(Janel)

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.

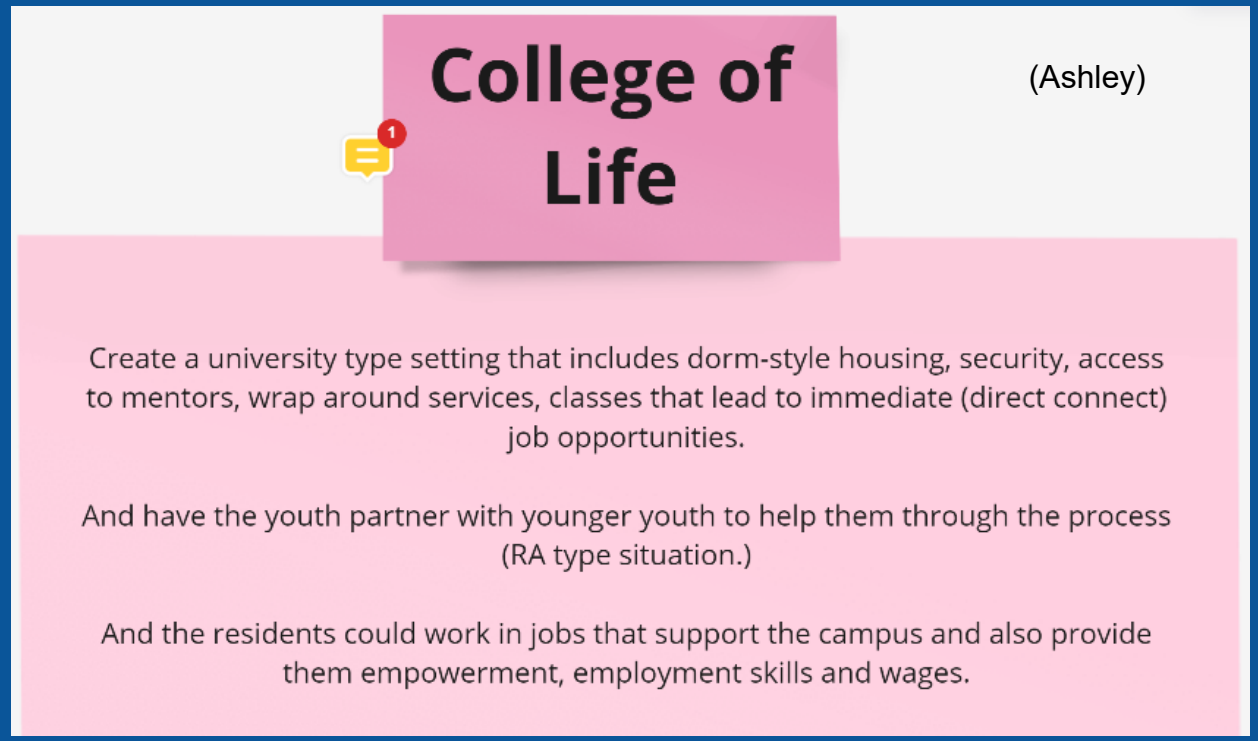
(Ashley)

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

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



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.

Photos of Y2Y Harvard Square

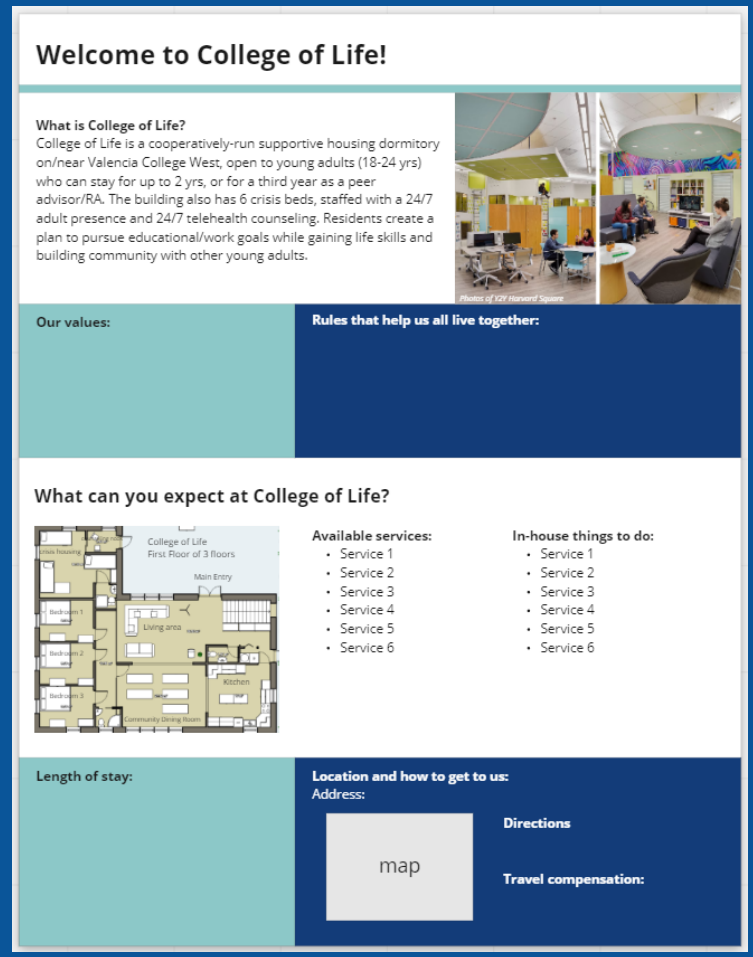
Idea #2 Kitchen Co-op

Community 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 b

(Jacques)

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



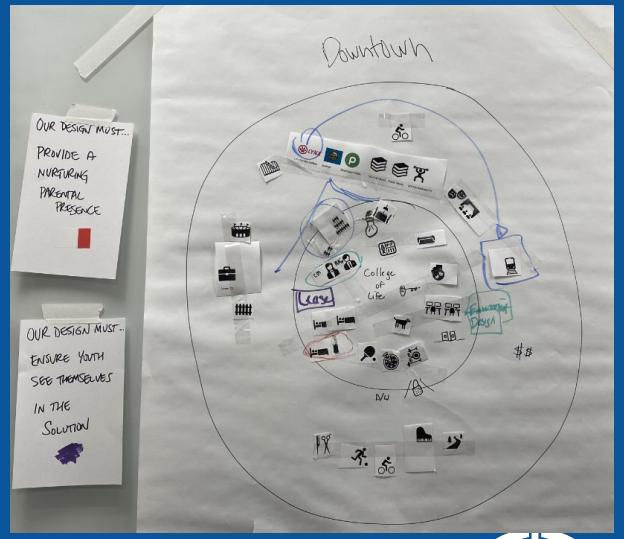
College of Life

(Jacques)

- *"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 extremally 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?

(Jacques)

College of Life



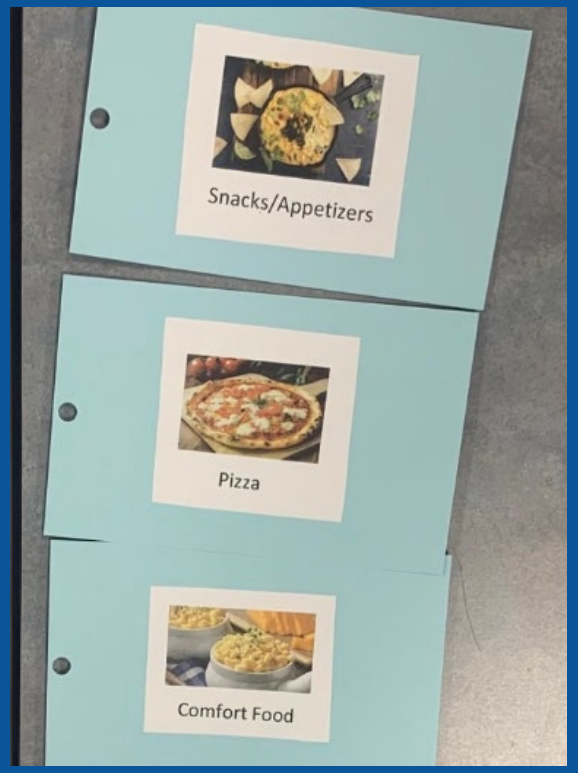
Key Takeaways

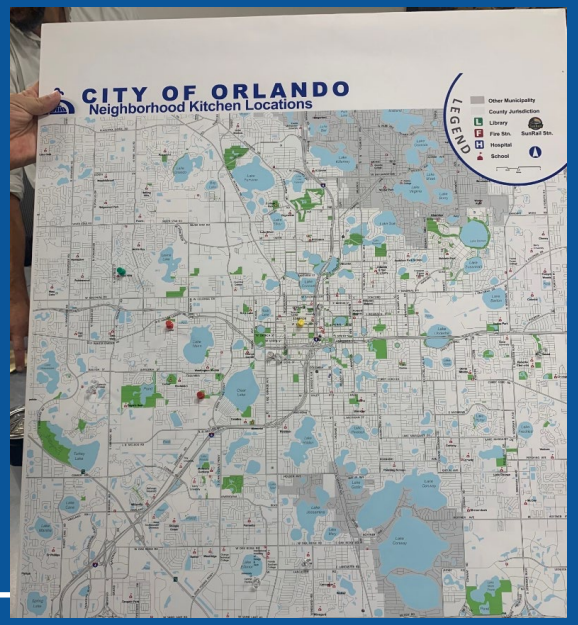
- Downtown location
- Need to have their own room and ownership of the room
- Career development
- Case management and career counseling must be available to all residents
- Mental health support is key
- Wrap around services
- Access to UCF/Valencia

Co-Op Kitchen

(Jacques)

- 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*

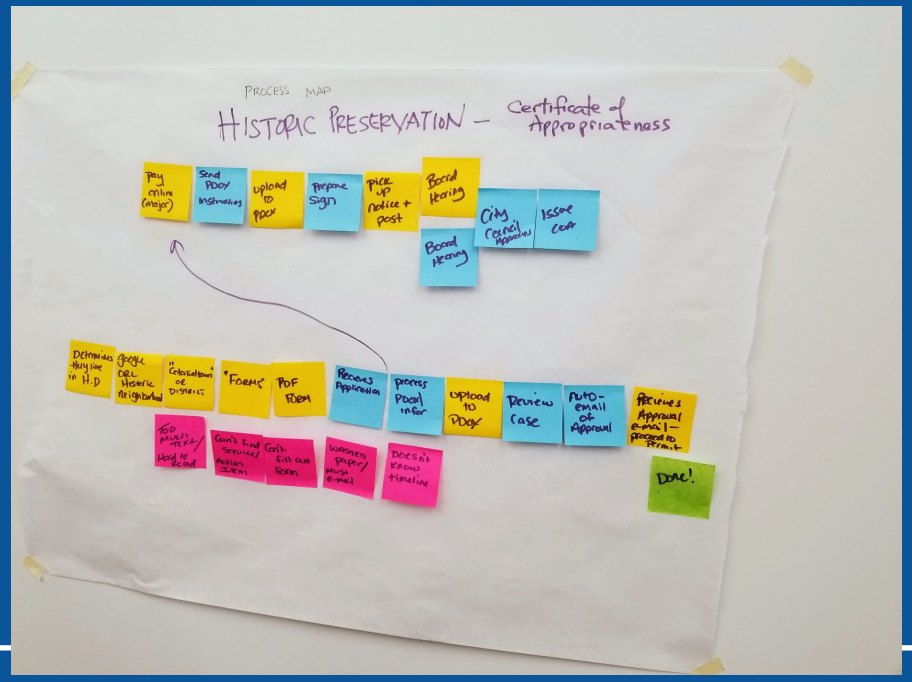
Quick Wins:

- *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

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

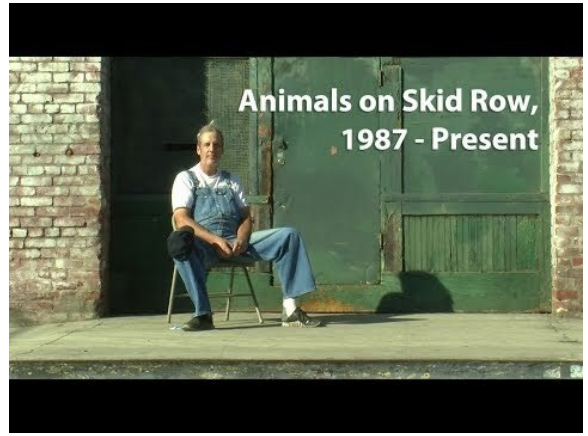
My Dog Is My Home is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit dedicated to **expanding access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.** By securing their ability to maintain their most important relationships and find adequate shelter, we ensure every family's right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

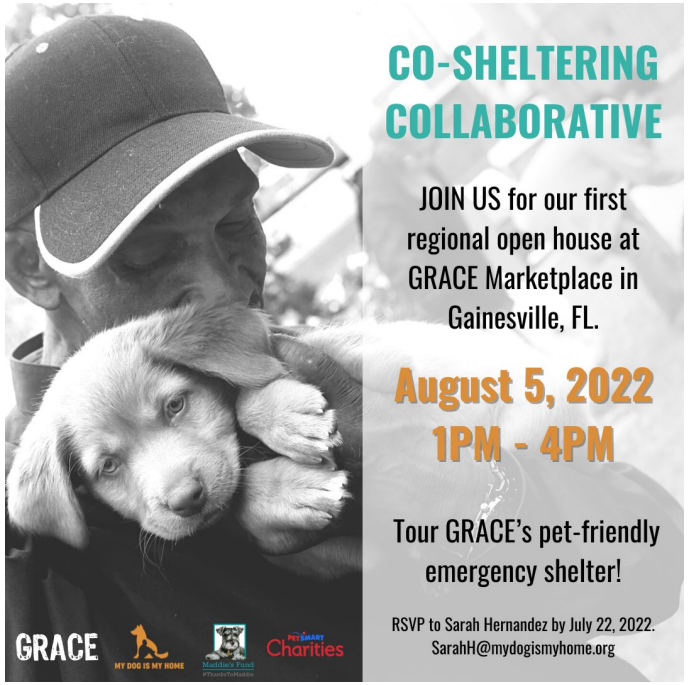
Our Programs: Storytelling

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.



- Co-Sheltering Conference page
- Co-Sheltering Collaborative sign-up form

Our Programs: Technical Assistance

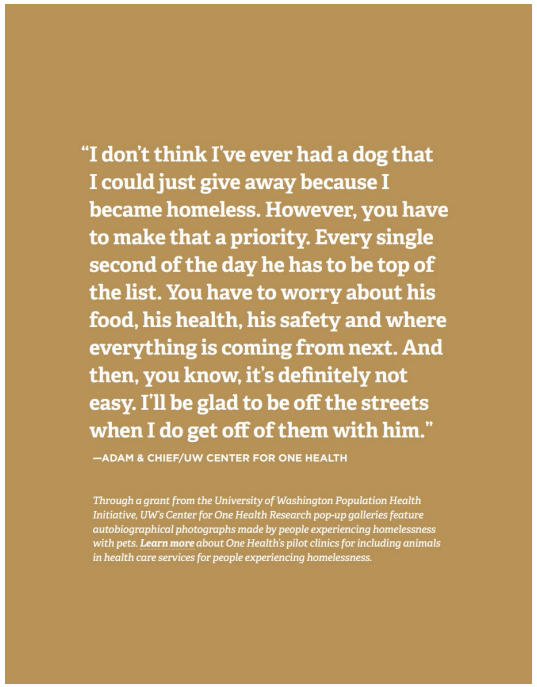
We provide customized training, consultation on policies, and resource coordination to ensure a successful co-sheltering program.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN HOMELESSNESS:

Keeping People *and* Pets Together

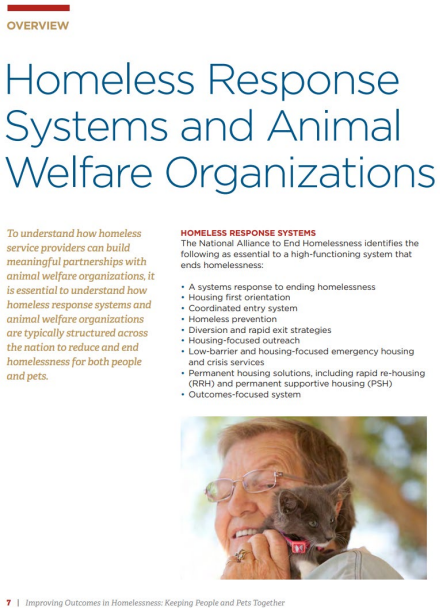
National Alliance to End Homelessness

PETSMART Charities


"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?

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?

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

PALS
People & Animals Living Safely

URINYC®
Urban Resource Institute

PATH®
LOS ANGELES

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

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!

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

Sign up for more information, Visit:

Find out more at: www.hsncfl.org

HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK of Central Florida

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@hsncfl.org

HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK of Central Florida

CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS

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
HOMELESS SERVICES NETWORK of Central Florida

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 to arrange a pickup

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 27th, 2022

9 to 10:30 am

Location: Online