

Fall 2019



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing

# HomeSafe Happenings

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

## HomeSafe partners with Children's Services Council to bring *Thirty Million Words Initiative* to Palm Beach County



(Left) Lottie and Harlynn at St. Mary's Medical Center

Over the last year, HomeSafe has worked very closely with the Children's Services Council and the University of Chicago to bring the *Thirty Million Words* (TMW) initiative to Palm Beach County. The initiative officially started in July with the hiring of the program supervisor, Lottie Cherilus. This evidence-based intervention program is designed to help narrow the language gap between children from lower-income families and those in wealthier households.

The *Thirty Million Words* suite of interventions aims to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to develop their children's intellectual and educational potential. Developed in partnership with parents, the evidence-based interventions translate emerging brain science into strategies parents and caregivers can use in everyday settings to enhance their children's early learning environment. Parents learn the TMW-3Ts – *Tune In, Talk More and Take Turns* - which constitute the core concepts of the curricula and are designed to be a set of easy to remember and easy to understand strategies that can be applied to every parent-child interaction. The program is created in both English and Spanish.

Since late July, Lottie and Harlynn Gomez, the program's hospital liaison, have been visiting mothers with newborns at St. Mary's Medical Center. If mothers are interested, they answer questions and then view slides and a video that talks about baby's brain development in the first few weeks of life and how important communication is for baby's development. Post hospital follow-up with mom includes emails with helpful articles and tools on talking with their child and baby. More than 200 mothers have participated thus far. The goal is to grow the program so that it is available in all maternity hospitals in Palm Beach County.

## Pets Help Girls with Healing Process

"*Kindness Shared Happiness Squared*" is a nonprofit based out of Boca Raton that was created to distribute happiness to kids. The agency identifies other agencies that work with children and are in need of donations. The group homes on our Sylvester Family Campus have been "adopted" by the agency over the last three years, and our clients have benefited from their generosity.

Just recently, the agency created a program called *Pets With Purpose* to help children ease their anxieties and learn life lessons. The girls in our Libra Girls North program are able to visit with three calves, a mini-horse, a donkey, ducks, turkeys, and a pot belly pig named Bubbles. The girls participate in a life lesson each visit, and thoroughly enjoy giving the animals love and attention, which ends up being therapeutic for the them.



# SafetyNet Program Helps Domestic Violence Victims Take Back Their Life

Year round, our SafetyNet program provides immediate intervention and prevention services to victims of domestic assault and their children. Group therapy is available two nights a week at our Lake Worth campus for adults, middle schoolers and high schoolers, and provided in both English and Spanish. Recently, four victims successfully completed the program and celebrated their life's journey from *victim to survivor*. Our Spanish language groups allowed the Latina moms to process and heal from a history of domestic abuse in their lives, while being sensitive to their unique cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

**Gardenia** is a 37-year-old immigrant from Honduras, and mother of three boys, ages 17, 16 and four. Her youngest has Down's syndrome. She enrolled her family in SafetyNet due to a violent incident which led to her husband's arrest for physical assault. The family was finally able to openly share their painful stories with their peers during individual therapy and group support sessions, and learn about safety planning, stalking behaviors, and intimate partner violence.

**Magdalena** is a 35-year-old immigrant from Guatemala. She is the mother of three girls, ages 11, 7 and 3. Her ex-husband had major issues with 'power and control,' an issue that is inherent in most abusive relationships. The oldest daughter sided with her father, as child victims often do. After completing therapy, she was able to recognize that the abuse was not her mother's fault and gained a better understanding of child emotional abuse – which is known as the 'invisible' scar of family violence. Magdalena gained critical insight by recognizing how the abuse negatively impacted her family, and how to break the 'cycle of abuse' by learning the dynamics of family violence.

These families represent a cross section of our SafetyNet clients who have had the courage to emigrate to the freedoms and opportunities that our nation has offered immigrants since its founding. They have also recognized the necessity of leaving their abusive relationship in order to make their life in the United States not only better, but safer as well.



*Victim Advocate Marlene Rivera talks with women survivors she has counseled through the SafetyNet Program.*

**Rosa** is a 51-year-old Mexican immigrant and mother of two resilient teens, a boy age 13 and a girl age 16. They experienced years of emotional abuse at the hands of their father, who also has a severe drinking problem. In spite of the on-going trauma, the daughter excelled in her grades and was chosen to attend Suncoast Community High School. This motivated mom to work on rebuilding her self-esteem, and eventually the courage to leave her husband. Her son's grades improved immensely, and he was happy again. They are now living a violence-free life.

**Maria** is a 20 year resident from rural Mexico who is the mother of three children - a daughter age 24, and two teen sons ages 14 and 18. She enrolled in SafetyNet due to a history of physical and emotional abuse by her ex-paramour. Through the program, Maria and her kids learned about the 'cycle of abuse', other dynamics of domestic violence, and finally realized how much the abuse gravely impacted their day to day lives.

## Your Guess Could Win You a Car ...and Help HomeSafe

Make a \$20 donation and guess the total number of birdies that will be made by the entire field of golfers in the four rounds of the 2020 Honda Classic. Your guess could win you a new 2020 Honda vehicle! 110% of your donation will benefit HomeSafe.

Visit [thehondaclassic.com](http://thehondaclassic.com) Go to the Birdies for Children page, find the View Participating Agencies button, and click on HomeSafe to make your guess.

Guesses can be made until February 26.

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams

**Birdies  
for Children**





# Two Ways You Can Help During the Holidays...

## Give Our Kids a Merry Christmas

This holiday season, HomeSafe will have 44 boys and girls, ages 7 to 14, in our foster group homes who will be hoping Santa can find them. We are asking for your help to make presents under the Christmas tree a wish come true for these children.

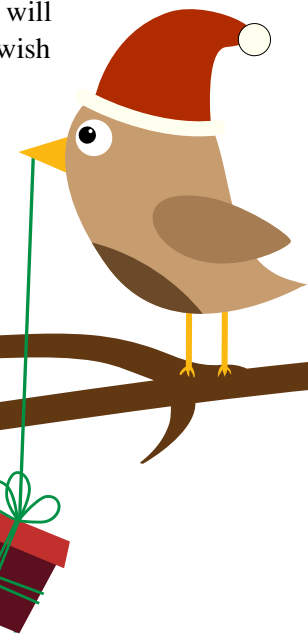
Your meaningful gift of \$100 will allow us to make sure each child receives a few of the items requested on their wish list. Christmas morning at each of the houses will be filled with the delighted screams and laughter of happy children.

Friday, December 6 is the deadline so that our HomeSafe elves have time to go shopping.

- Mail your donation to HomeSafe, 2840 Sixth Ave. South, Lake Worth, FL 33461
- Go to [HelpHomeSafe.org](http://HelpHomeSafe.org) and make a donation online

## Change a Life

As 2019 comes to a close, keep HomeSafe in mind for your end of the year contributions. Your support will allow our much needed services to continue helping victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Contributions must be post-marked or made online at [HelpHomeSafe.org](http://HelpHomeSafe.org) before midnight on December 31 to count for 2019. In your planning, also consider naming HomeSafe as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance or IRA. Be sure to let us know so we can thank you.



## Thank You Gables Residential!

In October, Gables Residential hosted its Gables Day 2019 with more than 150 employees volunteering their time to help HomeSafe. For this day-long project, employees cleared landscaping and painted an existing wall that borders property on Lyons Road. HomeSafe purchased the property in 2017, and plans to build a state-of-the-art group home in the near future. This is the fourth time Gables Residential has graciously partnered with HomeSafe on their annual volunteer project.





**HomeSafe**

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## CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15



Pop & Motown Legends - **The Commodores** – with classics hits “Brick House,” “Three Times a Lady,” “Sail On,” “Nightshift” and so many more, will be the featured entertainment at our Classic Rock & Roll Party set for February 15.

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood is the venue for this high-energy fundraiser which includes a silent auction, dinner, open bar and private concert.

Nicko McBrain, drummer of Iron Maiden, returns for his seventh year as our celebrity host. Aggie and Jeff Stoops, along with father and daughter team, Steve Bernstein and Abby Bernstein-Henderson, are the party co-chairmen, who along with the committee, are planning for a fabulous night.

Tickets for the Classic are \$500 per person/\$5,000 per table of 10.

**Sponsorship Opportunities, Tables and Tickets Available**  
**[HelpHomeSafe.org/TheClassic2020](http://HelpHomeSafe.org/TheClassic2020)**

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