

*HOPE, HEART & HOME*

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

NEWSLETTER





GET INVOLVED



HOPE, HEART & HOME

NEEDS

child placement court case worker plan  
heart Foster care support healing trauma home hope loved safe

FOSTER PARENTS

RESPITE PARENTS



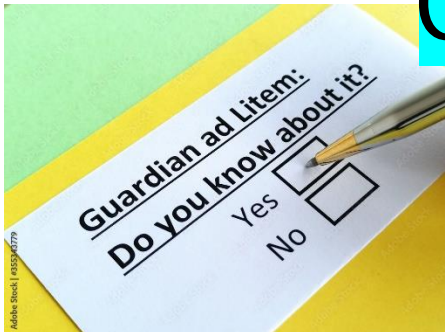
GUARDIAN AD LITEM

MENTORS

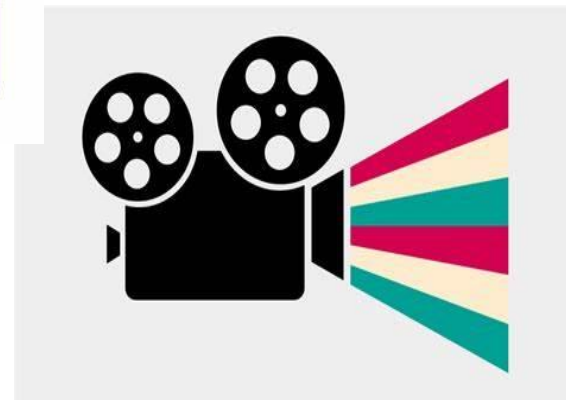
PANELISTS

IMPROVE DEVELOP TRAINING MOTIVATE COACHING INSPIRE

CAREPORTAL RESPONDERS



**IN THE NEWS:**



## *LOCAL FILM PRODUCER Collaborates With HHH-Casa Valentina Youth*

"Mr. Delimond, meet Mr. Deblinger!"

One of the joys of mentoring a young man is the gratification of introducing a mentee to a professional in his or her field of interest. This past week HHH was excited to connect 20-year-old MDC film student **Chris Delimond** with local award-winning filmmaker **Matt Deblinger**.



Chris was recently featured in the *Miami Herald's* "Wish Book" series which highlighted his dream of film-making. Chris was matched with Eric Schwindeman last fall through the *Casa Valentina -Home, Heart & Home Mentoring Program*.

Matt, a graduate of Mast Academy, Florida State, and UM Law School, has been directing films since high school. His classmates included Eric's son **Stefan** and HHH's **Karen Franklin** (FFCR Panelist). His latest release, "Python Huntress," a 19 minute short film documentary, opened to rave reviews this week at the Miami Film Festival.



Brought together by HHH, Matt and Chris are currently planning a collaboration on the *Oolite Arts Project* set in Little Haiti.

**HOPE, HEART & HOME** is committed to providing trained Mentors for youth aging out of foster care and has teamed up with **Citrus Family Care Network** to train & match Mentors with serious Mentees. Eric feels blessed to work with his Mentee, Chris, and very proud of his newfound passion for film production.

If you would like to explore becoming a HHH Mentor to work with a teen from **Casa Valletina, Genesis Hopeful Haven, First Star Academy** or **Citrus Family Care Network** - please contact Eric at [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com). You'll be glad you did - It's an experience of a lifetime!



# The Miami Herald

HOPE, **HEART** & **HOME** RESCUE EFFORT

## *HOUSE FIRE in Florida City*

### *DISPLACES FAMILY of 9*

#### *One hospitalized, 2 dogs killed*



FLORIDA CITY, FLA. (January 5) - - An early morning fire in Florida City has left a family of nine and their pets displaced and claimed the lives of two of their dogs.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue units responded to the scene of the blaze along the 800 block of Northwest 12th Street, just after 7:30 a.m., Thursday.

“Occupied house burning. Complainant is advising children are trapped inside the house,” a 911 dispatcher told first responders.

Cellphone video captured firefighters outside the burning home as heavy smoke billowed into the air....



**HHH**'s **Mary Walton** woke up to this story, Thursday morning, January 5. When she learned that the family of nine was in a DCF preventative program, she sprang into action. Single-handedly, Mary began to marshal all the community support from child welfare agencies, local government, churches, and faith-based non-profits. **HOPE, HEART & HOME** was proud to join a team that included the *American Red Cross*, *DCF*, *Citrus FCN*, *Share Your Heart*, *One More Child*, and *Safe Families* to support this family.

Mary led the way. Through her contacts, honed from her years as a Guardian ad Litem, she directed financial support to the family from the Mayor and Commissioner's offices, the hotel chain, the



funeral home (the grandmother succumbed to smoke inhalation) and the HHH CarePortal Response Team. Mary even went live on **WSVN Channel 7** to appeal to the public for additional funds.

Generous donations from HHH volunteers enabled **Valerie Van Ostran** to deliver over \$1000.00 in gift cards to the family to purchase desperately needed food & clothing. After the family got settled in a rental property, **Maria Jacques** and **Lorenzo Cosio**, working with a team of teens under **Panos Kourtesis** (*One More Child*), took truckloads of case goods to Florida City to help furnish their empty home.

Many thanks to **Mary Walton** for her on-going care of this family. The parents expressed their deepest gratitude for all the incredible support they received from HHH.

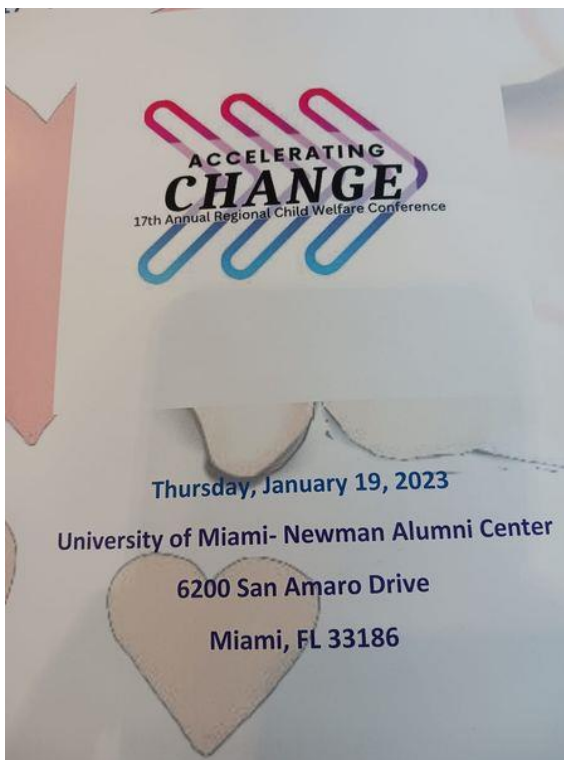




# *HOPE, HEART & HOME*

## *ATTENDS CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE*

*January 19, 2023*



**HOPE, HEART & HOME** congratulates **Bryttany Stringer** and her *Community Based Care Alliance* (CBC) team for an informative and timely **17th Annual Regional Child Welfare Conference**, held at the University of Miami, January 19.



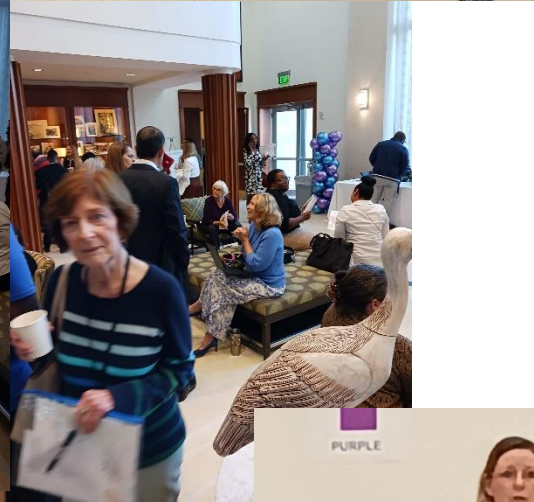
HHH sent 3 delegates: **Susan Dingler** (FFC Panelist), **Alecia Rodriguez** (GAL CAM, HHH Mentor), and **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL, HHH Mentor). Over 350 child advocates attended this meeting!

Great to interact with old and new friends including Citrus FCN's **Esther Jacobo, Marcel Rivas,**



Dayorsha Attis, Leslie Veiga , Roxy Llarena , and Kimberly Lopez), Gilda Ferradaz (DCF), Fritzie Saintorie (Genesis Hopeful Haven), Kadie Black ( Voices For Children) Jim Haj & Natalia Zea (Children's Trust), Attorney Jorge Ardura, and Judge Jason Dimitris (who will speak at our May 10 virtual meeting!).

Wonderful job by CBC Chair Alexis Leto, Vice Chair Allison Schild, and Margaret Julien, new 2023 CBC Chair.







JANUARY 9



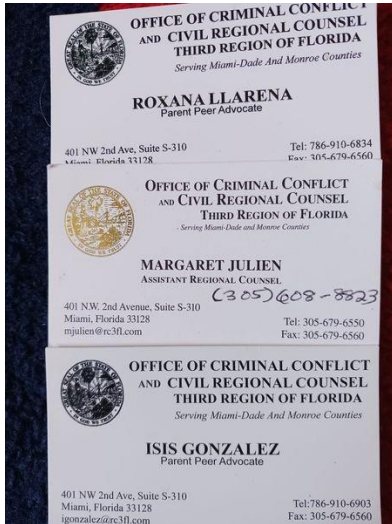
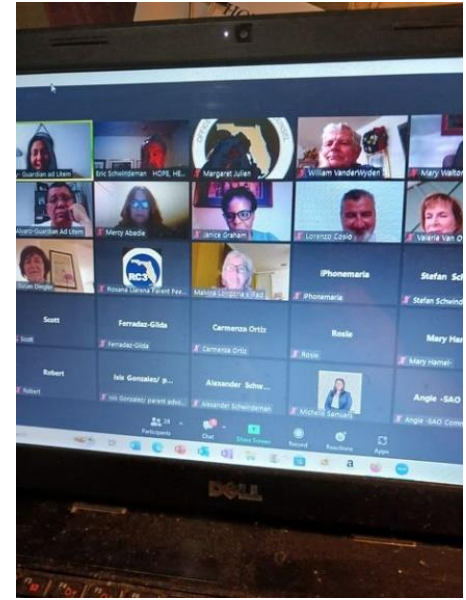
# HOPE, HEART & HOME Hosts Regional Counsel & Parent Peer Advocates at January Monthly Meeting



Thirty-five **HOPE, HEART & HOME** Child Advocates heard a different perspective on the dependency system at their January 14 meeting- this time from an agency that represents the biological parents.

Attorney **Margaret Julien** from the Regional Counsel's Office and two Peer Parents, **Roxanna Llarena & Isis Gonzalez** articulated the parents' point of view and the challenges they face when a child is removed from a parent's custody. "We're human. too," Roxana pointed out. "Sometimes people just make stupid mistakes."

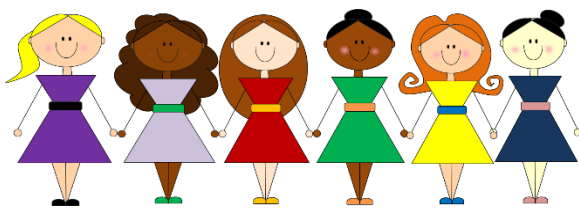
The system is designed to "re-unite families." HHH learned that for biological parents, that process is easier said than done. Thanks Margaret, Roxanna, and Isis for opening our eyes to their "trials and tribulations!"



Attendees included partners **Nadine Rolle & Michele Samuels** (Citrus FCN), **Patricia Abaroa & Mary J. Walton** (Guardian ad Litem), **Janice Graham** (Casa Vallentina), **Gilda Ferradaz** (DCF), **Angie Fernandez** (Attorney General's Office), **Georgia Downey** (Explore Foster Miami), and **Monica Vega** (Fire Pit Hospitality).

HHH Child Advocates included **Mary Abadie** (St. Louis), **Alvaro Bustos** (GAL-Our Lady of Lourdes), **Rosie Perez Lacayo** (Panelist, Holy Rosary-St. Richard), **Mike Carrier** (St. John Neumann), **D.K. Knox** (Little Flower), **Carmenza Ortiz** Holy Rosary St. Richard), and **Patty Wasserman & Family** (Foster Parent).

Also **Mary Hamel** (GAL - St. Louis), **Malvi Longoria** (GAL - St. John Neumann), **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL - SJN), **John Sennetti** (St. Augustine), **Michelle Merino** (St. Agatha), **Robert Fernandez** (St. Louis), **Bill VanderWyden** (St. John Neumann), **Scott Scovel** (HHH Mentor), and **Susan Dingler** (Panelist, St. John Neumann). Also **Maria Jacques** (GAL-SJN), **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL - St. Louis), **Danielle Yost** (SJN), **Stefan Schwindeman** (SJN), **Alexander Schwindeman** (SJN), and **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL, Mentor - St. John Neumann).







PARISH  
NEWS



**HOPE, HEART & HOME** had the great honor January 20 to review 2023 recruiting & retention goals with Father Armando Tolosa, parish priest at **St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church** in Kendall.

*The Men's Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast* held at St. Catherine's (shown below) is already collaborating with HHH on events in the child welfare system.

**HHH** is finalizing their "on campus"

orientation calendar in the *South Dade Deanery of the Archdiocese of Miami* for parishioners who want to support children in foster care. HHH volunteers become foster parents, Guardian ad Litem, mentors, panelists, and CarePortal responders.







**HOPE, HEART & HOME** continues to address the needs of foster families' requests on the CarePortal platform. Many thanks to **Dr. John Gentile, Valerie Van Ostran** and the **HHH Careportal Response Team** for the timely delivery of family needs, including diapers to a foster mother in Pinecrest (pictured below with the DCF case worker) and child's clothing to a DCF Caseworker in Homestead. These donations are made possible through the efforts and generous donations of our volunteers!

If you can spare some time & treasure to help meet the urgent needs of foster families, Dr. John wants YOU!!! Email [drjohngentile71@gmail.com](mailto:drjohngentile71@gmail.com) TODAY!

## DIAPER DRIVE

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF ONE MILLION DIAPERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED!

Our greatest need is diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

CarePortal

### Top 10 CarePortal Benefits for Requesting Agencies

1. Safe and secure process to encourage direct contact between trained responding churches and families in need, combatting isolation and agency dependence, and removing delivery burden from caseworkers
2. Tracking and reporting to ensure accountability and provide real-time impact data including research-based economic impact of every request
3. Each open request given custom link to encourage public sharing and advocacy without revealing confidential or identifiable information
4. Support and training from local and national experts to help increase response rate and maintain balance between request volume and response capacity in each local network
5. Potential for unlimited requesting agency users with flexible internal approval and oversight built-in (mobile app and desktop capabilities)
6. Geo-location technology automatically notifies closest churches to the family in need with built-in auto-escalate process
7. Responder organizations have unlimited user capacity with unique team-building and activation features, including a process for anyone anywhere to help meet needs

connected by





# Foster Family Appreciation Week

**Saturday, February 4th, 2023**  
**Foster Family Appreciation  
Week Kick-off**  
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Toy distribution  
21857 S Dixie Hwy, Miami, FL 33170

**Monday, February 6th, 2023**  
**Thank YOU for all that you do!**

**Tuesday, February 7th, 2023**  
**Town Hall Meeting**  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Dr. Dorothy  
Bendross-Mindingall  
Social-Economic Institute  
5120 NW 24th Ave, Miami, FL 33142

Join us and bring a friend interested in  
being a foster parent to be entered in a  
raffle.

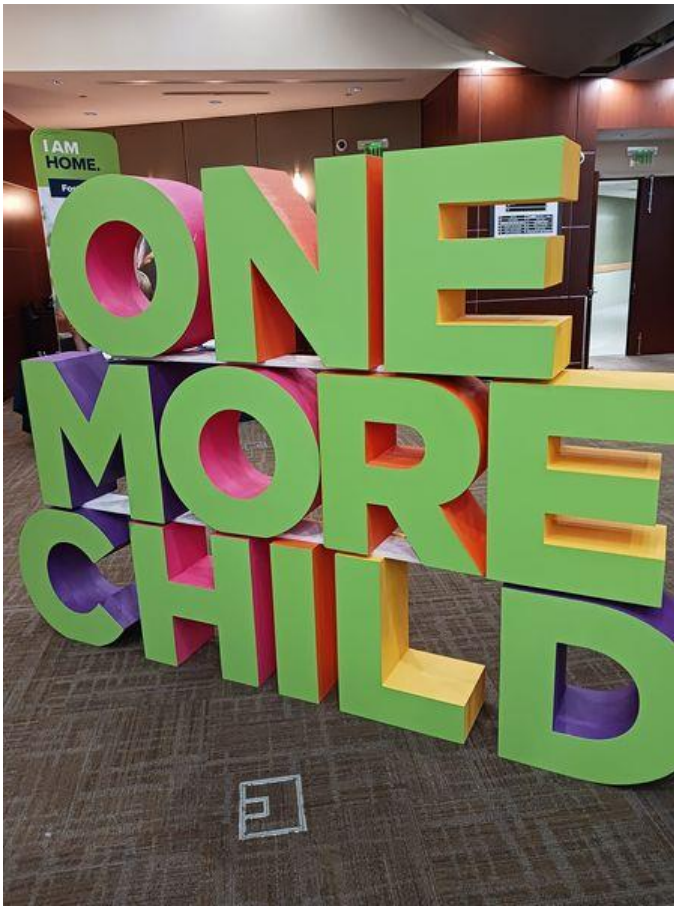
**Wednesday, February 8th, 2023**  
**Sweet Treat**  
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Milky Ways Cereal Bar  
17013 S Dixie Hwy, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

**Thursday, February 9th, 2023**  
**Dinner On Us**  
4:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Jammin Jerk (drive thru)  
3269 NW 183 ST, Miami Gardens FL 33056

**Friday, February 10th, 2023**  
**Let's Have Coffee**  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
Pinecrest Bakery (two locations)  
13488 Biscayne Blvd, North Miami, FL 33181  
18751 S Dixie Hwy, Cutler Bay, FL 33157







## HOPE, HEART & HOME at Foster Training

Excellent "Fostering 101" presentation by **One More Child's Panos Kourtesis** for 60 Child Advocates at UM on January 25.

**HOPE, HEART & HOME** sent **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL - St. Louis) and GAL, **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL, Mentor - St. John Neumann) to this faith-based conference.

Great to see partners **Georgia Downey, Fritzie Saintoiry, Gilda Ferradaz, Maria Pia De Castro, Juliana Albino, Trudy Petkovich, Freddy Gonzalez, Rey Vega, and Kele Stewart** among the attendees.

We met new **One More Child** partners **Julia Bruce, Joanna Lemasters, and Melissa, Jovan, and Ginnelle** who will be invaluable recruiting foster parents from our churches. Thank you for a great conference!





# meeting



### Primary Goals of Foster

- Offer loving, stable home to
- Provide physical, emotional, & needs
- Provide a healing environment
- Share love of Jesus Christ
- Support/mentor youth and b

... on journey to REUN

**FOSTER** Churches **Ready & Equipped to Wrap around** **FOSTER CREW**

ONE MORE CHILD +1

ONE MORE CHILD +1 PROUDLY SERVING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY





Places that hire teens:

- Wendys (16 years old)
- McDonalds (16 years old)
- Subway (16 years old)
- Pizza Hut (16 years old)
- Dominos Pizza (16 years old)
- Foot Locker (18 years old)
- Journeys (16 years old)
- MetroPCS (18 years old)
- Victoria Secret (18 years old)
- Dollar Tree (18 years old)
- Family Dollar (18 years old)



# TEENS!

**M**AYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK  
 BEYOND AN INDOOR COUNTER!  
 THERE IS A **FUN & LUCRATIVE**  
 OUTDOOR ALTERNATIVE!  
 BECOME A **PAID**  
 SOCCER REFEREE!



**Call Pedro Vilallonga 305-978-0496** to learn more!  
*Coral Estates Soccer Club* with Fields all over Dade County  
 Weekend Games that pay \$25 -80.00/game CASH!  
**Special Offer for Teens Aging Out of Foster Care**  
 Girls & Boys 15-17 yrs /old **LEARN - EARN!**







# BECOME A REFEREE



**REFEREES ARE IN HIGH DEMAND!!**

- GREAT PAY (\$16-\$40/HR)
- FLEXIBLE HOURS
- PAID BIWEEKLY

**GET CERTIFIED, GET ASSIGNED!**

**EMAIL US: REFEREE@UNITEDFA.ORG**



Scan the QR Code or visit our website  
[forsyth.unitedfa.org/referee-at-ufa](http://forsyth.unitedfa.org/referee-at-ufa)



**Referee Pilot Program**

14 to 17 years old  
On site Field Training  
Online Study Material





## HOPE, HEART & HOME

Hears Inspirational Talk  
from Syndicated Radio Host  
**AIMEE CABO**



Child advocates, who joined the February 13 **HOPE, HEART & HOME** monthly virtual meeting, heard a powerful testament to honesty, love, and belief from a parishioner at *Our Lady of Lourdes* and radio talk show host, **AIMEE CABO**. At age 15, Aimee was part of what the Miami media dubbed "the case from hell" -a sexual abuse case that pitted her parents against Aimee and her sister. To this day, Aimee credits her faith in God and the love of her support network for helping her through surviving child abuse.

"Despite the hurt, the evil I've seen," Aimee told 30 HHH attendees, "I knew God was with me! That's why your work with teens {in foster care} is so important. God wants us to step out of our comfort zone - he just wants our best effort." She called for renewed "faith-based" fostering and mentoring efforts with teens aging out of foster care. "Kids need your love!" She and her family plan to foster a teen in 2023.



On hand to hear Aimee's message were partners **Marta Torres** (Director of Licensed Care, Citrus Family Care Network); **Nadine Rolle** (Supervisor of Recruitment, Citrus FCN); **Gilda Ferradaz** ( Department of Children & Families); **Freddy Gonzalez** and **Rey Vega** (Hope4Kids); **Jovan Figueroa** (One More Child); and **Pedro Vilallonga** (Coral Estates Soccer Club).



Child Advocates also included **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL, CarePortal First Responder). **Rosalyn Hagley** (St. Louis), **Chuck Caldwell** (HHH Spiritual Director), **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL - St. Louis), **Jay & Ana Pierce** (Mentors-St. Louis), **John Sennetti** (St. Augustine), **Mary Walton** (GAL), **Maria Jacques** (GAL - SJN), **Mary Hamel** (GAL- St. Louis), **Paul Czekausk** (St. Louis), **Dr. Alecia Rodrtiguez** (GAL, Mentor), **Stefan Schwindeman** (SJN), **Monica Vega** (SJN), **Mike Carrier** (Operations, SJN), **Lauren Purba** (Web Site Administrator), **Rosie Perez Lacayo** (FFCR Panelist - Holy Rosary-St. Richards), **Alex Schwindeman** (SJN), **Dr. Danielle Yost** (SJN) and **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL, Mentor.)





Beautiful day at the *Festival for the Poor* at *St. Louis Catholic Church* on Saturday, February 10.

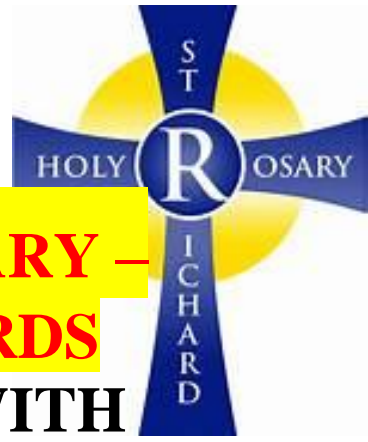
**HOPE, HEART & HOME** Child Advocates emphasized the need for more foster parents, Guardian Litem, mentors, panelists, and CarePortal responders to the thousands at the Fair.

HHH's gift basket, "Beauty in A Basket," raised over \$100.00 at the silent auction.

Thanks to **Pam Cosio, Maria Jacques, Mary Hamel, and Valerie Van Ostran** for its creation. Many thanks to **Lo Cosio** and his team of **Valerie, Mary, Ros Hagley, and Eric Schwindeman** who manned the booth and signed up volunteers!







# HOLY ROSARY – ST. RICHARDS PARTNERS WITH *HOPE, HEART & HOME* FOR VALENTINE'S !

Father Daniel Houde and the parishioners of *Holy Rosary- St. Richard's Catholic Church* (HRSR) have done it again! **HOPE, HEART & HOME** partnered with HRSR to deliver over **500** Valentine baskets to *Citrus FCN, One More Child, St. Ann's, Genesis Hopeful Haven,* and *Casa Valentina* for children in foster care.

The baskets were filled with love- toys, cozy blankets, stuffed animals, candy, and handwritten notes. Thank you, HRSR, for making

these children's day just a little bit brighter!

God bless you for all you do!





Special thanks to HHH's Rosie Perez-Lacayo and Maria Jacques for coordinating all the deliveries!



Have a wonderful day,  
I pray for you everyday.  
Believe in yourself. God  
will always be with  
you.  
Amen!  
Love,  
Lucca







## *HOPE, HEART & HOME*

*Featured at*

# **C***CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST*



Left to right: Back: Eric Schwindeman (St. John Neumann, Exec. Director, GAL and Mentor)  
Front: Pedro Vilallonga ( Youth Soccer Site Director, Key Biscayne Soccer Club),  
Malvi Longoria (SJN -GAL), Grato Paneque (Our Lady of Lourdes - Mentor Couple),  
Mary J. Walton (GAL, HHH Family Rescue), Lorenzo Cosio (St. Louis GAL); Rosie  
Perez-Lacayo (Holy Rosary-St. Richards, HHH Florida Foster Care Review Panelist),  
Valerie Van Ostran (SJN GAL, CarePortal ),and Maria Jacques (SJN - GAL)

*HOPE, HEART & HOME* were invited Guest Speakers at the MorningStar Renewal Center's *Catholic Prayer Breakfast*, March 13. Over 40 attendees enjoyed an overview of the Ministry's operations and initiatives presented by a panel of HHH Child Advocates.

HHH's **Malvi Longoria** spoke for the six Guardian ad Litem at the meeting, outlining how typical child welfare cases work.



**5** new HHH initiatives were also introduced to the audience:

- 1) **Florida City Family Rescue** - **Mary Walton**, ably assisted by **Maria Jacques**, **Lorenzo Cosio**, **Valerie Van Ostran**, and **Panos Kourtesis** of *One More Child*, described the delivery of 3 truckloads of furniture to a family who lost *everything* in a house fire on January 5. Mary thanked all the donors that allowed the family to move into their new home.



- (2) **Couple Mentoring** - a new platform for mentoring *Genesis Hopeful Haven'* teens aging out of foster care. Two couples who have started the program spoke: **Jay Pierce** (*St. Louis*) and **Grato Paneque** (*Our Lady of Lourdes*) described their passion for teens. Another couple from *St. Catherine's* is in the wings.

- (3) **Technical School Scholarships** - **Lorenzo Cosio** unveiled the creation of \$10,000 of grants earmarked for foster teens who dream of a technical

school education. Brokered with HHH partners, **LA6 Lucas Alvarez Foundation** and **Citrus Family Care Network**, Lorenzo plans roll-out these scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year!



- (4) **Youth Soccer Referee Program** - HHH's **Lou Confessore** (*St. Catherine's & Coral Estates Soccer Club*) and HHH's **Pedro Vilallongo** (*Key Biscayne Club*



Site Director) have secured a \$10,000 grant from the **Miami Kiwanis** and the creation of a referee training program for 60 high paid positions to our foster youth, aged 15-17. Partnering with **Marta Torres** (Licensing Director of *Citrus FCN*), this initiative has already attracted 18 applications.





(5) **Random Acts of Kindness Campaign** - piloted by HHH's **Maria Jacques**, announced a new phase of deliveries to our local foster families, commencing in April (*Child Abuse Prevention Month*). Families receive surprise visits from HHH volunteers with meals, toys, school supplies, and gift cards.

In February, **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** oversaw the delivery of 500 Valentine "Love Baskets" (prepared by *Holy Rosary – St. Richards* parishioners) to HHH partners, including **Citrus FCN, Casa Vallentina, St. Anne's, One More Child, and Genesis Hopeful Haven.**



To the 20 *Hope, Heart & Home* Child Advocates who gathered for this event:

**Valerie Van Ostran**  
**Maria Jacques**  
**John Sennetti**  
**Jorge Maduro**  
**Bill Vander Wyden**  
**Pedro Vilallongo**  
**Stefan Schwindeman**

**Mary J. Walton**  
**Rosie Perez-Lacayo**  
**Lou Confessore**  
**Grato Paneque**  
**Gerry Pecknold**  
**DK Knox**

**Lorenza Cosio**  
**Malvi Longoria**  
**Harriet Confessore**  
**Jay Pierce**  
**Raul Rodriguez**  
**Joy Knox**

Thank all of you for getting up at the crack of dawn (those of us still on "standard time") to join our group presentation of *Hope, Heart & Home* to the *MorningStar Prayer Breakfast*. Everyone who spoke did a *superb job* presenting the various facets and initiatives of the Ministry.



HHH would like to thank **Gerry Pecknold, Bill VanderWyden, and Bruce Goeser** for their kind invitation, as well as the **St. Catherine's Men's Prayer Breakfast, John Sennetti's Cursillo Group, and the Knights of Columbus Council 3369** for their valued support.







*Hope Heart & Home - Genesis Hopeful Haven*

## **HHH - GHH COUPLE MENTORING**

*HHH Child Advocates – Thank you  
for joining our team of Couple Mentors  
lifting up teens aging out of foster care!*

*Scott & Maria Byrd  
Grato & Miriam Paneque  
Jay & Ana Pierce*

*St. Catherine of Sienna  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
St. Louis*



**MARIAH VARGAS**  
*Program Coordinator  
Genesis Hopeful Haven  
305-396-1643*

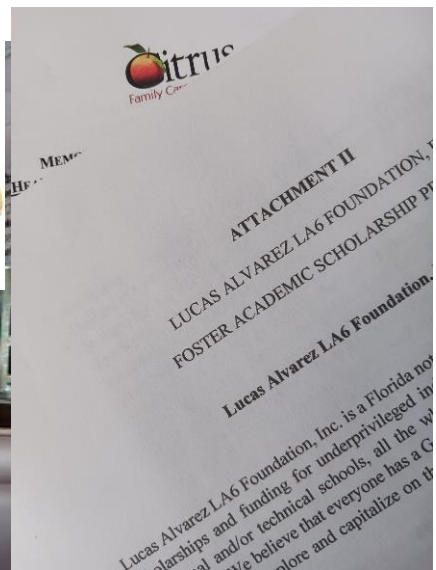






**Lucas Alvarez LA6 Foundation and HOPE, HEART & HOME** came another step closer to finalizing a scholarship program with Citrus FCN to support foster teens interested in attending vocational schools. A "memorandum of understanding" will be finalized in May!

Conferring February 22 ( left to right) was HHH's Executive Director, **Eric Schwindeman**, LA6 Founder, **Alex Alvarez**, and HHH's **Lorenzo Cosio**. All three activists are excited about the pending ground-breaking scholarships.



LA6 Lucas Alvarez Foundation, Citrus Family Care Network, and **HOPE, HEART & HOME** met again on March 30 to

review an "agreement in principle" to sign a MOU in May. LA6 will underwrite scholarships for teens aging out of foster care to attend a technical school of their choice.

Left to right: HHH's **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL), **Marcel Rivas** (Director of Licensed Care, Citrus FCN), **Eric Schwindeman** ( HHH Executive Director, GAL, Mentor), **Leslie Viega** ( Citrus FCN Communications Director & Special Projects Manager, and **Alex & Liz Alvarez** ( LA6 Lucas Alvarez Foundation, Founders).







# *HOPE4KIDS' GONZALEZ & VEGA*

*at March 13*

## *HOPE, HEART & HOME*

### *Monthly Virtual Meeting*

"Two Good and Holy Men" from **Hope4Kids** spoke at the **HOPE, HEART & HOME** March 13 meeting. **Freddy Gonzalez** and **Rey Vega**, both foster parents, told 40 child advocates their heartwarming stories of how they found the path to foster parenthood and how that led them to create **Hope4Kids**.

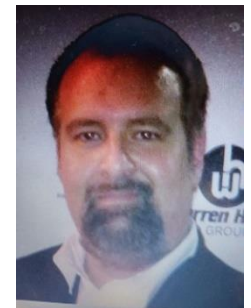
HHH is proud to partner with **Hope4Kids** as we continue to recruit faith-based volunteers to love and care for these children. "The Lord provides!"

Child Advocates who attended the meeting included **Patty Wasserman** and her family (Foster Parents), **Malvi Longoria** (SJN - GAL), **DK Knox** (Little Flower), **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL St. Louis), **Lou Confessore** (St. Catherine's), **Harriet Confessore** (St.Cath), **Chuck Caldwell** (St. John Neumann), **Bill VanderWyden** (St. John Neumann). **Valerie Van Ostran** (SJN - GAL, CarePortal) and **Grato Paneque** (Our Lady of Lourdes - Mentor),

Also **Alex Planas** (St. Louis -GAL), **Susan Dingler** (SJN -Florida Foster Care Panelist), **John Sennetti** (St. Augustine), **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** (Holy Rosary- St. Richard - Panelist), Newcomer **Nora** (HRSR), **Paul Czekanski** (St. Louis), **Maria Jacques** (SJN – GAL), **Mary Hamel** (St. Louis GAL), **Gilda Ferradaz** (DCF), **Stefan Schwindeman** (SJN) **Monica Vega** (SJN), and **Pedro Vilallonga** (Site Manager, Key Biscayne Soccer Club)

Also **Alexis Adams** (Casa Vallentina), **Mike Carrier** (SJN Operations), **Mary Walton** (GAL), **Jovan Figueroa** (One More Child), **Karen Franklin** (HHH Panelist, Florida Foster Care), **Alejandra Godoy** (Agape), **Rosalind Hagley** (St. Louis), **R. Michelle Merino** (St Agatha), **Alexander Schwindeman** (SJN), **Danielle Yost** (SJN), **Miriam Paneque** (Our Lady of Lourdes - Mentor) and **Eric Schwindeman** (SJN - GAL, Mentor).

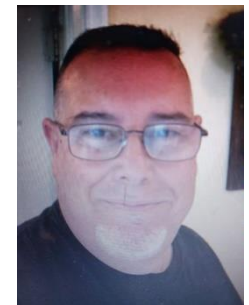
Thank you, Freddy & Rey for sharing your stories!



H O P E



K I D S





*HOPE, HEART & HOME's*  
**SUSAN DINGLER**

SERVING CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE  
Joins *Florida Foster Care Review* Roundtables



## Congratulations

to *Hope, Heart & Home's* Susan Dingler (*St. John Neumann*) who completed her Panelist training with Florida Foster Care Review and sat on her first roundtable review boards this quarter. Susan joins two other HHH volunteers currently serving with FFCR: Rosie Perez-Lacayo (*Holy Rosary- St. Richards*) and Karen Franklin (*SJM*).



**Congratulations, Susan! Welcome to the HHH / FFCR Team!**



# FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



**Florida Foster Care Review** partners with HHH to engage our Parish volunteers to advance the safety, stability, and success of foster children by serving as Panelists on review boards. These boards make sure the children are connected to essential services, supportive relationships, and permanent families. HHH is proud of Rosie, Karen, and Susan for the foster families they help!



Florida Foster Care Review was named **Outstanding Non-Profit Champion for Children** by *Florida's Children First* at their 2023 Miami-Dade Advocates for Children Awards. We are honored to have the hard-work, dedication and passion of the FFCR team recognized and celebrated.



*Youth in foster care need what every child needs: a nurturing family, a safe place to call home, and an opportunity to fulfill their potential.*



One of our **Guardian ad Litem** received this text message from a teen they represented on a dependency case:



I wanted to let you know that I got accepted into UF tonight!! I've been waiting to tell people until I knew for sure where I'm going for college, but I also got told last week that I am officially my class's valedictorian. UF has been my dream school for forever...I'm so excited and very grateful for all the people (like you) who helped me gain the support system that I now have - just know you're very appreciated.



**FLORIDA  
GUARDIAN  
AD LITEM  
OFFICE**

Become part of the *Hope, Heart & Home* team - **making a difference one child at a time!**  
Contact Eric Schwindeman [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com). Virtual Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month.

Visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ministryHHH>  
and our Website: <https://www.hopehearthomeministry.com/>