

Summer 2015



HomeSafe Happenings

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

HOMESAFE EXPANDS ITS SERVICES WITH NEW INDEPENDENT LIVING HOUSING PROGRAM

HomeSafe CEO, Matthew Ladika, is excited to announce that the Steven E. Bernstein Family Foundation has given HomeSafe a \$500,000 challenge grant to be used for a new Independent Living Housing Program. The program will provide affordable housing and services for clients who have turned 18, and by law, have to “age out” of the agency’s residential group care program.

“For years, The Bernstein Family Foundation has supported the invaluable services HomeSafe provides victims of child abuse and neglect,” said Steve Bernstein, president of the Foundation, and a long-time HomeSafe board member. “We are so excited to put our support behind this new housing program which is desperately needed in our community. Clients who have turned 18 and technically must leave the program, will have a safe and affordable place to live as they transition into this new phase of their life, adulthood.”

The total cost of this new program is \$1 million. With the initial \$500,000 coming from The Bernstein Family Foundation, HomeSafe is asking the community for its support in meeting the challenge grant. Money raised would be used to purchase property in Lake Worth, make necessary building repairs and upgrades, and provide basic furnishing for the apartments. An endowment of \$250,000 will be put into place for the perpetuity of the program.

HomeSafe has a contract on a piece of property in Lake Worth which includes 12 one-bedroom, one-bath apartments. The property is within walking distance of Palm Beach State College, grocery stores, bus lines, and the HomeSafe Lake Worth campus. Clients will pay a minimal monthly rent, of which, \$100 will be put into escrow for the client for future housing needs. In order to participate in the program, clients will be required to maintain their PESS eligibility (Postsecondary Education Services & Support provided by the state), and follow the rules set by HomeSafe. HomeSafe’s Transition Specialist (who works at the Lake Worth campus) will continue to work with the clients, reinforcing the lessons learned while they were enrolled in the residential program.

“For years we have wanted to extend our support to clients transitioning out due to age,” said Matthew Ladika, HomeSafe CEO. “Thanks to The Bernstein Family Foundation, we will now be able to do that. This brings added support to a client successfully taking this step to adult life and its responsibilities.”

Anyone interested in supporting this matching grant challenge is asked to call HomeSafe CEO, Matthew Ladika at (561) 383-9817. Donations can be made online at www.HelpHomeSafe.org (under Donate) or sent to HomeSafe, 2840 Sixth Ave. South, Lake Worth, FL 33461.



Healthy Beginnings

Safe Sleep

Healthy Beginnings Distributing Portable Cribs to Those In Need

In an effort to decrease infant deaths due to unsafe sleep, the leading killer of newborns, HomeSafe, in conjunction with the Children's Services Council (CSC), and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) have partnered to ensure every baby born in Palm Beach County has a safe place to sleep.

DCF has purchased 500 portable cribs for HomeSafe to distribute to mothers who do not have a safe place for their newborns to sleep. HomeSafe, as part of the Healthy Beginnings System of Care, visits mothers who have delivered in one of nine birthing hospitals throughout Palm Beach County. In 2014, HomeSafe's Healthy Beginnings' staff conducted 14,000 infant risk screens.

"As part of the infant risk screen we perform, every mother we talk with is asked if she has a safe place for their child to sleep when they return home. If they don't, we bring them a portable crib along with a safe sleep video and educational material in their native language," said Paloma Prata, Director of Prevention Services at HomeSafe.

The partnership between DCF and HomeSafe was fostered with the help of Children's Services Council. Together with others in the community, HomeSafe will continue to distribute these portable cribs and educational material throughout the county.

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, a special district created by Palm Beach County voters, provides leadership, funding and research on behalf of the county's children so they grow up healthy, safe and strong.



Mark Your Calendar

3rd Annual HomeSafe Charity Golf Outing

Hosted by Boynton Lodge No. 236, F. & A.M.

Saturday, October 24

The Links at Boynton Beach

Tee off – 1 p.m.

\$125 player/\$500 foursome

6th Annual Jump For HomeSafe

Saturday, January 16, 2016

Palm Beach International Equestrian Center

Enjoy dinner, open bar and silent auction all during a world-class equestrian competition

The Classic VIP/Celebrity Golf Outing

Friday, February 5, 2016

Ft. Lauderdale Country Club

The Classic Rock & Roll Party

Hosted by Nicko McBrain, Iconic Drummer for Iron Maiden

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

A unique and high-energy Rock & Roll themed party that includes a full-course sit-down dinner, open bar, silent auction and live entertainment.

For more details on all of these events, please visit www.HelpHomeSafe.org

SafetyNet

SafetyNet Volunteers: A Legacy of Helping the Invisible Victims of Domestic Violence

For 17 years, our dedicated SafetyNet Program volunteers have been critical to the on-going success of our evening group therapy sessions for victims of family violence.

In order to help these invisible victims, it is important that they attend *weekly* group sessions to ensure safety planning, learn about healthy relationships, and stop the tragic cycle of abuse. Here, they recognize that *the abuse is not their fault*, and begin to regain control of their life.

We have addressed key barriers which keep families from attending the program by providing:

- Year-round evening group therapy sessions for adults, teens and children
- Crisis and support groups in Spanish
- Evening meals for kids so they can attend *directly* from school or camp
- Limited transportation
- Childcare for young children – so parents don't have the planning and expense of a babysitter

Our volunteers have selflessly donated their time and energy to help us with these tasks. Without them, our program would not be able to serve the more than 120 traumatized families we see each year.

But what motivates our volunteers? What keeps them coming back week in and week out? Here is a snapshot of their answers.

What motivates you to volunteer weekly at the SafetyNet Program?

I was tired of just going home from work and not helping out

To be a difference maker

To see the mother and kids doing well

Describe a child who you feel you have "reached" during your volunteering.

A little boy whose mother told me he was sad when I was absent

I remember Jose, he was here three years ago. He cried a lot at first, but when he left the program, he was so confident!

My first touching moment was hearing a child repeat what I said weeks earlier, "Your hands are for helping, not hitting."

When you leave the program at night, describe your feelings.

Inner state of joy, fulfillment, compassion

Hopeful, joyful they (the children) fill my bucket.

Delightful beautiful little souls!

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in becoming a SafetyNet Program Volunteer, please contact our Human Resources Coordinator, Elissa Malec at (561) 383-9800 ext. 1223 or email Elissamalec@helphomesafe.org.





HomeSafe

2840 Sixth Avenue South
Lake Worth, FL 33461

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Special thanks to Roberto Vargas for his service as Board President 2013-2015

HomeSafe is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing results-driven prevention and intervention programs for child abuse and domestic violence. Contributions benefit HomeSafe (CH#3335). A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR AT WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM/DIVISIONSOFFICES/CONSUMERS SERVICES. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. HomeSafe receives 100% of each contribution.