

VITA NOVA

MALLETS & MARTINIS



Vita Nova proudly hosted its 8th Annual *Mallets & Martinis* at the National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach. This signature fundraising event embodies the nonprofit's commitment to uplifting homeless youth in Palm Beach County, directly supporting Vita Nova's Housing Program and Independent Living Services with every contribution made.

Attendees adorned in "Chic Croquet Whites" enjoyed an enchanting evening at *Mallets & Martinis* beneath the palm trees. The event featured croquet, martinis, and live music, creating unforgettable memories. **Jay Zeager** conducted a live auction, giving guests the opportunity to bid on unique experiences, items, and trips, all to raise funds for local homeless youth served by Vita Nova.

Christina Lambert, the West Palm Beach City Commissioner, emceed the lively evening, which included brief remarks from **Sarah Marmion**, Senior Manager of Educational Programs and Workforce Development at **Florida Power & Light**, a Platinum Sponsor of the event, and **Jeff DeMario**, CEO of Vita Nova. Jeff expressed heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the youth they serve and introduced **Josh Caudhill**, a youth from Vita Nova. Josh shared his personal experience and how Vita Nova assisted him on his journey.

Serving nearly 700 youth annually in Palm Beach County, Vita Nova is a safe bridge to independence for former foster care, LGBTQ+, and other homeless youth through supportive housing, education, employment, and life skills training. Working to eliminate homelessness for youth ages 18 to 25 years old in Palm Beach County, Vita Nova acts as an advocate and support system for homeless young adults.

The Chairs of this successful event were **Dr. Vassilia Binensztok** and **Michael Davis**.

Sponsors included **Florida Power & Light**, **LaFrance Project**, **Valley Bank**, **Sunshine Health**, **PBCHRC**, **PB Illustrated**, **BrandX**, **Searcy**, **Denney**, **Scarola**, **Barnhart & Shipley**, and **FAU-Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing**.

Vita Nova means "new life" in Latin and was founded by Father Leo Armbrust, a man who believed that foster youth deserved a better quality of care. Through the efforts of the Vita Nova team members, its volunteers, and its benefactors, older foster and homeless youth are allowed to lead lives characterized by independence, self-determination, and personal responsibility.

To learn more about Vita Nova or to donate visit vitanovainc.org or call 561.689.0035.

FIRST ROW: Dr. Vassilia Binensztok and Michael Davis; Christina Lambert, Dr. Vassilia Binensztok and Michael Davis with Maria Marino; **SECOND ROW:** Josh Caudhill and Jeff DeMario; Sarah Marmion and Bruce Zabriski; **THIRD ROW:** Lisa LaFrance and Jennifer LaFrance; Kathleen Hillman and Lisa Russo; **FOURTH ROW:** Tania Vorsanger, Sheryl Lieberman and Cristina Marulanda; Jenny Grady, Michael Branch and Jennifer Ferriol. PHOTOS: JULIA DURESKY/PB PHOTO CONCIERGE

