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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS HONORS HOMELESS ADVOCATES AT WORLD HOMELESS DAY AWARDS RECEPTION ON OCTOBER 10**

**HOUSTON, TX** – The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County hosted its annual World Homeless Day Awards reception presented by CORT Furniture on Wednesday, October 10. Recognizing World Homeless Day at a local level, the event provides an update on the status of homelessness in Houston and honors advocates for their work with those experiencing homelessness.

More than 300 guests, including Coalition for the Homeless staff, The Way Home partner organizations and honorees, gathered for the reception at The Ballroom at Bayou Place for light bites and cocktails and an update from Coalition President and CEO Marilyn Brown. Guests celebrated more than 30 World Homeless Day award recipients for their critical work to the efforts of solving homelessness in the Greater Houston area.

Recipients of the 2018 World Homeless Day Awards include:

- Bridge Builder: Houston Food Bank
- Business of the Year: CORT Furniture
- Community Advocate of the Year: Brian Gorham of The Beacon
- Data Champion: Harmony House
- Harvey Heroes: BNC Equities, Exclusive Furniture, God Fearing Powerhouse, Judwin Properties, Karya Property Management, Life Startup Essentials, Tarantino Properties, Terry Jackson, and Villa Serena Communities
- Housing Partner of the Year: Houston Apartment Association
- Media Champion: Houston Chronicle
- Peg Dudar Client Advocate of the Year: William Queenan of SEARCH Homeless Services
- Sally Shipman Service Provider Staff for Fort Bend County: Tina Hatcher of Hope Impacts
- Sally Shipman Service Provider Staff for Harris County: Annie Damon and Lori Stokey of Houston COMPASS
- Sally Shipman Service Provider Staff for Montgomery County: Mary Alice Heinlein of Tri County Behavioral Healthcare
- Service Provider of the Year for Fort Bend County: Fort Bend Women's Center
- Service Provider of the Year for Harris County: Harris County Social Services
- Service Provider of the Year for Montgomery County: Volunteers of America Texas.
- The Spirit of Collaboration: The Way Home Navigation Workgroup, which includes the following agencies: AIDS Foundation Houston, Avenue 360, The Beacon, Catholic Charities, Change Happens, Corder Place Apartments, City of Houston Mayor's Office on Homeless Initiatives, COMPASS, CSH, Harmony House, Harris County Community Services Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team, Houston Housing Authority, Houston Police Department Homeless Outreach Team, Northwest Assistance Ministries, New Hope Housing, Inc., SEARCH Homeless Services, Star of Hope, Temenos CDC, The Women's Home, Salvation Army, USVETS, Houston VA, and Volunteers of America Texas.

Seen in the crowd: Marilyn Brown (Coalition for the Homeless); Todd Shell (CORT Furniture); Kelly Young (AIDS Foundation Houston); Sam Zavary and Fauzia Kabani (Exclusive Furniture); Houston City Councilmember Robert Gallegos; Becky Landes (The Beacon); Cynthia Brannon (Houston COMPASS); Tom Segesta (Four Seasons Hotel Houston); Rudy Rasmus (St. John's United Methodist Church); Tamara Foster (New Hope Housing, Inc.); Nicole Lander (Houston Food Bank); Sharon Washington (Temenos CDC); Natalie Wood (Catholic Charities).

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**ABOUT THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS OF HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY**

The Coalition for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to provide leadership in the development, advocacy, and coordination of community strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Learn more at [www.homelesshouston.org](http://www.homelesshouston.org).