

**NO HOLIDAY CHEER AWAITS COLLIER'S HOMELESS AND HUNGRY SENIORS,  
ONLY A COLD DARK AND CHEERLESS COVID WINTER**

While we bemoan our enforced separation from those who we love this holiday season, we are safe, warm, secure and well fed. Other seniors in Collier County are not so fortunate. Today, more than 600 people in our age range – women and men, veterans, and retirees from many fields - are experiencing hunger and homelessness, many for the first time. The devastation wrought by COVID (illness, layoffs, destruction of the fabric of our society and loss the gig economy that barely kept our most fragile and poorly-resourced citizens in their homes) is taking a huge toll. Today over 600 seniors in Collier County are facing crises of fear, hunger, and their desperate lack of safe, stable housing.

Bentley Village Foundation in the early days of the COVID epidemic pitched in to help our staff obtain scarce and badly needed Personal Protection Equipment and sanitation supplies and helped Bentley employees with food gift cards. Now we are reaching outside of our community to assist our peers - other seniors - who are at great risk. We are inviting those of you, who are looking to make meaningful end-of year charitable donations, to join us. You can give a "gift of hope" and help these seniors restart their lives in the community.

The Foundation has voted to help fund the efforts of the Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Collier County this holiday season. Here's how our initiative works:

- 1) The Foundation is sending the Coalition a check for \$10,000 to get things started.
- 2) Your part comes next. We have agreed to match any donations that you make to the same cause, up to a maximum of another \$10,000. Send your donation made out as indicated on the form below to us. **All donations must be made by January 31, 2021 to qualify for matching.**
- 3) We will send your donation on to the Coalition with a matching amount from us. Your gift will have doubled its value.

You can create immediate change for these struggling seniors. Please consider making a donation that will end today's crisis for many elderly citizens (particularly the elderly women, who are at the greatest risk) living in makeshift homeless camps and in the streets and parks throughout our community. Partner with us and the Coalition in their life-changing campaign to prevent and end homelessness for the elderly in Collier County.

The Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Collier County is an established 501(c)(3) public charity, which is also partnering with the Community Foundation of Collier County, the Women's Foundation, and others. Since April 1, they have utilized donations to rehouse 33 people from homeless camps. Seven of these are honorably discharged veterans, eleven are female senior citizens, and fifteen are moms and dads with children. The Coalition also has succeeded in keeping 100 households intact and housed. The Coalition coordinates with the full range of community resources to achieve these results. They are a good charitable investment.



**Please clip and return this form with your check, made payable to "Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Collier County", to Diane McNulty, Unit 2613. We will forward it to them with our match.**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check box, if applicable:**  I wish to remain anonymous.