

## Press Release (12 February 2024)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**We are sleeping outside on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> to elevate awareness of family homelessness.**

**WHO:** Dawning Family Services

**WHAT:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dusk til Dawn

**WHEN:** *Friday March 22, 2024*

8:00PM event start time with guest speakers

9:00PM B Roll footage opportunity with hands-on activities

***Saturday March 23, 2024***

7:00AM sunrise breakfast with facilitated discussion

**WHERE:** Dawning Family Services, 6718 N Armenia Ave, Tampa FL



PRESENTED BY



**Event Details:** Dusk til Dawn is a sleep out event for all ages, with the intent of elevating awareness of family homelessness and facilitating dialogue and action to help our neighbors in need. Guests will convene at 8:00PM Friday evening for guest speakers who share their personal stories of homelessness, followed by hands-on activities including budget exercises, assembling blessing bags for the homeless, kids 'activities, and facilitated discussions. **Participants will sleep onsite at our Family Welcome Center in their cars, sleeping bags, and in tents, followed by a sunrise breakfast with facilitated discussion.** Participants of the 2023 Dusk til Dawn event remarked on how impactful the experience was and how it deepened their understanding and compassion for our neighbors who are unhoused. Dusk til Dawn also serves as the primary fundraiser for Dawning Family Services via corporate sponsorships and peer-to-peer fundraising.

*It is important for our agency to host this event again in 2024 and bring attention to family homelessness. Over 3,000 families contacted us for shelter last year and it is not slowing down as we head into 2024. 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 Dawning Family Services**

The mission of the nonprofit 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 2023 the organization served 741 children and 435 parents.

Dawning Family Services is honored to partner with Suncoast Credit Union as the Presenting Sponsor of Dusk til Dawn.

### **About Suncoast Credit Union**

Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the 8th largest in the United States based on membership, and the 11th largest in the United States based on its \$17.5 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 78 full-service branches and serves more than one million members across Florida. As a community credit union, anyone who lives, works, attends school, or worships in Suncoast Credit Union's service area is eligible for membership. In 2021, Suncoast Credit Union's field of membership was expanded to include public K-12 teachers, college educators, and educational support staff from all of Florida's 67 counties. Suncoast is passionate about community support. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$40 million to organizations and initiatives that support the

health, education, and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit [suncoastcreditunion.com](http://suncoastcreditunion.com) or follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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