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EXECS AT 'SLEEP OUT' RAISE \$92K TO HELP HOMELESS YOUTH

Thirty executives and community leaders in slept out as part of Covenant House Florida's "Sleep Out: Executive Edition" to raise funds and awareness for the plight of homeless teenagers and young adults. Covenant House Florida's Fort Lauderdale "sleepers" raised \$68,000 while those in Orlando raised \$24,000, totaling \$92,000. The nonprofit organization provides shelter and services to homeless youth and young adults up to age 21, including young moms and their babies.

"We couldn't be more thankful for the Sleep Out participants, who not only leveraged their relationships to raise money and made personal and corporate donations, but who also had the courage to brave the pavement for a night," said James M. Gress Covenant House Florida executive director. "They all came away with a new respect for what we do here at Covenant House Florida – giving young people shelter – and then offering services to help them get their lives on track."

The Covenant House "Sleep Out: Executive Edition" is a nationwide fundraising and awareness initiative. Across the nation, more than \$4 million was raised at 14 Covenant House sites.

Covenant House Florida opened in Fort Lauderdale in 1985 and expanded to Orlando in 1995. Last year, the organization reached more than 200 teens a-day via street outreach, crisis shelters, transitional housing projects, and walk-in services, making it one of the largest private agencies serving runaway and homeless youth in the state of Florida. It is part of an international mission with programs in 20 cities in the United States, Canada, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua. The agency relies primarily on support from private individuals and organizations—not on tax dollars—to meet the multiple and complex needs of homeless youth.

For more information, please contact Elisa Stone at 954-568-7914 or ESStone@CovenantHouseFL.org.

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