



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing

HomeSafe Happenings

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

Honda Classic Cares Grant Helps Promote Safe Sleep

HomeSafe recently received a \$14,500 grant from Honda Classic Cares, an initiative of the Honda Classic golf tournament that supports children's charities throughout Palm Beach County each year. The grant will support efforts by our Healthy Beginnings Program to promote safe sleep practices for infants, enabling us to purchase portable cribs and "sleep sacks" for families served by the program.

Funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Healthy Beginnings is HomeSafe's child development program serving children from birth through 5 years old. The program focuses on identifying and preventing child abuse and neglect, promoting healthy births, and ensuring children are reaching their developmental milestones and are ready for kindergarten.

Promoting safe sleep has been a critical component of Healthy Beginnings for several years. According to the CDC, about 3,500 babies in the U.S. suffer sleep-related deaths each year due to unsafe practices such as bed sharing and using soft bedding. As part of the infant risk screens we perform at the county's 10 birthing hospitals, we ask mothers if they have a safe place for their babies to sleep. If not, we arrange a home visit to provide the family with a portable crib, a safe sleep video and educational material in their native language.



Dana Johnson, Community Relations Director, The Honda Classic; HomeSafe CEO, Matt Ladika; Paloma Prata, HomeSafe Chief Program Officer; Ken Kennerly, Executive Director, The Honda Classic and Andrew George, Tournament Director

Healthy Beginnings distributes 200 cribs each year, but the demand far exceeds our available funding to buy them. With the Honda Classic Cares grant, we will be able to purchase 100 cribs, as well as 300 "sleep sacks" – wearable blankets that eliminate the need for loose blankets – which we have not had the resources to provide. The grant will also benefit our Growing Smart program, which addresses early detection of possible developmental or behavior problems in young children. One hundred of the sleep sacks will be given to families who participate in Growing Smart as incentives for engaging in activities that aid their children's physical, cognitive and social development.

HomeSafe is grateful for the support of Honda Classic Cares. This grant will ensure more babies in Palm Beach County get a healthy start in life!

HomeSafe Welcomes New Board Members



Tarra L. Pressey

Tarra Pressey is president and CEO of Tarra Enterprises Inc., an airport concessions business she has grown over the past two decades, from a one-person, one-store startup in Palm Beach International Airport, to a multimillion-dollar corporation. The company participates as a valued partner of HMSHost and Hudson Group, both global leaders in the airport concessions industry.



Michael J. Bruno, CFA

Michael J. Bruno is Senior Vice President, Senior Portfolio Manager at U.S. Trust in Palm Beach. A graduate of the University of Florida, Michael has 13+ years of professional investment industry experience encompassing global equity and fixed income, alternative investments, structured products, and derivatives.

Pond Place News

HomeSafe celebrates the high school graduation of two of our clients at Pond Place – our independent living program for young adults who have aged out of foster care.



*Nicole with Pond Place Supervisor
Kehan Rahming*

Nicole, a former client of our Libra Girls program, graduated from Lake Worth High School. She has been living at Pond Place for just under a year, and feels that the program has helped her in becoming more independent and making responsible “adult” decisions. This summer she is volunteering at Lake Worth Beach summer camp and will start Palm Beach State College in the fall.

Delincia has also been at Pond Place for just under a year, and appreciates how the program gives her a safe place to live and helps her to stay focused and positive. She graduated from Forest Hill High School, receiving recognition for her community service and participation with the Women of Tomorrow program. Delincia will be attending Palm Beach State College and eventually wants to attend the police academy. She currently works at Office Depot.

Congratulations Nicole & Delincia!



Delincia

HomeSafe Charity Golf Tournament

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The TD Bank team placed first in the men's division



Dennis Pushkin, Monica Sims, Jayne & Chris Malfitano



*Marty Dytczyk, John Domenico, Bob Manis and
Michael Bruno of U.S. Trust*



*Mark Doring, tournament chairman Cathy Zumkehr,
Betsy Pfeiffer and Ryan Brandenburger*

Thanks to our chairman, Cathy Zumkehr and the generous support of sponsors, players and donors, \$42,500 was raised for HomeSafe programs. More than 50 golfers enjoyed a beautiful South Florida day and the fabulous course at Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club.



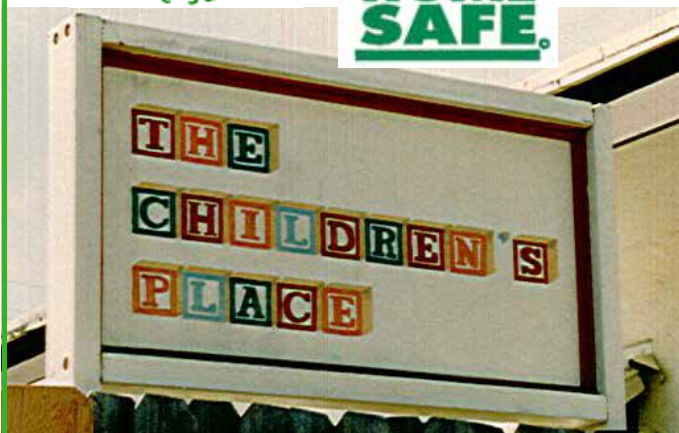
*The Northern Trust Team - John Dover, Steve Putnik,
Phil Engman & Jeff Johnson*

HomeSafe Turns 40!

HomeSafe is proud to be celebrating its 40th year of providing services to children and families in Palm Beach County!

At its recent annual all-staff meeting, staff who have been with the agency 10, 15 and even 20 years, shared their client stories and the changes in programs the agency has seen. Many laughs were shared, but most importantly, a true appreciation was felt by all, not only for the hard work and care that hundreds of employees have provided over the years, but for the positive impact that has been made on the lives of children and families needing help.

The board of directors and staff remain committed to providing the best possible programs and services that continue to create safer, more productive lives for infants, children, young adults and families.



This timeline provides a history of key events that have helped shape the agency over the last 40 years.

- 1979** The *Council on Child Abuse & Neglect of Palm Beach County* is started by a group of concerned citizens who band together to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- 1980** The Council opens *The Children's Place* program, offering a six-bed program offering daytime respite care for young children. Two years later, the program begins accepting overnight stays for children.
- 1990** The Council opens *Connor's Nursery*, the first shelter in the entire state of Florida to exclusively serve children with AIDs or who are HIV positive.
- 1992** The Council merges with Connor's Nursery & formally becomes known as *The Children's Place and Connor's Nursery, Inc.*
- 1998** The agency begins serving the abused population – children ages 10 -17, opens three additional group homes, and starts providing foster home services. The agency also merges with Home Safe of Palm Beach County and changes name to *The Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.*
- 2005** The Connor's Nursery program successfully comes to an end due to the advances in medical care for those afflicted with the HIV virus.
- 2006** Construction is completed on the Sylvester Family Campus – 10 acres of land on Haverhill Road. This campus serves 24 boys through Specialized Therapeutic and Enhanced group homes. The agency begins transitioning away from providing shelter care services to a greater focus on specialized therapeutic group services for foster children.
- 2009** The Children's Services Council of PBC launches *The Healthy Beginnings Program* and Home Safe becomes the exclusive entry agency for children entering the system between the ages of birth through five. The agency also adds four new locations across the county to meet the demand for prevention services.
- 2011** The agency becomes known as *HomeSafe*.
- 2016** *HomeSafe at Pond Place* on the Bernstein Independent Living Campus opens in November, providing 12 one-bedroom apartments for young adults who have aged out of foster care. This program is open to clients, ages 18 – 23 who maintain their PESS eligibility.
- 2018** In October, the Haverhill campus was sold to MorseLife Health System. Proceeds from the sale are being used for the purchase of new property and the building of state-of-the-art facilities to serve clients.



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The following letter was received by Brian McCarey, LCSW, SafetyNet Supervisor. This client attended our domestic violence support group for several months. She developed a 'safety plan' which she finally implemented when her abuser once again assaulted her.

Hello Sir,
I hope you remember me. This is Natalie* and I wanted to let you know that I finally left my abuser. I have been free since January. We had an incident and that was the last straw. I called YWCA and went into their shelter. I have never been happier! I did not think I'd ever survive in a shelter, but that was the best decision I've made in my life. I was there for three months, Brian. I never thought a day would come when I'd be free from that abusive husband. My daughter and I are so happy now and I learned it is possible to end any form of abuse. I hope one day I can tell my story and show other women it's possible to break away from abuse.

Regards
Natalie

**Name changed to
protect the client*

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