

# Senior Homeless Prevention

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries providing community outreach

## SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries launches the "Out & About" Senior Homeless Prevention Service program, designed to provide crucial resources to prevent senior homelessness.

This program meets seniors in their own communities to offer free resources and ideas to assist them stay in their homes. The goal is to help seniors stay safely housed and independent.

"No one deserves to age into homelessness," says Devorah Kermisch, Director of Community of Relations with Gulfstream Goodwill Industries. "Over the past year we've seen a troubling increase in seniors—men and women in their 70s, 80s, and even 90s—seeking emergency shelter. These are not strangers. They are our parents, grandparents, former teachers, veterans, and neighbors."

The new "Out and About" program is a mobile outreach initiative that provides essential resources, including emergency food, mobile farmers markets, financial, health and wellness services.

"If your community would like more information—or would like to schedule a visit—we'd love to connect with you! We also have emergency meals available and can help distribute them directly to your residents," adds Kermisch.

The program also works to expand affordable housing. A 36.7% price increase in one-bedroom apartment rents since 2021



GULFSTREAM GOODWILL INDUSTRIES/COURTESY PHOTOS  
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries launches a Senior Homeless Prevention Service's "Out & About" program. The service offers free resources and ideas to help seniors stay in their homes.

has priced out many seniors living on fixed incomes. Seniors are also dealing with inadequate financial support. Florida's maximum Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit is \$637 per month, far below what is needed to afford even basic housing.

Plus, there are serious healthcare and

mobility barriers, as many seniors face chronic health conditions and lack access to affordable care and transportation, making it nearly impossible to maintain stable housing.

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries is the largest provider of homeless services

across five counties: Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee. In Palm Beach County alone, they operate four shelters and provide over 150 temporary and permanent housing units.

For more information visit [gogi.org/seniors](http://gogi.org/seniors). ■

# Scholarship Surprise

FPL honors Palm Beach County high school graduate with STEM Award

## SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Wellington's Umair Kazi got the surprise of a lifetime right on his doorstep, thanks to Florida Power & Light Company. The recent Suncoast High School graduate was greeted with balloons and a life-changing announcement. He has been selected as the recipient of FPL's FIRST Robotics Scholarship, a \$20,000 award recognizing his robotics and STEM education achievements.

Umair was in the top ten percentile of his senior class. He will start college at Georgia Tech this fall, majoring in Computer Engineering. He has been deeply involved in FIRST Robotics for over three years. His leadership, collaboration, and competitive drive helped propel his team to success, and ultimately caught the attention of FPL's scholarship committee.

FPL employees were on hand to celebrate with Umair and give him some Georgia Tech swag along with the schol-



ABOVE: Umair Kazi of Wellington, the winner of the Florida Power & Light Company's FIRST Robotics Scholarship, gets hugs from his proud parents. RIGHT: Kazi, a recent school graduate, was in the top 10% of his senior class.



al student in the company's service area who has participated in FIRST Robotics for at least two years and plans to pursue a career in engineering or information management.

FPL presents the award as part of its larger commitment to STEM education, inspiring the next generation of innovators. For more, visit [FPL.com/Education](http://FPL.com/Education). ■



LOGGERHEAD MARINELIFE CENTER / COURTESY PHOTOS

Nominations are now open for Loggerhead Marinelife Center's 16th Annual Go Blue Awards



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## SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Loggerhead Marinelife Center has officially opened nominations and ticket sales for its 16th Annual Go Blue Awards, inviting the community to recognize the individuals, young people, businesses, and nonprofits making waves in ocean conservation.

The Go Blue Awards spotlight leadership and innovation across four categories: the Eleanor Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award, the Blue Ambassador of the Year Award, the Blue Hatchling Youth Award, and the Blue Business or Nonprofit of the Year Award. Each year, these honors shine a light on those who go above and beyond in protecting our oceans and coastal eco-

systems.

Senior national news correspondent Kerry Sanders will be this year's keynote speaker. He will also receive the Eleanor Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award for his long-standing dedication to environmental storytelling and advocacy.

All proceeds support LMC's critical sea turtle research, rehabilitation, and marine conservation efforts.

The deadline to submit nominations is August 15.

The Annual Go Blue Awards will take place at 11:00 a.m. on October 24, at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. Tickets are now on sale for \$150 per person. Sponsorships begin at \$2,500. For more, visit [marinelife.org/go-blue-awards](http://marinelife.org/go-blue-awards). ■

# Champions of Conservation

Nominations are open for Loggerhead Marinelife Center's "Go Blue Awards"