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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF TAMPA IS PREPARING FOR ITS 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "5K RUN AND WALK" TO ERADICATE HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IS SEEKING SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS**

**Tampa (January 17, 2020)** The Housing Authority of the City of Tampa is hosting its annual "Race to End Homelessness" on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12 noon at the Al Lopez Park, located at 4810 N. Himes Avenue in Tampa. The entry fee for the 5K Bootcamp Run or 5K Run is \$35 and group rates of 5 or less is \$130. Registration packets can be picked up at the Agency's corporate office located at 5301 W. Cypress Street on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 8am-6pm.

The Housing Authority not only addresses the immediate needs of the homeless, but also extends services that allow homeless individuals regain their footing back into society. To date, more than 165 homeless individuals have been housed. Additionally, a homeless pantry has been established and donations of snack items, toiletries, clothing, blankets, socks, bottled water, gift/food coupons and cash donations will be accepted at the THA's corporate offices located at 5301 West Cypress Street, M-F from 8am-5pm.

The Tampa Housing Authority has worked with the community and is serving over 10,000 families through its rental assistance programs; however, often time families are not offered the opportunity to receive rental assistance as funds are limited and waitlists are closed. Proceeds raised from this event are provided to families to end or prevent homelessness. Recently, a homeless case manager through outreach made contact with a 70-year old woman who had been homeless for over 6 months. The Tampa Housing Authority was able to pay for a birth certificate to start the process of receiving housing.

This year's goal is to raise as much as possible from donors like you, who recognize that homelessness is a community issue and not an individual plight. We place ourselves on the frontline as the *change agents* to eradicate systemic and chronic veteran and individual homelessness within Tampa Bay communities, while we urge you to join us in this event.

"This annual fundraiser is very important and allows us to do our part to ensure that everyone in our community receives needed assistance," says Jerome Ryans, President and CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Tampa. "Nothing is guaranteed and many of us have our own stories of struggle and triumph that would not be possible without assistance from someone else. Realizing that, we choose to invest the resources entrusted to us to eradicate homelessness in our community."

For participation go to <https://www.thafl.com/run/Default.aspx> to register. You can also call our offices at (813) 253-0551 ext. 1470 to inquire about sponsoring this event, becoming a vendor or making a donation.

**Homeless Lives Matter!**

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**"Cultivating Affordable Housing While Empowering People and Communities"**

*"Building a World-Class Community, One Family and One Neighborhood at a Time"*