

## **THE CHAPMAN HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CENTER WELCOMED MAYORS FOR TASK FORCE MEETING ON HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS**

*Miami Mayor Manny Diaz*, new President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, was a gracious host for fellow Mayors and used the opportunity of the Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Task Force meeting to invite Mayors to meet on-site at one of the city's two Homeless Assistance Centers, a model he credits for results in his city. Mayor Diaz joined the Task Force meeting and site tour, taking time from his heavy schedule of duties to continue his affirmation of the goal of ending homelessness and his commitment to solutions.

The Task Force met at the Community Partnership for Homeless' Chapman Homeless Assistance Center, a one-stop center whose Founding Chairman is Alvah H. Chapman, a former Knight-Ridder Chairman. H. Daniel Vincent, Executive Director of Community Partnership since 2001, led a tour of the site. Mr. Vincent came to the Community Partnership with over 20 years of experience in non-profit organizations, primarily with The Salvation Army. The Partnership operates two Homeless Assistance Centers and raises private resources for the implementation of the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan, as well as building private sector partnership.

The capital and operational needs of the [Community Partnership for Homeless](#) are met from a one percent sales tax on food and beverages at certain restaurants in Miami-Dade County. Charitable foundations, corporations, and individuals provide the remainder of the financial needs of Community Partnership for Homeless. The Chapman Center in downtown Miami is one of two Homeless Assistance Centers operated by the Partnership, with the other being the South Miami-Dade Center in Homestead at a former military base site.

Miami has a strong public-private partnership built over more than a decade, with the Community Partnership for Homeless as the private sector partner and the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, led by Executive Director David Raymond, as the public partner. The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust was created in 1993 by the Board of County Commissioners to administer proceeds of the one percent food and beverage tax; to implement the Miami-Dade County Community Homeless Plan; and to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners on issues involving homelessness.

Since the Chapman Center's opening in 1995, over 60 percent of residents have successfully moved off the streets of Miami-Dade to stability and self-sufficiency. Residents are provided three meals per day, clothing, showers, temporary housing, laundry facilities, transportation, case management, job development and training, permanent housing assistance, and an on-site child care program. In addition to these services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools operates on-site adult and vocational classes and job training. The Health Foundation of South Florida and the Public Health Trust (at the Homestead site) provide a primary care clinic for the residents health care.