

## **Apartments/Homeless Families Initiative in Pinellas County**

### ***April 2011 -***

The idea was born during a discussion of homelessness at a meeting of the Pinellas County Low Income Housing Leadership Network.

### ***Airline Seats -***

Just like the airlines trying to fill all the seats on a plane, property owners and managers seek to fill every available unit in an apartment community.

### ***Matching Homeless Families with Rental Homes -***

Four agencies are identifying the families best-prepared to transition from a homeless shelter to an apartment home. The agencies are YWCA of Tampa Bay, Religious Community Services, Salvation Army, and Homeless Emergency Project. They provide information on the families able to accept the financial and legal responsibility of renting an apartment: amount and sources of income, number of family members, criminal records and eviction history, preferred housing location, transportation capabilities, etc.

### ***Deposits -***

Families have received financial help from Pinellas County, City of Largo, and Pinellas Realtors Organization with security and utility deposits.

### ***Case Management -***

The four agencies have agreed to provide a minimum of six months of case management for each family.

### ***The Lease -***

Gulf Coast Legal Services provides the families with guidance on their responsibilities as an apartment resident.

### ***Finding Available Apartments -***

Currently, the initiative is using Bay Area Apartment Association resources and FloridaHousingSearch.org. Collaborating with the Homeless Leadership Board, the initiative hopes to engage a housing liaison soon who will serve as the “matchmaker” for the apartment industry and social service agencies.

### ***Contacts -***

Jeff Rogo, Government Affairs Director, Bay Area Apartment Association

[jeff.rogo@baaahq.org](mailto:jeff.rogo@baaahq.org)

800-344-9373

Lori Trainer, Vice President of Public Relations, Southern Affordable Services, Inc.

[ltrainer@sashousing.org](mailto:ltrainer@sashousing.org)

407-741-8567