



Jeff DeMario and Michael Fischer

Working To Eliminate Homelessness

As the voice of homeless young adults, **Vita Nova** is working to eliminate homelessness for youth ages 18 to 25 years old in Palm Beach County. Serving close to 500 homeless youth 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.

The need for supportive housing for homeless youth is critical, and Vita Nova is making progress towards providing more options thanks to the **Laszlo Fischer Foundation's** generous \$1 million pledge that will help build the *Laszlo Fischer House*. An event was held at the *Spot*, the only drop-in center for homeless youth aged 18-25 in Palm Beach County. The occasion included a check presentation and reception to celebrate the ongoing efforts of Vita Nova and its supporters.

"We are excited to partner with Vita Nova to build the *Laszlo Fischer House*," said **Michael Fischer**, President of the Laszlo Fischer Foundation. "This building will be a testament to my father and the love he had for children, especially those in need. We aim to end the stress and anxiety these young people feel by having a home waiting for them."

The new building will be located in West

Palm Beach and is set to break ground in September. The *Laszlo Fischer House* will consist of 12 one-bedroom apartments and house 12 youth.

"Vita Nova is humbled by this generous gift from the Laszlo Fischer Foundation," said **Jeff DeMario**, CEO of Vita Nova. "This gift is a statement to older foster youth that they are loved and will always have a safe and affordable place to live. We are honored to be a part of Laszlo's vision to end homelessness for older foster youth in Palm Beach County and beyond."

Currently, *Vita Nova Village* is the nonprofit organization's housing program for young adults ages 18-25 that have turned 18 in the foster care system or young adults in the community who are homeless. The program is designed to assist young adults to learn to live independently while completing goals related to school and work. *Vita Nova Village* is on a three-building campus encompassing 12 apartments with shared living rooms, kitchen, and bath areas. Young adults complete an application as well as an interview process to determine if they are a good fit before they are considered for residency. They have capacity for up to 31 young adults in their two and three-bedroom apartments.

The mission of the Laszlo Fischer Foundation, a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3)

organization, is to provide safe, affordable housing for youth aging out of the foster care system. The Foundation is named in honor of **Laszlo Fischer**, a child Holocaust survivor who knew what it felt like to be removed from his home and not know what the future would hold for him. In 2020, Laszlo passed away from COVID-19 and his son, **Michael**, established this Foundation to keep the memory of his father alive and to celebrate his dad's generous heart and love of children, especially those children in need of a helping hand. To donate or learn more about the Foundation visit LaszloFischer.org.

Vita Nova, Inc, located in West Palm Beach, Florida, is comprised of three components: the *Spot*, Housing (*The Village*), and Independent Living. 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 Vita Nova team members' efforts, volunteers, and benefactors, older foster and homeless youth can 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. PHOTO: SHALEIGHA SIMIONE