

HAPPENINGS

OUR MISSION: Creating safer, more productive lives for infants, children, young adults and families.

WINTER 2021



Lauren Stoops Prieto, Jeff Stoops, Aggie Stoops, Daniel Stoops, Jeanette Wetzel

\$5 MILLION GIFT FROM STOOPS FAMILY FOUNDATION WILL TRANSFORM CHILDREN'S LIVES

The Stoops Family Foundation's extraordinary gift of five million dollars is transforming the lives of abused and neglected children in Palm Beach County. At a gathering of HomeSafe supporters and friends, Matt Ladika announced the gift that will help HomeSafe build four new campuses across the county so that all children under its care for years to come will have a safe,

secure home and the spaces to heal from their physical and emotional trauma.

Aggie and Jeff Stoops spoke on behalf of themselves and their children at the dedication ceremony regarding their hopes for these children and their trust in HomeSafe to get the job done. Jeff shared,

"Aggie and I are fortunate to be able to give back to the community. As we consider where to make an investment, we look for organizations that do good and necessary work, that make a difference, and where our gift can make a real impact. That makes philanthropy much more satisfying."

Continued on back cover

WHAT'S INSIDE: HOLIDAY JOY | DEDICATION CEREMONY | CLASSIC ROCK & ROLL PARTY | ONE CHILD'S STORY

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Bringing Joy to our Children During the Holidays

HomeSafe team members pour love into our kids every day, and they work even harder during the holidays to bring extra joy and excitement to the children in our homes. Staff at our Sylvester Family Foundation West Campus in West Palm Beach asked the girls what they would like for Thanksgiving dinner. There were twelve different requests, and each one was honored. One child shared that her choice, green bean casserole, was a dish that her aunt used to make and it brought back happy memories of her family.

Living through almost two years of the pandemic, many of us know what it feels like to be away from our families for an extended period of time.

Being separated from the people that you love is always hard – but it is especially hard during the holidays. And longing for a home that doesn't exist anymore can be the hardest part of all.

HomeSafe is grateful to our donors and community partners who help make this time of year special for our kids. We thank them for creating beautiful memories for the children that will help them heal from their trauma and show them the magic of the holidays.

Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller

For ten years, Commander Isabelle Paul has hosted the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller Christmas party for all of the children in HomeSafe's residential program. Our children eat, dance, laugh, hula hoop, and watch magic tricks – and enjoy just being kids.



Jim Ballerano, Nancy Rickard, Donna Zoley, Karen Krumholtz, and Commander Isabelle Paul



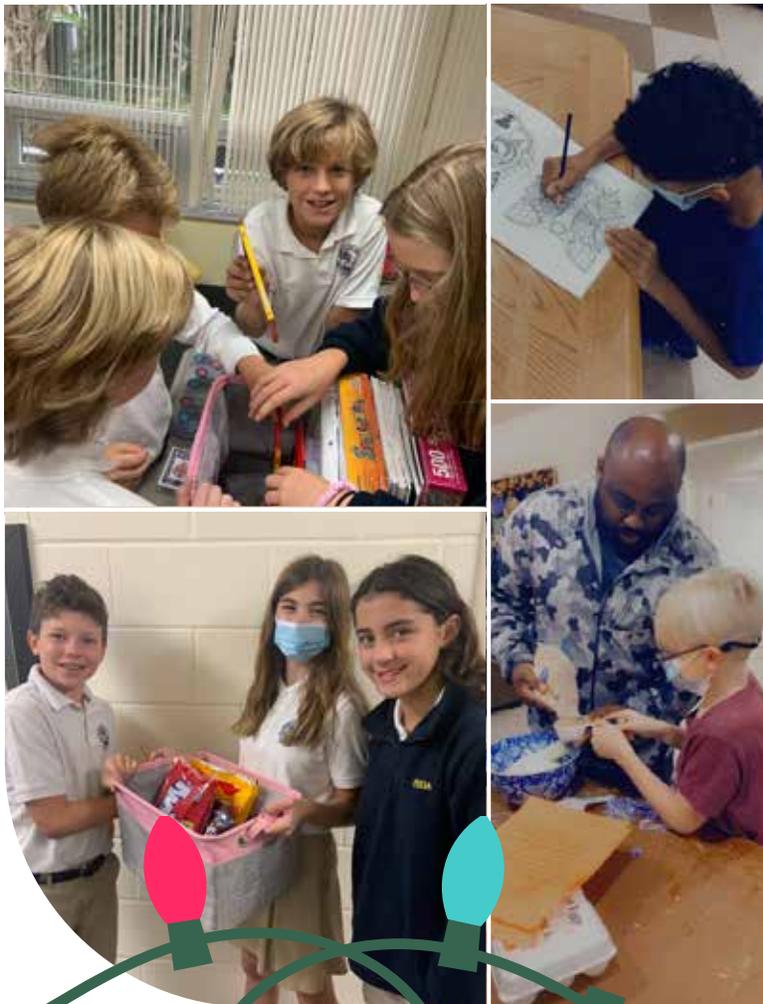
Alternative Motorcycle Club

The Alternative Motorcycle Club hosts an annual Christmas party for all of our kids. Every year, the children look forward to the barbecue, bikes, and epic burnout in the parking lot. The highlight is Santa's grand arrival on a Harley Davidson!



Palm Beach Day Academy

The fifth-grade class at PBDA adopted HomeSafe as their charity partner and they have been creating special goody bags for our kids to celebrate each of the holidays. For Christmas, they will provide ingredients for our children and staff to bake and decorate cookies together.



Kristina Saltzman and Bette Parsons

Over the past decade, Kristina, Bette and their amazing village of helpers have bought holiday presidents for all the children in our SafetyNet (domestic violence) program. To date, they have fulfilled holiday wish lists for more than 1,200 children.



Kristina Saltzman with SafetyNet supervisor Brian McCarey and therapist Idie Moreno

Additional Holiday Donors*

*Anchor Church
Archstone Behavioral Health
Emergency Nurses Association of PBC
Greater WPB Women's Club
Guardian Hawk Security (Lantana Office)
Harcourt M. & Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation
Hibiscus Quilt Guild of South Florida
Junior League of the Palm Beaches
Kindness Shared Happiness Squared
Novation
Spirit of Giving Network
The Manolis Family
Unity School in Delray Beach*

*(*as of December 3)*

Dedication Ceremony Honors

On October 28, HomeSafe supporters gathered at the Sylvester Family Foundation West Campus in West Palm Beach for the dedication of the Stoops Family Foundation Residential Cottage. Aggie and Jeff Stoops and their children were recognized for their generous, transformative \$5 million donation to HomeSafe to support children in the foster care system who have been impacted by abuse or neglect.



One of our children touring Chris and Jayne Malfitano and Mark Bideau around the Sylvester Family Foundation West campus.



Jeff & Aggie Stoops, Steve Bernstein



Lisa and Jack Langer, Lori Keezer and Steve Bernstein, Nancy Rickard



Jayne and Chris Malfitano



Commissioner Meli and Vice Mayor Gre

the Stoops Family Foundation



Jeff & Aggie Stoops



Rex Kirby and Kelly Smallridge



Matt Ladika, Bob Sheetz, Kathy and George Sullivan



Rob Vargas, Brandon Dorsey, Larry Gonnello



David Layman, Pat Rooney, Matt Ladika



Mike Mitrione and RaeAnn Mitrione

*Issa McKinlay
Egg Weiss*

Photos by Tracey Benson Photography

PRESS  PLAY

You're invited to
**The Classic
Rock & Roll Party**

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

**ENJOY LIVE PERFORMANCES BY THESE
THREE FABULOUS TRIBUTE BANDS!**

Aggie & Jeff Stoops
To be honored as
the HomeSafe Hero



ABBA Revisited
Dancing Queen
Take a Chance on Me
S.O.S.



Bee Gees Now
Stayin' Alive
How Deep is Your Love
Jive Talkin'



**Nicko McBrain's
Dodgy Enterprise –
A Bad Company Tribute**

PARTY CHAIRMEN - Steve Bernstein and Abby Bernstein-Henderson
CELEBRITY HOST - Nicko McBrain, Iron Maiden Drummer

DIAMOND PRESENTING SPONSORS



**Steven E. Bernstein
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**Stoops Family
Foundation**



PLATINUM SPONSOR

**Bob Sheetz &
Debbie Lindstrom**

GOLD SPONSORS



**SCHMIDT FAMILY
FOUNDATION**
PHILANTHROPY FOR A BETTER WORLD



helphomesafe.org/TheClassic2022
for more details, sponsorships and to purchase tickets

HomeSafe Helps a Child Learn to Cope and Manage his Trauma

Gabe* is a 10 year old boy who loves sports and video games. His favorite subject in school is math, and he proudly recites the multiplication table. Since coming to HomeSafe, he joined a little league football team and was thrilled to score his first touchdown.

Unfortunately, Gabe also had a very rough start to his life. In 2019, the Department of Children and Families launched an investigation after Gabe attempted to protect his mother from her violent boyfriend during a domestic violence altercation. They determined that Gabe was physically abused by this man, and so he was removed from his mother's care. Gabe was placed with his grandmother and then removed from her home due to her challenges with substance abuse. Gabe was placed in multiple foster homes – each not equipped to handle his aggressive and defiant behaviors that were the result of his physical and emotional trauma.

Gabe arrived at HomeSafe in January 2021, struggling with emotional control, verbal abuse of others, and engaging in fights. He lashed out when staff members or his therapist attempted to help him manage his emotions. With support from the extraordinarily patient trained professionals on the HomeSafe team, Gabe was finally able to trust, learn to cope, and manage his emotions. When faced with instigating behaviors from peers, Gabe has been heard



saying “it’s not worth it,” as he walks away from conflicts and negative behaviors.

Today, Gabe continues to work through his trauma, manage impulsive behaviors, and implement his coping skills. He strives to be a positive peer within the HomeSafe program. Finally in an environment where he feels safe and supported, Gabe is able to process his feelings. He is working toward the goal that keeps him motivated: being reunited with his two older sisters.

**Name changed to protect the client*

Guardian Society

HomeSafe

Developed to celebrate HomeSafe's most generous benefactors, Guardian Society recognizes individuals, foundations and corporations who have made lifetime gifts of \$50,000 or more.

HomeSafe celebrates

HollyJolly Foundation

David M. Layman

Pulte Family Charitable Foundation

our newest Guardian Society donors!



To view the list of Guardian Society donors or to learn more about HomeSafe's major and legacy giving societies, please visit helphomesafe.org.

together

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\$5 MILLION GIFT

continued from front cover

The nearly ten thousand square foot Stoops Family Foundation Residential Cottage at the Sylvester Family Foundation West Campus offers a beautiful home to twelve teenage girls and provides them with the safe, emotionally secure space of private bedrooms and bathrooms. The cottage has a kitchen, living and dining areas, therapy wing and a gaming area to create a comfortable home and social environment. The specialized therapeutic group home is designed to give children the help and support that they need to heal from their past trauma and find confidence in their future.

In 2016, Aggie joined the HomeSafe Board of Directors after she had been introduced to the agency by friend and fellow board member Steve Bernstein. Having worked as a social worker, facilitating foster placements and family reunifications, Aggie was uniquely qualified to offer her passion and expertise to help our kids. She has made a significant impact on the organization as a board member, event chairperson, volunteer and supporter. Knowing that the children we serve come from some of the toughest, most heart-breaking circumstances imaginable – and that HomeSafe is one of just five organizations in the state that provides this level of therapeutic care – she and Jeff decided to make this significant investment to transform all of HomeSafe’s campuses and build our endowment to sustain them well into the future.



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Save the Date!



Charity GOLF TOURNAMENT



ROYAL PALM
YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

Monday, June 6, 2022

\$500 per player | \$2,000 per foursome
Men, women & couples teams welcome

For more information, please call
561-383-9842