



HomeSafe

2024-2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**

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Dear Friends,

There is nothing that makes me prouder or more certain of our mission than observing from my office window a child who was once withdrawn, hugging one of our staff members; or a child who previously refused to attend school, happily walking to the school bus. The other day, one of the teenagers at our Bernstein Family Foundation Campus in Boca Raton led a tour of the home, and I watched her stand tall and confidently list the career paths she has chosen. I am proud of all our children who persevere and work through their trauma, even though the journey to healing is never straightforward.

Children and families in our community are facing significant challenges. They're struggling with financial pressures, lack of affordable housing, complex mental health and behavioral issues, increased isolation, and online pressure from social media—and we see the impact, firsthand, in the kids that come to us for care.

There are many traumatized children in our community. These kids are often emotionally unstable and at risk of harming themselves because of the pain they experienced in childhood. Earning a child's trust is a delicate task. Some children shut out love because they've been lied to and hurt before, while others protect themselves behind a wall of anger since it's the only safe emotion they have known.

That is why I am so proud of our clinicians and direct-care staff for choosing to work at HomeSafe. Their jobs are equally rewarding and heart-wrenching. Every day, they take on the significant responsibility of helping these kids learn how to open their hearts and trust others. Our caring staff dedicate their lives to supporting children who arrive in survival

mode, often scared and defiant. Our team members restore hope by providing gentle, loving, and consistent care. They help our kids realize that a brighter future is possible.

I am also proud of our board of directors. Their unwavering commitment and passion have made HomeSafe the organization it is today. Through their leadership, they've helped us complete a successful capital campaign that opened four safe, welcoming, trauma-informed campuses for our community's most vulnerable kids. Their support and dedication will continue to help us enhance our programming to create better outcomes, fund future innovation, and reach more deserving children and families in our community.

Finally, I am thankful to the broader community and to everyone who has supported us over the past 46 years. In my nearly three decades at HomeSafe, I have never been more optimistic about our growth and future achievements. As long as children in our community face challenges, HomeSafe will be here to provide comfort, fill in gaps, and change lives.

Sincerely,

Matthew Ladika
Matthew Ladika
Chief Executive Officer

In December, our board and supporters celebrated the opening of our reimagined Bernstein Family Foundation Campus in Boca Raton with a ribbon cutting. Pictured are: Rex Kirby, Laura Sylvester, Jayne Malfitano, Jeff & Aggie Stoops, Remy, Alex & Abby Henderson, Lori Keezer, Steve Bernstein, Maggie & Kenny Rosenberg, Rob Vargas and Matt Ladika.



Healthy Beginnings

HomeSafe is the entry point for children from birth to age five, to access the Healthy Beginnings System of Care funded by Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. This program promotes healthy births, identifies and prevents child abuse and neglect, and monitors childhood development – to ensure that every child in our community is ready to enter kindergarten.

Hospital Liaisons visit every maternity ward in Palm Beach County to screen moms and their new babies, referring those who might benefit to services that will help reduce stressors and risk factors.

While attending a workshop, Mom learns how to help her baby work on his motor skills.



Program Accomplishments:

The Outreach Team participated in **over 40 community events** across the county, including safe sleep education sessions, back-to-school events, and parent workshops.

The Healthy Beginnings Team conducted **"Ages and Stages" Playdates** — parent-child workshops designed to guide parents in promoting their child's healthy development through play. These playdates teach parents hands-on activities that foster growth and learning,

and equip them with tools to support their child's development at home. To ensure accessibility for all families, playdates are offered in English, Spanish, and Creole.



Recent feedback from a parent who attended a workshop:

"Thank you for taking the time to talk with me and for listening to my concerns. It felt good to be heard. All the information provided was excellent."

14,310 mothers who gave birth in Palm Beach County, were screened while in the hospital and received helpful information about postpartum depression and child development.



3,099 families with children under the age of five, received an initial intake or assessment, and were subsequently enrolled in services within the Healthy Beginnings system.



More than 386 families received safe sleep services. Each family was provided with a portable crib and educational materials outlining best practices to reduce the risk of sleep-related infant injuries and deaths.

107 families received car seat safety services, which included providing car seats for newborns leaving the hospital and educational materials.



*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.

Celestin

The Nestor family came to our Healthy Beginnings team seeking help for their daughter, Celestin, who was showing signs of speech and language delays. The mother worked part-time, while the father stayed home to care for Celestin. With our help, the family applied for daycare assistance and got Celestin enrolled in the proper services. Through the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation's *Christmas in July* initiative, HomeSafe was able to provide the family with a reliable vehicle, helping them move toward greater stability.



Residential Group Care

HomeSafe’s residential program provides a safe, warm, and homelike environment for abused and abandoned children, ages 7-17, who have been unsuccessful in traditional foster care placements. These children require intensive, trauma-informed therapeutic support and an experienced and compassionate caretaking team in order to heal and flourish.

At HomeSafe, our children engage in educational, cultural, and recreational activities that provide them with a sense of normalcy. Our therapists also help them successfully learn to manage their trauma, build effective coping skills, and guide them toward leading happy, productive lives.

One of our teenagers enjoying the process of decorating her new bedroom at the Boca campus.



Program Accomplishments:

Thanks to the Cleveland Clinic, HomeSafe launched a new **Art & Music Therapy program** for all of our children, providing a safe environment for them to express themselves and heal from trauma.

HomeSafe has increased accountability and **safety for our kids**, implementing a new rounding software that ensures timely bed checks and helps our team better understand children’s sleep habits, moods, and nighttime behaviors.

HomeSafe completed **our capital campaign** and opened our fourth reimagined campus in East Boca Raton—offering 12 girls their own bedroom and bathroom, and enrichment spaces.



Recent feedback from a child representative:

“I have worked in the dependency system for over 20 years as a case manager/investigator and now as a Child Advocate Manager for the Guardian Ad Litem office. I have never seen a better placement with a better outcome in all of my years doing this job. Thank you for your dedication to these children.”

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20 out of 28

children who were in our program for 6+ months progressed enough to step down to a less restrictive level of care.
8 moved to a less restrictive program
8 moved to a foster home
3 were reunited with a family member
1 aged out of the program

90% of the children who attended school throughout the year maintained an 80% or higher attendance rate. 100% of the children were promoted to the next grade level.



77% of the kids reported an increase in access to recreational activities including art and music exposure since being in the program.



82% of children believe their behavior has improved since coming to HomeSafe.



Jordan

At HomeSafe, our kids are building confidence and experiencing personal milestones that bring them joy and a sense of belonging. Jordan*, one of our teenage residents, attended her eighth-grade dance in a beautiful, bedazzled party dress. Staff helped put on her makeup and fixed her hair for the big day. Jordan radiated confidence as she felt truly supported and celebrated. Experiences like this create lasting memories and affirm for our youth that they are valued, deserving, and loved.

**Name changed for client privacy*



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Independent Living at Pond Place

For young adults who have aged out of foster care and still need support, Pond Place provides safe and affordable housing, mentorship, life-skills training, and therapeutic support at its Bernstein Family Foundation Independent Living Campus.

All of the students participating in this program are working toward a degree in high school, college, or vocational programs. Our goal is to prepare these young adults for life's obstacles as they transition into adulthood, and to help them achieve a future that is happy and self-sufficient.

One of our Pond Place young adults was awarded a scholarship from the Greater West Palm Beach Women's Club.



Program Accomplishments:

Rose, a young adult who has been in the program for almost a year, **graduated from high school** and now attends Palm Beach State College to study nursing.

The **IronBridge Independence Fund**, established by IronBridge Wealth Counsel, funded essential items for residents' apartments, electric bicycles for transportation, family dinners, and recreational

activities to foster community. Funding also enabled one young adult, Katie, to pursue her interest in aviation engineering and take a discovery flight with an instructor.



Recent feedback from a resident:

"Pond Place is a stepping stone to better things. I'm on my way to achieving my associate's degree - the first in my family to graduate with anything. I wouldn't have been able to do it without the help and support of the Pond Place staff."

16 young adults lived at Pond Place during the year, and actively participated in our independent living housing program.



All residents pursued an education at a high school or college.
Of those served:
13 attended Palm Beach State College
1 attends Florida Atlantic University
1 attends high school
1 graduated from high school

86% of the young adults contributed to a savings account.



63% learned valuable life skills by working a part-time job.



100% of the young adults who left the program this year continue to maintain stable housing.

Jacob

Jacob grew up in a turbulent home with a single mom struggling with substance abuse. Despite the deep trauma he experienced from being removed from her care, he was fortunate to be welcomed into the home of loving and supportive foster parents who taught him the value of an education. At Pond Place, he is working toward his bachelor's degree at Florida Atlantic University. He has invested time in therapy, learning how to cope and better express his emotions.



SafetyNet

For more than 25 years, SafetyNet has provided individual and group therapy, crisis intervention services, and court advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and their children. With the goal of breaking the intergenerational cycle of abuse, SafetyNet helps families heal from their trauma and find a brighter path forward.

The SafetyNet team plans yearly events designed to foster healing, empowerment, and community among domestic violence survivors.



Program Accomplishments:

The Mary Durstine McArtor Reynolds Memorial Giving Fund contributed funds to reimagine and replenish the children's **Play Therapy Room** – a dedicated, safe space for kids to work through their trauma.

In December, the SafetyNet team hosted its **annual holiday party** at the American German Club. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Tami Boden and many generous donors, 43 families went home with gift cards and presents.

Marlene Rivera, SafetyNet Victim Advocate, planned an event bringing together current and former clients to celebrate their strength and resilience as survivors. The women participated in a fashion show and dance party, allowing them to feel empowered and celebrate their successes.



Recent feedback from a survivor:

"You have helped me so much. With all your words, you have helped me to be able to move forward and to be able to cope with each day, and prove to myself that I can do it alone."

126 individuals received family violence-related legal services, client advocacy, or assistance as a result of the program.



40 children, teens and adults participated in art and music therapy programming funded by Cleveland Clinic.



87% of adults, teenagers, and children demonstrated an increase in adaptive coping, resiliency skills, and knowledge about safety planning and how to remain free from further domestic abuse in the home (evidenced by pre- and post-assessments).

99% of clients indicated satisfaction with services provided to themselves and their families.



Safe now

A mother and her three daughters came to HomeSafe's SafetyNet program after experiencing domestic abuse. What they found was a safe place to begin again. Through counseling and support groups, they started to heal, rebuild trust, and rediscover joy in everyday life. Today, their home is full of laughter and hope, and for the first time in years, they feel truly at peace.



The Power of Philanthropy

HomeSafe’s Guardian Society donors, who have made lifetime gifts of \$50,000 or more, are a unique group of philanthropists who care deeply about the well-being of our community’s most vulnerable children and families. These gifts transform lives and offer hope and healing to survivors of child abuse and domestic violence.

I support HomeSafe because of the love and healing the dedicated team provides to kids that have been through unfathomable abuse and abandonment. It gives the kids a place of being and hope for the future!

Rex Kirby, President & CEO, Verdex Construction

HomeSafe is more than a safe haven; it’s a place where the lives of children and teens are changed in profoundly positive ways. The people of HomeSafe lovingly protect and nurture these brilliant young people, providing them with opportunities to grow and flourish beyond their wildest dreams.

Tarra L. Moten, President & CEO, Tarra Enterprises Inc.

Gina and I believe in the vision of HomeSafe. Today’s youth is our future, and with all the programs and services HomeSafe offers, these children have a chance to develop and grow into productive, well-respected young adults our community can be proud of.

Larry Melby, CEO, Select Specialty Hospital – Palm Beach
Gina Melby, CEO, Alan B. Miller Medical Center



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The Sidney, Milton and Leoma Simon Foundation (Florida)
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Rebecca and Roberto Vargas
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Estate of Charlotte H. Waskowitz
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Zidek Family Foundation

♦ Lifetime giving of \$1M+
List of donors as of 6/30/25



Year in Review

Top Row: In December, we opened the newly reconstructed **Bernstein Family Foundation Campus in Boca Raton** which is home to 12 foster youth entrusted to our residential group care program.

Top Row Left: Steve Bernstein, Abby Bernstein-Henderson, Matt Ladika and Rex Kirby, President of Verdex Construction which built the campus.
Top Row Right: Nikki Stelzer, Jayne Malfitano, Pattie Damron, Bonny Smith, and Helen Ballerano representing the Junior League of Boca Raton, which helped open the Boca Raton campus 30 years ago.

Middle Row: Supporters enjoyed an incredible night of music at our **Classic Rock & Roll Party** - which was record-breaking with \$675,000 net revenue.

Middle Row Left: Co-Chairs Steve Bernstein and Abby Bernstein-Henderson with Celebrity Host, Nicko McBrain.
Middle Row Right: Steve Bernstein (center) presented Kenny and Maggie Rosenberg the HomeSafe Hero Award for their significant support of the agency's mission.

Bottom Row: Our May golf tournament at **Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club** netted more than \$75,000 to support our kids.

Bottom Row Left: Michael Gillen, Rochelle LeCavalier, presenting sponsor of the tournament, and Luc Desjardins.
Bottom Row Right: Tournament Ambassadors Logan Shalmi, Patty Larkin, Fern Schmidt, Pete Austin and Phil Procacci.

Financial Statement

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As of June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)

Assets

Cash and cash equivalent	\$2,066,546
Accounts receivable	799,191
Pledges receivable, net	2,248,642
Prepaid expenses	829,753
Deposits	29,178
Investments, at market	6,930,677
Split interest agreements, net	24,127
Property, plant and equipment, net	21,707,670

Total Assets. \$34,635,784

Liabilities and Assets

Accounts payable	\$198,182
Accrued compensation	511,538
Other Liabilities	1,137,827
Total Liabilities	1,847,547
Total Net Assets	32,788,237

Total Net Assets & Liabilities \$34,635,784

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES As of June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)

Revenue and Support

Program services	\$10,466,373
Grants	1,115,682
Contributions	540,601
Special events revenue, net	755,903
Other income	28,075
Investment income/loss (net)	284,441

Total Revenue and Support . \$13,191,075

Expenses

Program services	\$11,552,797
Management and general	945,843
Fundraising	1,013,403

Total Expenses. \$13,512,043

Change in Net Assets from Operations (320,968)

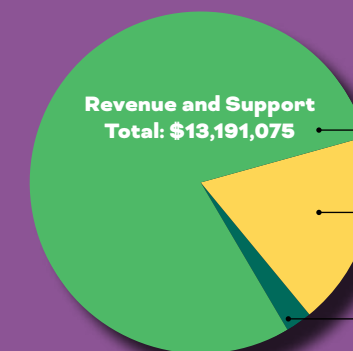
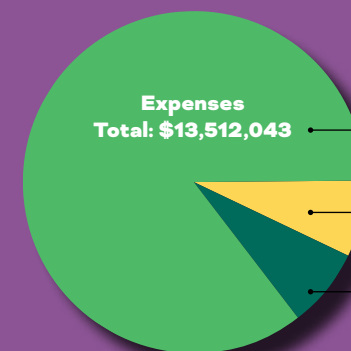
Extra Ordinary Income

Comprehensive campaign	412,465
Unrealized gains (net of exps.)	342,746

Change in Net Assets 434,243

Net Assets, beginning of year 32,353,994

Net Assets, end of year. . . . \$32,788,237



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Locations

CAMPUSES

Sylvester Family Foundation North
5130 47th Place North
West Palm Beach, Florida 33417

Sylvester Family Foundation West
654 Lyons Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

HomeSafe at Pond Place
Bernstein Independent Living Campus
3886 Pond Place
Palm Springs, Florida 33461

Simon C. Fireman Foundation
Main Campus
2840 Sixth Avenue South
Lake Worth, Florida 33461

Bernstein Family Foundation
680 Ipswich Street
Boca Raton, Florida 33487

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