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## HOMELESS SENIORS IN PANAMA RECEIVE SHELTER FROM US NON PROFIT

*Bishop and 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Panama open US non-profit SimplyHelp's Senior Center for Homesless elderly in Panama.*

**(Name city), Panama, October 17** – The Bishop and First Lady of Panama attended the grand opening of a Senior Center for homeless elderly in Panama. The construction of the Senior Center was enabled by the Los Angeles based non profit organization Simply Help Foundation after the founder was confronted with seniors who had lost everything as result of a natural disaster and were rendered homeless.

The Senior Center is the result of a collaborative project between the Bishop, who donated the land, the Simply Help Foundation who provided capital, and the local community whom volunteered to take care of the elderly.

Unfortunately the occurrence of homeless elderly is common in Panama and other Central American countries. The Simply Help Foundation built her first Senior Center in 2003 in El Salvador and is in the process of expanding it as result of high demand for shelter for homeless elderly.

In the eight years that Simply Help has been active it has established Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations and has established a close bond with the First Ladies of many of the 20 countries (including the US) SimplyHelp is active in.

SimplyHelp is dedicated to the mission of empowering people living in poverty through providing education, vocational training, food, shelter, accessible potable water and disaster relief in order to facilitate sustainable development.

To date the Simply Help Foundations has built 10 elementary and high schools, 5 Tailoring schools, 6 Computer Centers and 2 Senior Centers in 5 countries around the world. It has built several irrigation systems and water pumps and distributed more than 102 containers of food, clothing, shoes, computers and other goods to 18 developing countries. Domestically, the Simply Help Foundation holds several local distribution events a year for

low-income families in Los Angeles County. Our organization maintains a minimal administrative average—ensuring people in need receive the majority of all donations.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or an interview with Claudia Kielich, please contact Claudia at (310) 383 5100 or e-mail at [ckielich@yahoo.com](mailto:ckielich@yahoo.com)