

Fall 2017



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing

HomeSafe Happenings

Our Mission: Creating safer, more productive lives for infants, children, young adults and families

Cheap Trick to Headline The Classic in January



Planning for The Classic Rock & Roll Party is well underway, and it's an event you definitely will not want to miss! HomeSafe is very excited to announce that iconic

Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain is returning as celebrity host for this year's annual fundraiser on Saturday, January 13.

The Classic's venue this year, the *Hard Rock Live* at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel in Hollywood, will be the perfect setting for this year's entertainment, Cheap Trick, known for their hits "I Want You to Want Me," "Dream Police," "Surrender," and "The Flame." This is your chance to get up close and personal with the band as they perform a great night of music.

Guests can expect a cocktail hour, full-course sit-down dinner, open bar, silent auction, Cheap Trick's performance, and a celebrity jam session with Nicko McBrain and his special guests.

This is the one party of the season you will not want to miss! A sponsorship is a great way to help support the cause and secure your seat before they sell out. To learn more, visit HelpHomeSafe.org/TheClassic2018 or call (561) 383-9842.



Celebrity Host Nicko McBrain, Iron Maiden Drummer



Great Give Donations Make an Impact

On May 17, during the one-day giving campaign “Great Give Palm Beach County.” 50 donors generously gave more than \$13,000 to HomeSafe. We are happy to report that with this money, we have been able to transform two double rooms in our boys’ group homes into four individual rooms for clients, with plans to renovate more. Work that was done included new walls, windows, and flooring, air-conditioning duct work, and a fresh coat of paint. These individual rooms allow for us to provide care for clients with extreme cases of trauma who require a private room for their safety and that of the other clients.

Additionally, the money raised allowed for valuable training for our nine therapists on staff. All of them attended a two-day session on Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). This session was the first step toward certification in this method which works best in handling clients’ anger, physical violence and emotional outbursts which occur while they are living in the group homes. Our goal is to have all the therapists certified in this training within the next year and a half.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HomeSafe’s SafetyNet program strives every day to end the cycle of domestic violence and abuse. The SafetyNet program provides weekly therapeutic support groups and individual therapy for adults and children affected by domestic violence.

On Tuesday and Wednesday nights at our Lake Worth campus, parents, teens and children attend group and individual counseling sessions. One former client, Sarah, graduated our program and now comes back to volunteer by babysitting the young children while their parents are in counseling. She describes her experience as rewarding, and looks forward to seeing the kids come in excited each week. Sometimes she’ll read with the kids, play games, or do arts and crafts. She says volunteering is not about finding the time, it is about making the time.

Sarah has her own story of domestic violence. She never thought that she would make it out safe and alive after being married to her abuser for 20 years. After finding herself with no money due to her husband emptying her bank account, and having nowhere safe to go with her kids, she reached out to SafetyNet for help. Today, after five years, she has her own home and her kids are safe. SafetyNet’s services and support made it possible for Sarah to find the strength and resources to get out of her dangerous situation. Now, Sarah chooses to give back to those who need the same help by volunteering.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the color purple is associated with domestic violence awareness. Purple is meant to be a “symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending violence.” Please take some time in October to learn more about this issue in our community and consider making a donation to HomeSafe to help local victims.

Volunteer With SafetyNet

Our SafetyNet program needs volunteers! If you or someone you know is looking for a way to make a difference, please reach out to Elissa Malec, Volunteer Coordinator, at elissamalec@helphomesafe.org or (561) 383-9800, ext. 1223 for an application. Volunteers must be 18 years of age, complete a Level 2 Background screening, and a volunteer orientation.

Volunteers are needed Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM to babysit young children (ages 1- 5) and assist in dinner preparation while parents and older siblings are in group/individual counseling sessions. The SafetyNet program also has other special events like food drives, toy drives, and holiday events where volunteers are needed to assist.

Pond Place – A Year Later



Several of the Pond Place residents

HomeSafe at Pond Place on the Bernstein Independent Living Campus, has taken root since our ribbon cutting last November, and is now fully occupied and thriving. Our 12 residents, who even include a set of siblings sharing an apartment, are all keeping busy this fall. Eight of the residents are taking classes at Palm Beach State College, and two are high school seniors set to graduate in the spring. One resident is in the GED program, and another is in a vocational program, but is focused on taking his GED so he can get his diploma and start taking college courses.



A finished view of the HomeSafe at Pond Place campus

The program has been partnering with outside agencies to develop interest groups that provide hands-on instruction to the clients about the various components of independent living. These groups will focus on areas like healthy living, cooking, and household budgeting to continue preparing them for the future. One upcoming independent living group will be partnering with HomeSafe’s maintenance staff to teach clients about small repairs and troubleshooting problems that come with renting an apartment.

Another group that Independent Living Supervisor Kehan Rahming would like to get started is a workout group that will focus on the need to exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle, which promotes good physical and mental health.

The residents meet with a therapist once a month, which helps them maintain a healthy balance and enables them to tackle any problems they might encounter. Therapy also helps them prepare to transition out of independent living and live as fully self-supporting young adults.

As we had hoped, Pond Place provides an attractive, peaceful environment for our residents. The fountain in the pond and the large gazebo add a sense of tranquility, and the geese are the resident “pets.” In the future, Mr. Rahming hopes to set up a study room with computers so our clients can have a common meeting place. He also has plans to start Taco Tuesday, and have a grill for communal barbecues.

Residential Program Update

Clients in our residential programs spent their summer involved in a variety of activities at local summer camps.

As a reward for good grades and good behavior, the girls in our Libra Girls group home were treated to a day trip to Islands of Adventure where they enjoyed all the rides and dining at the park. For their end of summer celebration, the older boys in Libra Boys North and HomeSafe Boys group homes had a day of laser tag and gaming at their campus. The younger boys on our Boca campus had a day of fun at the Rapids Water Park.

These activities were made possible by a grant from the Mirasol Foundation and donations to our Recreational Endowment.

The school year got off to a great start for all our clients who attend a variety of middle and high schools in the area. They all had new backpacks and the needed school supplies – which were greatly needed – and will be used throughout the school year. Many thanks to Spirit of Giving, Greater WPB Women’s Club and United Way of Palm Beach County’s Women’s Leadership Circle for ensuring that our kids had the supplies they need to have a good school year.





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Through a wonderful partnership with the Early Learning Coalition, the 0-5 Healthy Beginnings Entry Agency staff was able to provide a developmental toy to this child to enhance her fine motor skills and help prepare her for Kindergarten. For a free developmental screening call 561-383-9871. All services are funded by the Children's Services Council.

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