

VITA NOVA

Mallets & Martinis



Dressed in “Chic Croquet Whites”, over 300 guests attended Vita Nova’s sold-out Seventh Annual *Mallets & Martinis* event at the National Croquet Center.

This annual affair is the nonprofit’s signature fundraising event that raised money to support the homeless youth Vita Nova serves in Palm Beach County and goes directly towards Vita Nova’s *Housing Program* and *Independent Living Services*.

The guests had a wonderful evening amidst the palms, where they played croquet, sipped on martinis, and enjoyed dinner and live music. The event also featured a live auction conducted by **Jay Zeager**, where guests had the opportunity to bid on unique experiences, items, and trips. **Emily Pantelides** emceed the lively evening, which included brief remarks from **Kate Cotner**, the Director of Community Engagement at **Florida Power & Light**, one of the event’s Platinum Sponsors, and **Jeff DeMario**, the CEO of Vita Nova. Jeff expressed his heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the youth they serve and introduced **Sophia Coffey**, a Vita Nova alumni youth and Miss Palm Beach County. Sophia talked about her unique experience and what brought her to Vita Nova at 16 years of age. She found family, light, and voice at Vita Nova and is now an advocate for other foster youth. Jeff also mentioned that although they are making enormous strides in helping hundreds of youth each year, there is much work left to do.

Serving over 650 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 in Palm Beach County, Vita Nova acts as an advocate and support system for homeless young adults.

Katrina Long-Robinson, a former City Commissioner and affordable housing supporter, was the Honorary Chair of the event. “I am so thankful for Vita Nova for collaborating and working tirelessly to help find solutions for our young adults in Palm Beach County,” said Long-Robinson. They continue creating homes for the homeless youth, and this event was just one way to support their work.”

Sponsors included **Florida Power & Light**, **Dex Imaging**, **Sunshine Health**, **The Spear Group**, **Valley Bank**, **Pink Bird**, and **Hospital for Special Surgery**.

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

FIRST ROW: Mayor Keith and Lorna James with Jeff DeMario; Carling Pinckney, Jack and Shannon Middlebrooks, Jack Cooney and Neil Elliott;

SECOND ROW: Katherine Murphy, Rick Asnani and Julia Murphy; Jessica Weale, Scott Murray and Maxwell Davies; **THIRD ROW:** Katrina Long-Robinson with Christina and Monte Lambert; Grier and Kristy Pressly; **FOURTH ROW:** Rand Hoch and Wayne Lewis; Lisa LaFrance and Taylor Materio.

PHOTOS: PB PHOTO CONCIERGE

