

**Press Release (January 31, 2023)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **We are sleeping outside on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> in solidarity of families facing homelessness.**

Dawning Family Services announces, “Dusk ‘til Dawn”, presented by Suncoast Credit Union. On Friday March 31, 2023 families and individuals will sleep outside for one night to show solidarity of families with children touched by homelessness.

**Tampa, Florida - (March 31, 2023)**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, we ask that you sleep outside at Dawning Family Services, at your home, or any safe place other than the comfort of your bed. Participating in Dusk ‘til Dawn helps raise awareness of the family homelessness crisis and impacts change by fostering meaningful conversation and peer to peer fundraising. The program will start at 8:00PM at our Family Welcome Center and includes guest speakers, breakout sessions, a movie about family homelessness, and a sunrise breakfast. Participants who opt to sleep out in their own safe space may watch our guest speakers via Facebook livestream. Proceeds from Dusk til Dawn will support Dawning Family Services.

*“It is important for our agency to host this event and bring attention to family homelessness. The number of families contacting us for shelter doubled last year and it is not slowing down as we head into 2023. At an alarming rate, parents and their children are sleeping in cars, in the woods, on the streets, and other places not meant for habitation. This isn’t a family issue; this is a community issue.”*, Tammi Casagni, CEO of Dawning Family Services

### **About the nonprofit:**

The mission of Dawning Family Services is to embrace diverse families with children touched by housing instability or homelessness and support their transition to a safe and stable home. Formerly Alpha House of Tampa, the organization was founded in 1981 and served single mothers with children under the age of 5, as well as pregnant women. In 2018 its mission and services expanded to provide for all modern families with children including single mothers, single fathers, couples, multigenerational families, and LGBTQ+ parents. The four pillars of service include Family Homeless Prevention, Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing, and Employment Services. In 2022 the organization served 1,081 individuals.

Dawning Family Services is honored to partner with Suncoast Credit Union as the Presenting Sponsor of Dusk til Dawn. Suncoast Credit Union began in Hillsborough County in 1934 to serve local teachers. Throughout the years they have grown and expanded membership to include anyone who lives, works, attends school, or worships in the Florida counties they serve. Through both philanthropic and educational efforts, Suncoast prides itself on the ability to impact the children of our local communities through their passion for youth programs.

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