-114.

## **Spirit, Kyya + Miniaga**

What are the  
service gaps for  
people  
experiencing  
homelessness  
with animals?



# **MY DOG IS MY HOME**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN-ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS**

# Scope & Gaps In Service

- Subpopulations more likely to be caring for animals: youth, single women (survivors of DV), and chronically homeless individuals.
- The number of people experiencing homelessness with animals in the US is unknown, but some efforts to quantify undertaken on a local level show a range of 5.5% - 23% across various geographic communities and sub-populations of homelessness (i.e. youth, survivors of domestic violence, etc.).
  - In Los Angeles, pet ownership was included in recent point-in-time count surveys, estimating about 12% of unsheltered homeless adults had an animal. Among people surveyed with animals, about half reported being turned away from shelter because of pet policies (Henwood et al., 2020).
  - In Knoxville, TN, researchers used Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to quantify pet ownership and found that 5.5% of the homeless population reported animal caretaking at the time of the study (Cronley et al., 2009).
  - Researchers in Los Angeles examined animal companionship among 398 youth experiencing homelessness, of which 23% reported having a pet (Rhoades et al., 2015).
- Gaps in service in shelter, housing, medical services, substance use services, employment services, etc.

# Policy & Program Changes

- [Toronto Shelter Standards](#) (2015)
- [Los Angeles County Strategy to End Homelessness](#) (2016)
- [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Issues RFB](#) (2017)
- [Los Angeles County Pet-Friendly Housing Ordinance](#) (2019)
- [Supporting Both Ends of the Leash / California HCD Pet Assistance & Support Program](#) (2019 - present)
- New York City, [Local Law 96](#) and [Local Law 97](#) (2021)
- [\*\*Federal PUPP Act\*\*](#) (2022)



# Case Examples

**GRACE**

**PATH**<sup>®</sup>  
LOS ANGELES

 **PALS**  
People & Animals Living Safely

 **URINNYC**<sup>®</sup>  
Urban Resource Institute

**LA FAMILY  
HOUSING**

**Questions?**

**THANK YOU**



**MY DOG IS MY HOME**

Christine Kim, MSW

Founder, Board of Directors

My Dog Is My Home

[christine@mydogismyhome.org](mailto:christine@mydogismyhome.org)



# System Ops Update, Danielle Pierson

Announcements!

# PIT Count

Jan. 24, 25, & 26, 2023

Covering Orange, Osceola, & Seminole Counties

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Each year, advocates in every community across the nation conduct a Point-In-Time Count to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness.

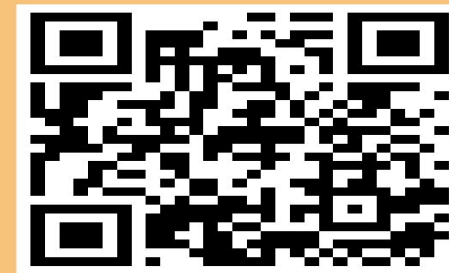
The Homeless Services Network of Central Florida and local agencies rely on a volunteer foot patrol covering the region to count and conduct brief interviews with willing participants. Volunteers will receive training and have supervision. This census is required by the federal government to determine funding for each community, and it helps us adjust our region's efforts to provide housing and services for our most vulnerable residents.

And thank you! You will be making a difference!

Find out more at: [www.hsncfl.org](http://www.hsncfl.org)

- ✓ Must be 18+ years old
- ✓ Available for a 4hr shift (Morning, Afternoon, & evening)

Sign up for more information, Visit:





# Join Us!

- ✓ PROMOTE DIGNITY
- ✓ CHALLENGE STIGMA
- ✓ CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

## Lived Experience Advisory & Advocacy Council

Within Central Florida Commission on Homelessness, there are committees comprised of our peers who have come together with the purpose of collaborating to enhance our system of care for persons within our community experiencing homelessness.

**Complete this 5-min  
Interest Form right  
on your phone!**



**For Q&A, email Rashad at:  
[l.rashad.haynes@hscnfl.org](mailto:l.rashad.haynes@hscnfl.org)**

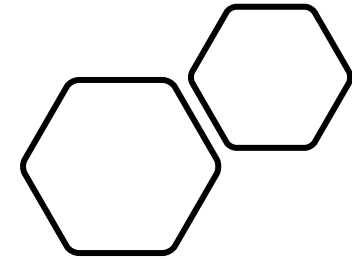




*Join Us!*

**We believe in empowering the youth of today to help shape the safe spaces youth seek while experiencing homelessness. Join the Youth Action Society (YAS) and make the change.**

**Contact Aja Hunter to Join:**  
[aja.hunter@hsncfl.org](mailto:aja.hunter@hsncfl.org)







Need PPE?

Let HSN meet your PPE needs!

- Reusable and Disposable Masks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gloves
- Need any? Let us know!

Contact

[Christopher.Fowler@hsncfl.org](mailto:Christopher.Fowler@hsncfl.org) to  
arrange a pickup

# Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 27th,  
2022

9 to 10:30 am

Location: Online

