



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing



HomeSafe

H A P P E N I N G S

With legendary rocker Eddie Money as the headline performer, *The Classic Rock & Roll Party* will be shakin' all evening long for the lucky people attending this unique, high-energy event on March 1 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The party is like no other charity event, combining high-quality music and comedy to thoroughly entertain throughout the night. Comedian and actor Dean Napolitano is the emcee, with Emmy and Grammy award-winner, John Colby, as the event's musical producer. In addition to Eddie Money, Event Host Nicko McBrain and the *McBrainiacs* will perform, along with top 24 American Idol contestant Brett Loewenstern, and the former lead



singer of Judas Priest, Tim 'Ripper' Owens. Actor Chris McDonald (a.k.a. Shooter McGavin in *Happy Gilmore*), and yet-to-be-named special guests and performers, will also be part of the event.

Steven Bernstein, a HomeSafe board member and longtime supporter of the organization, will receive the *HomeSafe Hero Award*, which will be presented by James Allen, Chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming.

Sponsorships and tickets for the March 1 event are available at www.HelpHomeSafe.org and 561-383-9842.

EVENT SPONSORS

Diamond Presenting: Paradise Bank ▪ Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ▪ The Harcourt M. and Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation **Platinum:** Premier Beverage ▪ Stoops Family Foundation **Gold:** Alpine Jaguar ▪ James & Marta Batmasian ▪ Budweiser ▪ E.M. Lynn Foundation ▪ Ocean Properties ▪ Schmidt Family Foundation ▪ Suffolk Construction

EVENT COMMITTEE

Host: Nicko McBrain **Co-Chairs:** Debora Kellogg ▪ Jayne Malfitano Laura Sylvester **Committee:** Blair Adams ▪ Matt Barnes ▪ Marta Batmasian Bill Berger ▪ Julie Buser ▪ Hien Caliendo ▪ Bill Clemons ▪ Harley Davidson Linda Davidson ▪ Marianna Dubois ▪ Eric Gordon ▪ Roy Hinson Lynn Holcomb ▪ Rex Kirby ▪ Elliot Loewenstern ▪ Shannon McCoy Mike Nichols ▪ Val Perez ▪ Gloria Pierson ▪ Mary-Suzanne Powell Brooke Qualk ▪ Peter Salvatore ▪ Mark Schuetz ▪ Kathy Theofilos Roberto Vargas ▪ Kristin Foret Viets ▪ Dawn A. Zook

Jump for HomeSafe

The 4th annual *Jump for HomeSafe* was completely sold out with two-time Olympic Gold medalist McLain Ward and his wife, Lauren, as Event Co-Chairs, and up-and-coming equestrian Hannah Patten as Junior Chair. The equestrian-themed event, held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, raised over \$50,000 for HomeSafe.

Sponsors

Grand Prix: Bernstein Family Foundation ▪ Equestrian Sport Productions **Circuit Champion:** Nichols Foundation **Classic:** The Bainbridge Companies ▪ Fraternal Order of Eagles 3694 ▪ Patten Family Foundation **Hunter:** Blue Chips Farms ▪ Sleepy P Ranch Stepping Stone Farm **Jumper:** 20 Twenty Eyecare ▪ Clara & Wesley Belden ▪ Paige Johnson

Jump for HomeSafe Event Co-Chairs Lauren (l) and McLain Ward (r) with Junior Co-Chair Hannah Patten
LS Photos



Healthy Beginnings

The Healthy Beginnings program has produced many exciting achievements over the last six months, including:

Training...Supervisors from each team provided training in all nine maternity hospitals in Palm Beach County. The purpose of the training was to better inform hospital staff about the Healthy Beginnings system, and the importance of completing the Healthy Start screen for all newborn babies.

Triple P, Positive Parenting Program... The Triple P, Positive Parenting Program, is a service funded by Children's Services Council to reduce the stress of parents and help improve parenting skills. HomeSafe Developmental Consultants are certified to offer Triple P services, and completed 67 Triple P visits for Healthy Beginnings families during the past quarter.

Hospital Incentive Program... The hospital incentive program was launched to reward the best performing hospitals for correctly screening the newborns. Winning hospitals were awarded gift baskets and include:

- First Quarter: Lakeside Medical Center — West Boca Medical Center
- Second Quarter: St. Mary Medical Center — Bethesda Memorial Hospital

Healthy Start Screens... Another amazing accomplishment was the number of newly-delivered mothers who received Healthy Start screens. In Palm Beach County, 1,510 babies were born in October, with Hospital Liaisons – in collaboration with Birth Certificate Registrars – completing 1,498 Healthy Start screens with the mothers of the newborn babies.



Growing Smart... During the last three months, the Growing Smart program achieved its principal goal of providing parents with opportunities for early and routine screenings of their children's development during a two-year period. The program's goal is early identification of behavioral and developmental delays, as well as early entry into services. Growing Smart has successfully completed 25 cases consisting of the two-year longitudinal developmental monitoring process.

Safety Net

From Survivor to Thriver!

Breaking free from the chains of domestic violence may be a bit like trying to walk across a thin wire suspended in mid-air... but there is no need for victims to work without a safety net!

Though she was the victim of severe domestic abuse, HomeSafe's SafetyNet domestic violence program provided Julie with the tools necessary to move forward and secure a safer, more productive life.

"At first, I was just paralyzed with fear," Julie told the audience at SafetyNet's annual Holiday Party. "SafetyNet gave me the support I needed to take control of my life."

After only four to five months in the program, Julie began overcoming her fears and making the transition from a survivor to thriver. Upon deciding that it was in her best interest to relocate, SafetyNet therapists provided Julie with the resources she needed to make her goal become a reality. Not only did Julie receive assistance in relocating, but SafetyNet therapists were even able to help her get out of her lease. And, the support she got from other domestic violence victims was overwhelming.

"Participating in the SafetyNet program helped me become a stronger person emotionally," said Julie. "It also helped me realize that there were other victims in worse shape than me. I don't know where I would be without HomeSafe's SafetyNet program. Participating in this program gave me the tools to move forward."

HomeSafe Happenings

Our Eyes, Our World Art Exhibit a Huge Success

Nearly 800 people attended SafetyNet's annual Our Eyes, Our World art exhibit at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, which coincided during part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The compelling artwork was created by the children and teens in the SafetyNet program. Through a grant from the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, the Arts Away program brings prominent local artists to work with children and teens victimized by family violence. Special thanks to artists Steve Brouse, Sharon Koskoff and Tracy Rosof-Petersen, who helped the children with their artwork.



Residential Group Care

Jeffrey's Journey

By Eric V. Peterman, LifeSkills Coordinator



"If you help me get in shape, I'll give up the gang and drugs."

These were some of the first words I heard from Jeffrey's (*alias to protect his identity*) mouth. It is not typical to hear this from a HomeSafe client, but it was evident this young man was hungry to change his life. He left me with images of someone caught in a rip current, and continuously kept getting pulled under – but never gave up the fight to surface

for one more gulp of air. Jeffrey wanted to breathe. He wanted a chance to live and succeed.

This young man, like most HomeSafe residents, has lived through extreme and desperate times. He shared with me being haunted by the voice of his mom, who relentlessly verbally assaulted him and said, "You can't make it without me." Living at home made him feel unloved, torn and confused. He eventually resorted to selling drugs, and was thrown out of his home and forced to live on the streets. He recalled this experience as living a horrific nightmare.

This is the success story of Jeffrey, a young man seeking a new, and better, life...

The first thing he wanted was to go back to school. He wanted an education, but felt that time was not on his side. Yvette Branch, HomeSafe's LifeSkills Development Supervisor, suggested he complete his education via Adult-Ed. Through HomeSafe's assistance, Jeffrey enrolled into Adult-Ed. He was very excited and nervous at the same

time, but yet determined. He took his Pre-GED and needed to score above 500 to qualify to take the actual GED as a minor. He tested so highly that the idea of testing early for his GED emerged.

The process took us over some rough thoroughfares, but he was finally approved to take the GED. He successfully completed every test with outstanding scores and earned his GED. Mission accomplished! Even before receiving his transcript and GED diploma in the mail, Jeffrey registered at Palm Beach State College through the assistance of HomeSafe's Transition Specialist, Bobby Crume.

In addition to his growing academic successes, Jeffrey, along with other HomeSafe teens, participated in an Empirical Tour at Publix – which resulted in him earning a part-time job thanks to his exceptional performance during the tour. Since working at Publix, he has been promoted to a cashier. This role inspired him to consider pursuing a business degree at Palm Beach State College.

Thanks to the collective efforts of HomeSafe staff and Jeffrey's inner drive to overcome adversity, he made a 180-degree turn and is well on his way to becoming a successful, productive member of society. All Jeffrey wanted was an opportunity to succeed, with HomeSafe gladly providing it to help him fulfill his dreams. I believe this young man's transformation is real and sustainable and look forward to observing his lifelong success. Godspeed Jeffrey, your HomeSafe family will always be here for you.



LifeSkillsSM

Making a Difference!

HomeSafe's LifeSkills independent living program provides tangible training to resident teen boys and girls (ages 13 - 18) in the areas of daily living skills, relationship and team-building strategies, academic and educational training, and employment and career development.

LifeSkills is making a tremendous impact, as evidenced by recent successes:

- 100% of clients, between ages of 13 and 17, received a minimum of two weekly onsite independent living services
- 100% of clients demonstrated measurable increases in knowledge of life skills (as measured by pre and post testing)
- 90% of clients reduced school suspensions and increased positive classroom behaviors
- 70% of clients improved their overall GPA (students improved their GPAs by an average of at least .25, with some students

not showing improvement maintaining excellent grade point averages. (i.e. 4.0, 3.5)

- Over 90% of planned discharged clients were successful after 30 days of discharge
- College Degree Bound – HomeSafe currently has one current client, and four recent clients, enrolled at Palm Beach State College and working towards earning associate degrees in various fields.
- Publix: Where Working Is A Pleasure! – Youth at the Sylvester Family Campus recently participated in a five-part experiential learning seminar with HomeSafe's community partner, Publix. These teens learned about the store's history, shelf tags and comparison shopping, sale ads, and how to put together a menu and adhere to a budget. Many of the youth went through a real-life interview with a member of the management team.

HomeSafe Happenings

Meet the Board: **Rob Vargas** — Board President



Tell us about yourself. Although born in Rochester, New York, I have lived in Palm Beach County since I was three years old. My wife of eleven years, Rebecca, grew up ten miles away from me, but ironically we never met until we attended law school at the same time. We are very fortunate to have two young and wonderful boys, Robby and Andy. While I consider

my work as a dad and husband full time, for my day job I am a partner in the law firm of Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, P.A. in West Palm Beach where I practice commercial litigation.

How did you learn about HomeSafe, and what inspired you to get involved? Several years ago, I had the desire to get involved in an organization that was more personally rewarding. My partner, Scott Hawkins, a former HomeSafe board member, encouraged me to consider

HomeSafe. After touring the facility and learning about the incredibly important work that HomeSafe does for so many in the community, the decision to get involved with HomeSafe was an easy one.

What is most challenging and rewarding about being a HomeSafe Board member? Without question, the most rewarding aspect of being involved with HomeSafe is the wonderful success stories of the kids. But these many success stories also make me think about the biggest challenge for HomeSafe, which is to make sure that **every** child, mother and father that HomeSafe serves will have a success story – no matter how big or small – that they can share about their experience with HomeSafe.

What do you see for the future of HomeSafe? HomeSafe has great supporters, very skilled management, and most important, a tremendous staff that always amazes me with their hard work and commitment. There will always be challenges going forward, but from my view, the future for HomeSafe is very promising.



HomeSafe

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HomeSafe Happenings

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HomeSafe is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization providing results-driven prevention and intervention programs for child abuse and domestic violence. Each year, HomeSafe serves more than sixteen thousand infants, children and families.