

Spring 2016



# HomeSafe Happenings

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

## For a third year, HomeSafe is excited to participate in the Great Give!

Great Give Palm Beach & Martin Counties is a 24-hour online giving event led by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach County, United Way of Palm Beach County and United Way of Martin County designed to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in a single day. Every local gift will be multiplied with additional dollars from a bonus pool, which means your donation will go further than any other day.

HomeSafe is known as a leading agency and premier provider of residential services in both Palm Beach County and the state. Our top quality and dedicated staff provide unconditional care, love and a safe environment to children, ages 8 to 17. These children have lived a life filled with trauma and now deal with severe behavioral issues, require medication, are behind in school, and often times, have been moved from program to program. HomeSafe has a reputation of success with the toughest cases to handle.

Your investment in HomeSafe means these children will be given the help they need to put the past behind them and to heal and grow to become productive members of our community.

Your Great Give donation will help provide our five group homes with the items needed to care for clients – everything from bath towels, to therapy sessions, to vans for transportation.



Palm Beach & Martin Counties

**For a minimum of \$20, you can help the children and help HomeSafe reach our goal of \$15,000!**

**On Tuesday, May 3, from Midnight-Midnight:**

- 1. Go to <https://greatgiveflorida.org/npo/homesafe>**
- 2. Follow the directions on the HomeSafe Great Give page to make your online donation.**
- 3. Don't feel comfortable giving online? Call our Marketing Director, Chere Brodi at 561-383-9842 and she'll take your credit card information and do the online donation for you.**

## New Member Joins Board of Directors



Aggie Stoops received a Bachelors in Science degree in Social Work from Florida State University, with an emphasis in child welfare. She continued her education at FSU, earning a Master's degree in Social Work, again with an emphasis in child welfare. Before Aggie left the workforce to raise her four children, she was employed by Florida Baptist Children's Home, where she counseled children in long-term group home placement; the Florida Sheriff's Youth Organization, where she was a placement coordinator for at-risk children in Broward, Martin and Palm Beach Counties; and the Palm Beach Habilitation Center, where she was a case manager for the developmentally disabled.

Aggie, her husband Jeff, and their children are very committed to philanthropic interests. Aggie is the Chairman of the Board of the Stoops Family Foundation, a private foundation focused on medical, social services and educational causes. Aggie and her husband have endowed two professorships at FSU, including one at the School of Social Work with an emphasis on child welfare. The current holder of the professorship, Professor Karen Randolph, specializes in research and development of programs designed to improve outcomes in foster care.

Aggie is also a regular volunteer at Boca Helping Hands.

*Welcome Aggie!*



2016 Co-Chairmen



Liz Mathewson, Matt Barnes, Denise Groo & Val Perez

## Jump for HomeSafe

In January, HomeSafe hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Jump for HomeSafe at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. At this family-friendly event, guests enjoyed ringside seating for the “Battle of the Sexes” competition.

Sponsors for this year’s event were The Patten Family Foundation, Steven E. Bernstein Family Foundation, The Nichols Foundation, Wight Family Foundation, The Keenan Family, Old Willow Farms LLC, TD Bank, and Greenspoon Marder Law.

Congratulations to this year’s co-chairmen Lillie Keenan, Hannah Patten, Samantha Wight, and Emma Heise for their dedication and support which helped raise \$36,000 for HomeSafe.



Rob, Rebecca & Andy Vargas



Matthew Ladika & Cherie Copenhaver

## The Classic Rock & Roll Party

“Happiness has Arrived” was the theme of HomeSafe’s annual fundraiser –The Classic Rock & Roll Party. We had an amazing turnout and support for the event held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

Featured performer, *Lowrider Band*, had guests on the dance floor with their hits “Spill the Wine,” “Low Rider,” “Why Can’t We Be Friends” and many more. The music continued when returning host, Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain, and renowned guitarist, Yngwie Malmsteen, performed several songs. Paul Castronovo, co-host of the Paul and Young Ron Show, emceed the night.

Suffolk Construction was awarded this year’s *HomeSafe Hero Award*. Suffolk was honored for its generous support of the agency, both financially and through its staff volunteer time. Guests were introduced to Pond Place, the new independent living housing program the agency is getting ready to open for foster children who have aged out of the program, and need safe, affordable housing.

For a fourth and final year, Debora Kellogg and Jayne Malfitano served as the event co-chairmen. Through their hard work and dedication, \$330,000 was raised for HomeSafe. Congratulations to the Classic golf tournament chairmen, Kathy Walsh and Cathy Zumkehr, who brought some new fun and new sponsors to the tournament.

Thank you to all our Classic sponsors, especially our Diamond sponsors -Paradise Bank, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Harcourt M. & Virginia M. Sylvester Foundation, and Kathy Walsh & MacCutcheon Family Foundation.

Check out all the photos and the party video on The Classic page at [www.HelpHomeSafe.org](http://www.HelpHomeSafe.org).



Kelly Paiste



Chris Kennedy of Suffolk Construction with Board Member Mike Nichols



Nicko McBrain, Jayne Malfitano and Debora Kellogg



Bill & Andre Burke with their silent auction winnings



## Your Support Changes Lives

Today, HomeSafe brings hope and support to more than 16,000 clients annually through the valuable programs we offer. We provide full-time care and treatment services through our residential program for children who have been removed from their family due to abuse and neglect. The SafetyNet program provides weekly therapeutic support groups and services for adults and children affected by domestic violence. Healthy Beginnings, a program of the Children's Services Council, is a preventative program that conducts free developmental assessments for children under the age of five, living in Palm Beach County.

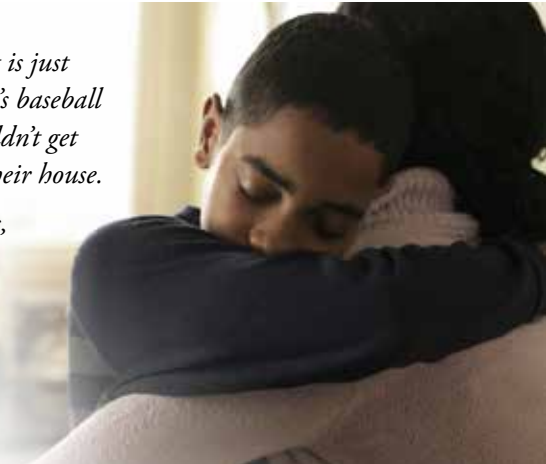
### Maria's Story – SafetyNet

*Maria is a Hispanic woman in her mid-forties, who was referred to HomeSafe through the State Attorney's office after she and her kids had been living in fear. Maria came from a domestic violence situation where she was abused, stalked, and harassed by Jose, her past boyfriend and father of her youngest son.*

*With SafetyNet's encouragement, she was able to get a restraining order against Jose, but that is just a small step in the process. Maria still lived in fear of Jose, and he often showed up to her son's baseball games just to get in contact with her. Her children were living in constant fear, and they couldn't get their mother to call the police when Jose would break the restraining order and show up at their house.*

*Through family sessions at HomeSafe and by attending the weekly therapeutic support groups, Maria was able to open up and connect with her children and realize their fear was keeping them from living their lives. After approximately three months of sessions, the children's behavior became less fearful and angry, and Maria was able to overcome her fear of Jose. She now had the courage to call the authorities when he continued to harass her, leading to his arrest. Her sons also received caring support to help them process and understand their experiences living in a violent home.*

*Maria and her sons are now able to live in peace. She is free from violence, free from abuse, but most importantly, free from fear.*



### Chris's Story – Residential Living Program

Chris was only 15 when he came to HomeSafe after being abused and neglected by his family. He had aggressive behavior, and often had trouble controlling his emotions due to his previous traumatic experiences. With the help of therapy and unconditional love and support from staff, Chris was able to change his behavior and channel his emotions into poetry.

At the age of 18, Chris graduated from the residential program and went to live at Crossroads Community Care. He was able to stay there while he kept a job and finished high school. Crossroads was so impressed with Chris that they made him a tour guide for incoming clients. He stayed until he outgrew the program, then transferred to Villages of Hope residential program. While working two jobs, Chris excelled at Villages of Hope, and accepted a tour guide position there as well.

Chris later met with Habitat for Humanity while applying for home ownership. Habitat was so impressed with him that they offered him a full-time job. Last January, he received the keys to his new house.

Thanks to the dedicated staff and safe environment at HomeSafe, Chris truly matured and worked through his issues. He often comes back to mentor clients in the residential program, and even welcomed a former client to live with him.



*Ana (DSS), Martina and Isaias*

### Martina's Story – Healthy Beginnings

*Martina H. heard about our Growing Smart program at the hospital after delivering her son Isaias. Growing Smart is a free program offered in English, Spanish and Creole, that gives parents living in Palm Beach County the opportunity for early detection of possible developmental or behavioral problems. During this two year program, participating families receive six home visits from a Developmental Support Specialist (DSS) who will engage them to practice different activities with their child, based on: communication, fine and gross motor, problem solving, and personal and social skills.*

*Over the next two years, the DSS met with the family, brought books for Isaias, and provided Martina with information to help her as Isaias began to grow. During this time, Isaias didn't crawl much and had not begun to try and walk. The DSS taught Martina some techniques to help her son, and with the donation from HomeSafe of a Sit-to-Stand Learning Walker, Isaias was running in no time.*



**HomeSafe**

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## Your Donations Make a Difference

Your support of HomeSafe goes a long way in helping victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Eighty-seven cents of every dollar you give goes to local programs and services for clients.

**There are a variety of ways to support HomeSafe:**

- **Name HomeSafe as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance or IRA**
- **Send a check made payable to HomeSafe**
- **Donate online at [HelpHomeSafe.org](http://HelpHomeSafe.org)**
- **Purchase tickets and attend our events**

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