

HAPPENINGS

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

FALL 2024

Celebrating 30 Years in Boca Raton

HomeSafe gets ready to re-open Campus and launch Endowment Campaign

We are grateful for all those who, through their gifts and volunteer leadership over the decades, have joined with us to rescue children from trauma and bring love and healing into their lives. You are intimately interwoven into the fabric of our history. While our programming has evolved over the years to meet the increasingly complex needs of our community, our mission and vision have never wavered.

Thirty years ago, the Junior League of Boca Raton undertook the challenge to open a shelter in Boca Raton for babies and young children from south county, who were removed from their homes

and needed emergency shelter. The group worked tirelessly to secure the property on Ipswich Street, get approval from the city, and fund raise to make the facility a reality.

In 2024, HomeSafe completed renovation of its four residential group homes as strategically designed healing spaces for severely traumatized children. The campuses are structured according to the latest research in trauma-informed design—creating safe environments that anticipate and mitigate potential triggers for our kids, and maximize choice, community, and privacy. The feedback we have

received from our children and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, and the indicators we use to measure health and healing have improved in a relatively short time period.

Now that we have created healing spaces, we have the capacity to care for the most traumatized children in our community. As we move into the next era in residential care, we must focus on infrastructure and resilience to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Critical to our success is supporting and retaining our team of dedicated professionals who devote their lives to healing wounds and giving hope. In the coming weeks, you will hear about our campaign to build an endowment that will provide resources year over year to meet these challenges with confidence.

It is through your generous support that HomeSafe is able to significantly enhance and expand its programming to better serve the most vulnerable in our community.



Community members at the original opening of HomeSafe's Boca campus.

WHAT'S INSIDE: THE CLASSIC | EMPOWERING SURVIVORS | MAKE A DIFFERENCE | GOLF TOURNAMENT

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino - Hollywood, Florida

PARTY STARTS AT 6 PM

COCKTAILS, SILENT AUCTION, DINNER & CONCERT

CELEBRITY HOST Nicko McBrain, Iron Maiden Drummer
CLASSIC CO-CHAIRS Steve Bernstein | Abby Bernstein-Henderson

Kenny and Maggie Rosenberg
to be honored as the **2025 HOMESAFE HERO**

Sponsorships, underwriting, tables and tickets are available at helphomesafe.org/TheClassic2025.
Questions? Contact Chere at (561) 383-9842.

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Empowering Domestic Violence Survivors

On one Saturday in October, domestic abuse survivors from our SafetyNet program put their worries aside and participated in a celebration of their resilience, their beauty and their connection. The program included a fashion show, Zumba lesson, 360 Photo Booth, delicious lunch, inspirational words and gifts. It was a special time for the ladies to focus on themselves. Bellaney, an attendee, shared her thoughts:

I want to thank HomeSafe and all those who collaborate with the agency so that survivors of domestic violence can see another outlook of our lives. The only thing we have to do is recognize that we have a problem which we need help to overcome. When they offered me help, I hesitated a lot to accept, since my self-esteem was very damaged. I felt ashamed and could not accept that I had suffered from violence; but today I consider that it was my biggest and best decision in life, since today I feel empowered.



The ladies who enjoyed the day of beauty, empowerment and gratitude.



Marlene Rivera, SafetyNet Victim Advocate, plans this annual event which brings together current and former clients of the program to celebrate their strength and resilience as survivors.



Marlene with Chef Jose Ignacio Paredes who prepared paella for lunch and provided bags of groceries for each of the attendees, thanks to the organization Coromoto 2020.



Throughout the day, attendees participated in activities that allowed them to support each other, celebrate their successes, and even get motivated with some Zumba moves!



Current and former clients - chosen to help uplift their self-esteem - modeled the beautiful outfits by designer Johanna Restrepo - JR Design

Thank you to the individuals and companies whose support made the program possible:

- Chef Jose Ignacio Paredes and Coromoto 2020
- Marjorie Onoro Gema
- David Herrera
- JR Design by Johanna Restrepo
- Carlos Mario & Natalia Rincon from El Bodegon Supermarket #2
- Jayden Flowers & Balloons - Lanny Ortiz

Fulfilling Our Promise

Because of all of our generous donors, we have completed four newly designed campuses where severely traumatized children will find safety, security, and healing. In the next few weeks, our final project in Boca Raton will open its doors to twelve teenage girls.

Our community is experiencing a surge in children who are struggling with increasingly complex mental health challenges related to their trauma. The pandemic intensified

their plight as few were able to escape their abusive homes, exacerbated by ongoing economic, physical, and social pressures. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer places for the most troubled, traumatized kids in our community to live safely.

HomeSafe is uniquely qualified to rescue these children.

The trauma-centered design of our homes is making a tangible

difference, providing our kids with uplifting, safe, therapy and healing-focused living spaces.

Our two new Sylvester Family Foundation campuses in West Palm Beach and our reconfigured Simon C. Fireman Lake Worth campus (and we expect from the soon-to-be-open Bernstein Family Foundation Campus in Boca Raton) are having a remarkable impact on the children we serve.

Our kids have experienced:

- Higher rates of psychological and social functioning
- Improved school attendance rates and grades
- Increased self-reported improvement in behavior since coming to HomeSafe

Every child deserves a safe, loving home. As the needs in our community grow, we remain committed to expanding and improving our services so that no

child is beyond our reach.

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in making this dream a reality for our kids. Your support is not just transforming lives—it is saving them. Together, we are building brighter futures for thousands of children.

Matthew Ladika
Matthew Ladika
CEO



Above: Sylvester Family Foundation West Campus in West Palm Beach – Opened 2021
Left: Simon C. Fireman Campus in Lake Worth – Re-opened 2022



Above: Sylvester Family Foundation North Campus in West Palm Beach – Opened 2023
Above Right: Bernstein Family Foundation Campus in Boca Raton – Opening December 2024

Mother Finds the Strength to Leave Her Abuser

As a teenager, Beth found herself trapped in a relationship where fear kept her from escaping. Then, for a heartbreaking decade, she endured physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse at the hands of her partner. "I saved myself from dying at his hands, and stayed because he threatened to harm me if I left," Beth shared. She is a mother to two young sons, ages 11 and 4.

Two years ago, everything changed after a violent incident in front of her children. Beth found the courage to call the police, leading to her abuser's arrest. Despite her relief, she struggled with guilt, feeling responsible for his incarceration. However, through HomeSafe's SafetyNet therapy, she began to heal. It was here that Beth learned she was not to blame for the abuse, and for the first time, she began to feel empowered.

When her abuser was released, he

began stalking Beth, damaging her car multiple times. The constant fear for her and her children's safety led to another police intervention, resulting in the perpetrator being placed under house arrest, and allowing her to finally break free from his control.

As a single mother, Beth now works hard to support her children while navigating the weight of her past trauma and chronic financial challenges. Yet, despite everything, she remains determined to build a brighter future for herself and her boys.

Through the connections and support at HomeSafe, Beth is rediscovering her strength. No longer burdened by guilt, she is embracing her new identity as a survivor. Thanks to generous donors, including the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation's Christmas in

July grant, Beth was able to get the critical car repairs she needed after an accident. With reliable transportation now in place, she is moving forward, finding hope in each new step she takes toward a better tomorrow.



Guardian Society recognizes individuals, foundations and corporations who have made lifetime gifts of \$50,000 or more.

HomeSafe celebrates our newest Guardian Society members!

**Florida Panthers Foundation
Rochelle LeCavalier | Pink Palm at Douglas Elliman**

To view the list of Guardian Society members or to learn more about HomeSafe's major and legacy giving societies, please visit [HelpHomeSafe.org](https://www.HelpHomeSafe.org).

For more information about the Guardian Society, please contact Laura Barker, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (561) 383-9829 or LauraBarker@helphomesafe.org

End the Year by Making a Difference with a Donation

Every gift you make to HomeSafe provides children and families (like Beth's featured on the other page) with access to therapeutic services that help them recover from their past trauma and build a future for themselves full of hope and promise. There are many ways you can make an end of year gift and help transform the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. See how your donation directly funds the work HomeSafe is doing today:

- **A gift of \$250** allows a new child to our residential program to shop for decorations, bedding and toiletries, so that they can make their new bedroom feel like home.
- **A gift of \$500** will help one of our 18-year-old independent living residents start their college journey with a brand-new laptop. **Friends Society**
- **A gift of \$1,000** will help 30 victims of domestic violence and their children attend eight monthly group therapy sessions with free transportation, as well as dinners for their kids. **Fostering Hope Society**
- **A gift of \$2,500** makes it possible for one of our houses to take twelve children to a month's worth of recreational outings—giving them a sense of normalcy and the opportunity enjoy being kids. **Brighter Future Society**
- **A gift of \$5,000** provides 55 infants with a portable crib, sleep sack and safe sleep education for new parents, in order to prevent potential sleep-related deaths. **Champions of Children Society**

Ways to Give

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 ½ or older, avoid adding to your 2024 taxable income by designating a qualified charitable distribution to HomeSafe. A gift through your IRA maximizes your savings while also supporting HomeSafe in its effort to provide therapeutic services and care to the victims of abuse and neglect in our community.

Stocks and Bonds

By transferring appreciated stock or bonds to HomeSafe, you can maximize your impact on HomeSafe's mission while also receiving tax deductions from your gift.

Legacy Gift

Invest in the promise of future generations by naming HomeSafe in your estate plans. HomeSafe's legacy society honors those who have ensured HomeSafe will be equipped to offer quality and transformational care to the children and families in our community for generations to come.

Cash Donation

A tax-deductible gift of cash this calendar year is an easy and impactful way to directly benefit the lives of the children who have suffered from abuse and neglect.

To make your end of year gift to HomeSafe, please contact Laura Barker, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (561) 383-9829 or send back the included reply envelope.

The information listed is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

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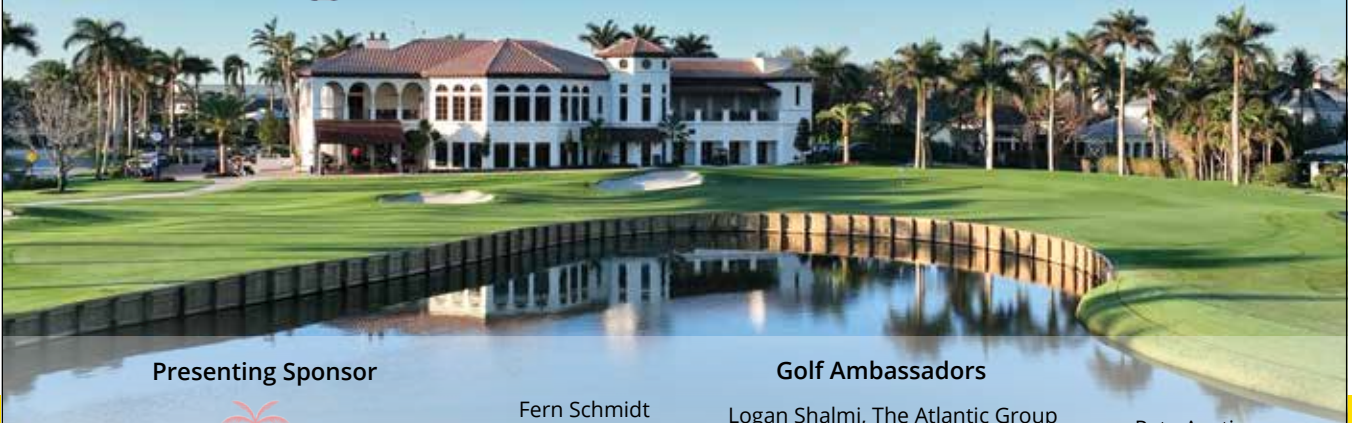
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