

Homeless Services Network Statement on Social Justice

The Central Florida Commission on Homelessness and Homeless Services Network acknowledges the hurt and anger those in our community are experiencing as a result of the tragic death of George Floyd and the many others before him. These events bring into stark focus the pervasive injustice and inequality that African Americans face every day in our society from systemic and institutionalized racism. For us, silence is not an option in this matter.

Because we are focused on all issues contributing to homelessness, we must initiate the often difficult conversations about racial injustice in this country and our community, and we must support efforts that bring about a more just and equitable future for everyone. This requires that we work to stabilize those who are housing-insecure, understand the impact inequality has had on that population, and continue to name the role that racism plays in homelessness.

As we serve those in Central Florida who are experiencing homelessness, we stand firm in our belief that all persons should be treated with dignity and respect without regard to ethnicity, religion, gender, housing status, or other self-identified or culturally assigned characteristics. We remain committed to giving visibility to the invisible, a voice to the voiceless, and a home to the homeless while we stand with you on this journey toward our shared destiny.

Sincerely,

Mike Griffin, CFCH Chair

Thomas C. Chatmon, Jr., HSN Chair

& Martha Are, HSN CEO