



HOPE, HEART & HOME
3rd Quarter 2023
NEWSLETTER

Volunteers Needed!



**YOU WERE BORN WITH
THE ABILITY TO CHANGE
SOMEONE'S LIFE.
DON'T EVER WASTE IT!**



**JOIN THESE CHILD ADVOCATES AND BECOME A
FOSTER PARENT, RESPITE PARENT, GUARDIAN AD LITEM, PANELIST, MENTOR, OR
CAREPORTAL RESPONDER. CONTACT HOPEHEARTHOMEMINISTRY.COM AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**





SOARING HEAT DOESN'T DETER
HOPE, HEART & HOME'S
HOLY SMOKE BBQ

Saturday, July 8



A week-long heat advisory couldn't stop Child Advocates from celebrating with foster families at a festive barbeque held at Holy Rosary-St Richard's pavilion and gardens. Chef **Marcus Costa** of BBQ Grill (St. Catherine's) donated, prepared, and labored over two charcoal grills to serve 72 kids, parents, and volunteers some 100 hot dogs and burgers at HHH's

Third Annual Holy Smoke BBQ for Foster Families!

The four-hour feast of BBQ, corn, coleslaw, chips, and brownies was organized down to the smallest detail by event Chair, **Maria Jacques** (GAL- SJN). Aided by a set-up crew of **HRSR Youth Group** teens and HHH's **Mike Carrier, Victor Jacques, Stefan & Alexander Schwindeman, Carmenza Ortiz, DK Knox, Mary Walton** (GAL), and **David Hamel**, Maria decorated the pavilion with balloons, banners, and bright tablecloths. HRSR's **Father Daniel Houde** and his staff of **Kathleen Smith** and **Coraly Maldonado** were on hand to share an invocation and greet the hungry crowd.

Marilyn Marasignan's HRSR Youth Group stepped in with music, lawn games, corn hole, tug-of-war, face-painting, and table games for the kids of all ages. Every family received a gift card donated by HHH volunteers and every child received prizes and gift bags courtesy of Maria and **Kimberly Lopez & Nay Bolivar** of **Citrus Family Care Network**.

This annual event was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, including **National Christian Association (Jessica Lancaster)**, **Columbiettes of St. Louis (Kim)**, **Leanna Roberts (HHH Hawaii)**, **Lucas Alvarez LA6 Foundation (Liz, Alex & Lance Alvarez)**, **Malvi Longoria (GAL)**, **Valerie Van Ostran (GAL)**, **Jay & Ana Pierce (Couple Mentors)**, **the Children's Trust (Aundray Adams)**, **Susan Dinger (FFCR Panelist)**, and **the Mejia Family**. Special thanks to **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** and **Christina's Party Rentals** for the huge fans and tablecloths.

Volunteers working the event also included **Marta Torres (Citrus FCN)**, **Grato & Miriam Paneque (Our Lady of Lourdes -Couple Mentors w/ Jainor)**, **Lou & Harriet Confessore**, **Scott Byrd (Couple Mentor)**, **Raquel Lacayo-Valle (GAL)**, **Mary Hamel (GAL)**, and **Dr. John Gentile (CarePortal)**. God bless one and all!





HOPE, HEART & HOME + HOLY ROSARY-ST RICHARDS
+ KIWANIS = 100 BACKPACKS FOR CITRUS FCN



SCHOOL SUPPLY Drive

Help children in foster care get ready for Back to school by donating a backpack(s). Drop off day is Saturday, August 5 between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM at the Parish Hall of Holy Rosary -St. Richard Church - 7500 Sw 152nd St., Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

6TH - 12TH GRADE
PENCIL POUCH WITH PENCILS, CRAYONS, GLUE STICK, ERASER, PENS, 3 RING BINDER, LOOSE LEAF PAPER, RED PEN, HAND SANITIZER, WIPES, TISSUE, AND A GOOD WISHES CARD OR DRAWING.

4TH - 5TH GRADE
PENCIL POUCH WITH PENCILS, GLUE STICK, ERASERS, SHARPENER, HAND SANITIZER, WIPES, TISSUE, RULER, COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK, RED PEN, COLORED PENCILS, AND A GOOD WISHES CARD OR DRAWING.

PREK -3 GRADE
PENCIL POUCH WITH PENCILS, CRAYONS, GLUE STICK, ERASER, SCISSORS, COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK, RED MARKING PEN, COLORED PENCILS, WIPES, TISSUE, HAND SANITIZER AND A GOOD WISHES CARD OR DRAWING.

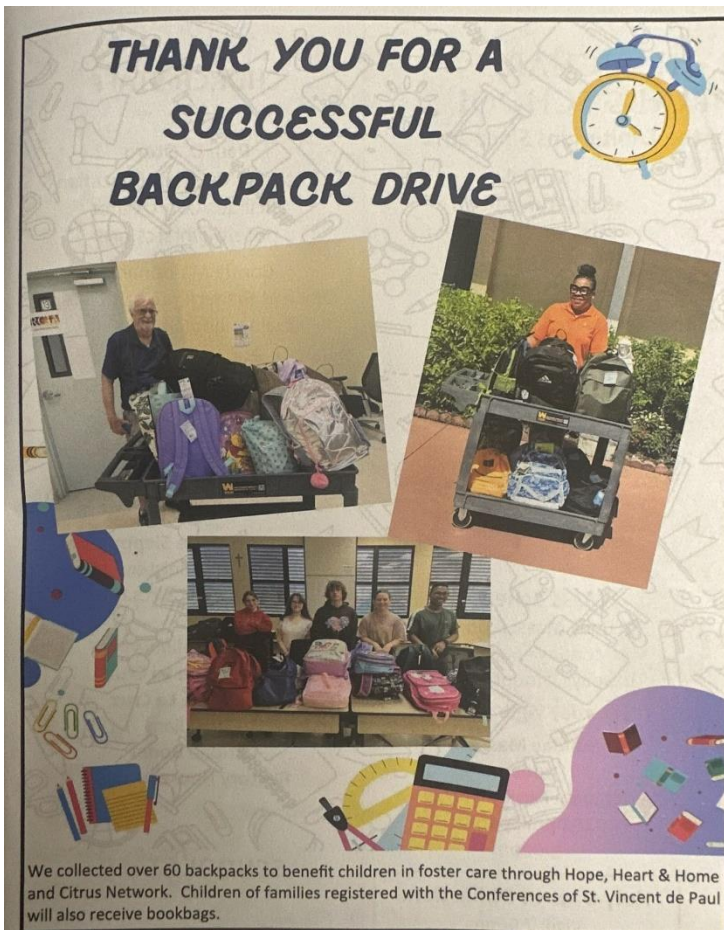
4 service hours will be given per backpack. We are also looking for 10 High School students to work on the drive receiving and organizing the backpacks, please call the parish office to register (305)233-8711 ext. 100 or 101. Service hours provided.



HOPE, HEART & HOME proud to partner with **Father Dan Houde** and the generous parishioners of **Holy Rosary - St. Richards** in this year's **BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE**. Over 60 loaded backpacks for children in foster care (for all grades) were collected Saturday, August 5.

Many thanks to HRSR's **Kathleen Smith** and her team of teens for organizing this event. Also HHH's **Rosa A. Perez-Lacayo & Carmenza Ortiz** for sorting the donations. All bags for foster families went to Citrus Family Care Network (Nadine Rolle's team) for distribution.

Holy Rosary - St Richard Sunday Bulletin, August 13 highlights the drive that sent 60 backpacks to Citrus FCN for distribution to children in foster care.



The **Miami Kiwanis Youth Foundation** contributed to this drive. They filled Citrus FCN's **Nadine Rolle's** van with school supplies for an additional 40 more backpacks!

A total of **100** children in foster care enjoyed the first day of school with all new gear! Many thanks to Father Daniel Houde and Kiwanis' **Chuck Little & Valerie Dacks** for making this possible! Blessings!





C O N G R A T



CONGRATULATIONS to Hope. **H**eart & **H**ome's Guardian ad Litem, **V**alerie Van Ostran, who was named "Child Welfare Professional of the Month" by Florida Foster Care Review!

Formerly an ER nurse, Valerie always goes the extra mile as a GAL to care for her kids in foster care - driving them to doctor and dentist appointments - to receive the services they so greatly need.

Val also co-chairs the **HHH CarePortal Response Team**, which meets urgent foster family requests for specific items like cribs, high chairs, car seats, diapers, shoes, school uniforms, and groceries.

Valerie currently serves as a Trustee on the **HOPE, HEART & HOME** Board of Trustees and continues her work as an invaluable asset to HHH and her community! May God continue to bless her love for these children!



U L A T I O N S !

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW 

CONGRATULATIONS

to **Carmenza Ortiz** (Good Shepherd Catholic Church) who completed the Florida Foster Care Review training program to become a Panelist on a **Florida Foster Care** Civil Review Roundtable. 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 Carmenza's tenacity and dedication! She joins HHH Panelists **Rosie Perez-Lacayo**, **Karen Franklin**, and **Susan Dingler** already serving with FFCR.

Welcome to the HHH-FFCR Team!



HHH SUPPORTING CAREPORTAL



CAREPORTAL:
Sunny Days Ahead
in Miami-Dade

HOPE, HEART & HOME Child Advocates heard an inspirational talk on how CAREPORTAL is helping foster families in Circuit Twelve October virtual meeting last night.

Thirty HHH Volunteers and Community Activists learned first-hand from two Florida Area Directors, **Danielle Wright** and **Courtney Ross**, how the CAREPORTAL platform has successfully united churches with specific foster family needs in their community.

The HHH Response Team, *Citrus FCN, Safe Families, and One More Child* hope to collaborate to expand CAREPORTAL presence to Miami-Dade.

CARE FOR EVERY CHILD

CarePortal creates connections within Circles of Care around isolated child. Families and churches are brought together to create a healthy approach to caring for kids. Because every child matters.

Circles of Care

The Child is our Why.

Community
Church
Family
Child

"A cord of three strands is not easily broken." Ecc. 4:12



HOPE, HEART & HOME Child Advocates continue to respond to foster family requests submitted through the on-line platform that connects children in need with people who want to help - **CAREPORTAL**. When you join this collaborative effort, you are changing lives, transforming communities, and reversing the foster care crisis in our state.

The HHH Response Team led by **Dr. John Gentile** and **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL) that included **Maria Jacques** (GAL, **Mary Hamel** GAL, **Mary Walton** GAL, and

Susan Dingler (FFCR Panelist) – has successfully united South Dade Deanery Parishes of the Archdiocese of Miami with specific family needs in our community. The response team delivered gift cards, school uniforms, water, and diapers to 7 foster families in August alone.

Please contact John at drjohngentile71@gmail.com or Valerie at g_vanost@bellsouth.net to join this amazing team!



connected by
CarePortal

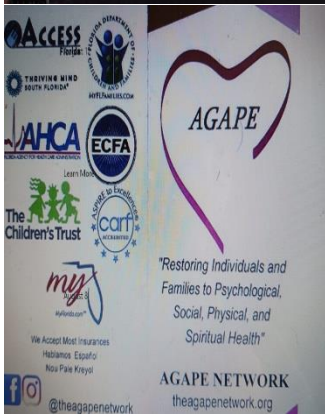
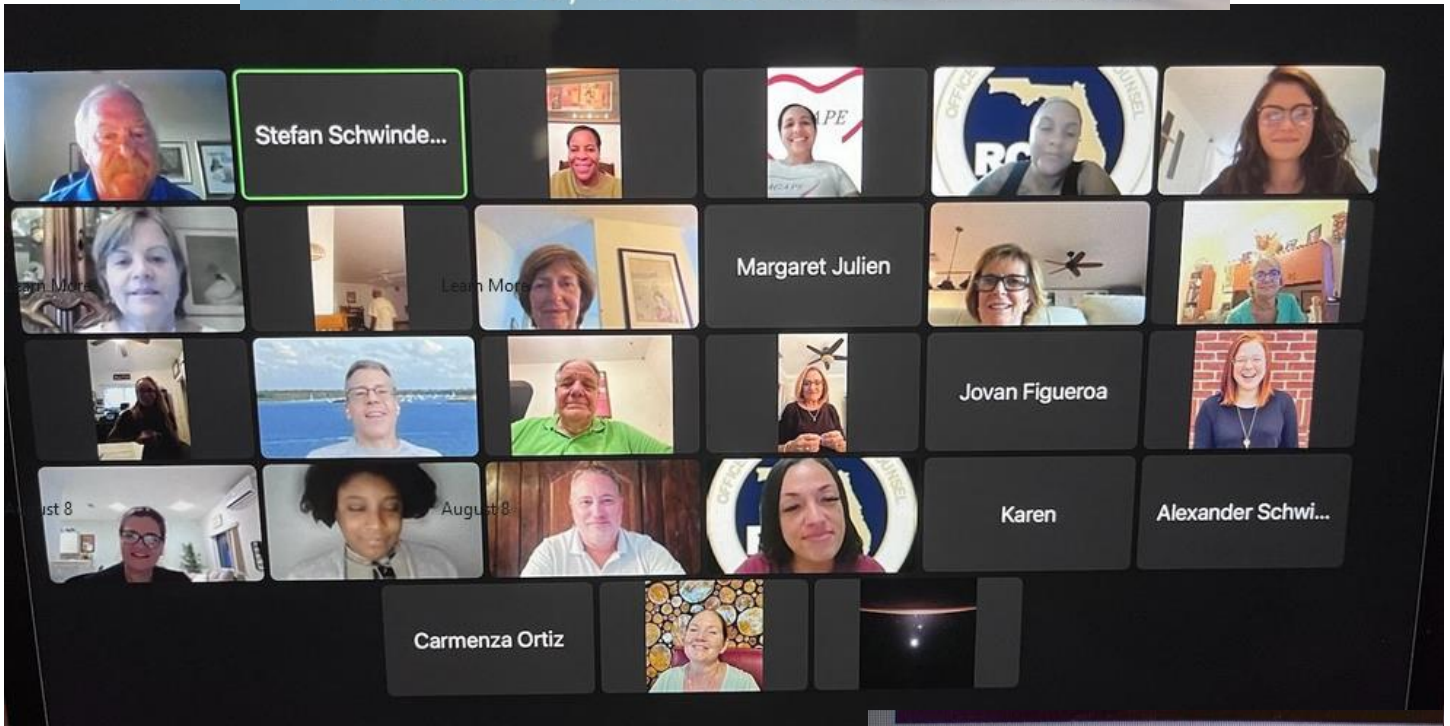




The Agape Network



RESTORING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH



Thirty-two **HOPE, HEART & HOME** Child Advocates heard from Outpatient Outreach Liaison, **Alejandra Godoy**, at their monthly meeting August 14 and were introduced to a new partner, **AGAPE NETWORK**.

Alex shared AGAPE's mission as a faith-based agency to serve the foster care community as a "preventative safe haven."

AGAPE pairs wellness and unconditional love with professional treatment and serves as a valuable resource to many of the advocates on the call.

Thank you, Alex, for your overview!

Agape Network's Residential Program offers a number of services that are largely directed at helping women and the cycle of addiction, domestic violence, joblessness, and homelessness. Evidence-based services include, but are not limited to:

- Psychiatric Services
- Medication Management
- Group & Individual Psychotherapy
- Spiritual Rejuvenation
- Trauma Recovery
- Co-Dependency Groups
- Relapse Prevention Groups
- 12 Step Program
- Case Management
- Life Skills Training
- Family Rejuvenation
- Physical Well-Being
- Mommy & Me
- Follow-Up After Discharge

We specialize in treating women referred by: Drug Court, Jail Diversion Program,

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CONTINUE!

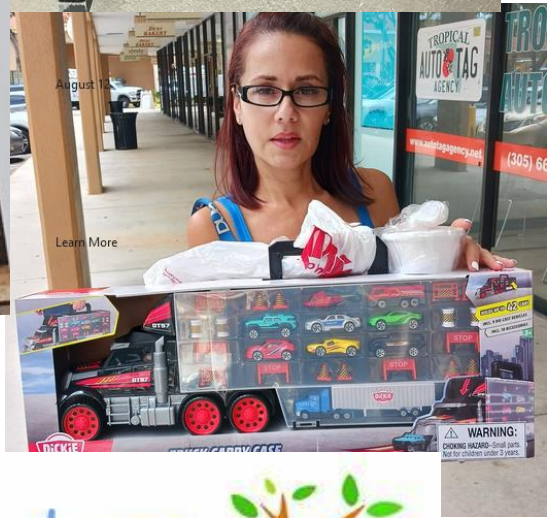
HOPE, HEART & HOME'S Maria A. Mejia Jacques & Team continued their "Random Acts of Kindness" Campaign this month with surprise deliveries of meals, gift cards, and toys to local foster families! Contact Maria at majacques@bellsouth.net if you would like to help with the next deliveries!

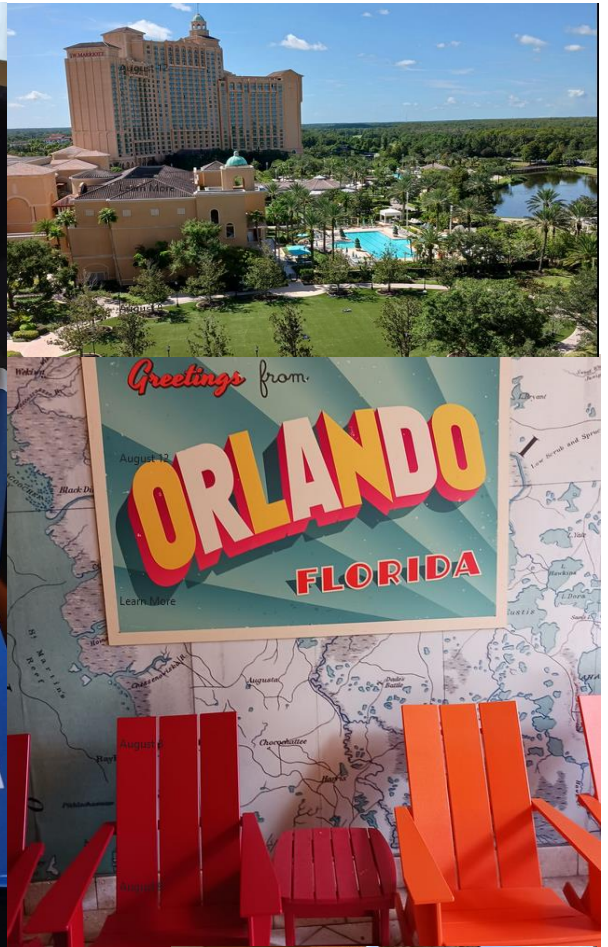


HOPE, HEART & HOME continues its "Random Acts of Kindness Campaign" with surprise delivery of food baskets, toys, and gift cards the first week of November to our foster families. Kudos to HHHH's Chair, **Maria Jacques**, for her on-going efforts!

If you want to nominate a foster family for the "kindness list," please contact Maria at majacques@bellsouth.net.

[Learn More](#)





HOPE, HEART & HOME was proud to participate in this year's **Florida Children & Families Summit**, in Orlando's beautiful JW Marriott & Ritz Carleton hotels September 6-8. "Purpose & Perseverance" was the theme as **Secretary Shevaun Harris** opened the meeting to thousands of statewide child advocates.

CITRUS FAMILY CARE NETWORK representation included **Maria Alonso, Esther Jacobo, Kim McGrath, Johnson, Marcel Rivas, John Antieau, and Leslie Veiga**. Also attending were HHH partners **Liz Anton** (His House), **Gilda Ferradaz** (DCF), **Kadie Black** (Voices For Children), **Erik Dellenback** (Florida Faith and Community-Based Liaison to the Governor), **Danielle Wright** and **Edvarado Archer** (CarePortal), and **James Drake** (Citykeepers).





HOPE, HEART & HOME

Honored for Distinguished Service!



HOPE, HEART & HOME honored September 7 with the **2023 Distinguished Service Award** for collaboration with and support for Miami's child welfare community.

The Worldview International Foundation cited HHH for its work with community partners, including the *Archdiocese of Miami, Citrus Family Care Network, Guardian ad Litem, Voices For Children. Florida Foster Care Review, Kiwanis Club of Miami. One More Child, CarePortal, and Genesis Hopeful Haven.*

Accepting the award for HHH were Trustees **Maria A. Mejia Jacques** (GAL- SJN), **Rosa A. Perez-Lacayo** (FFCR Panelist – Holy Rosary-St. Richard), **Carmenza Ortiz** (FFCR Panelist – Good Shepherd), and **Eric Schwindeman** (Executive Director, GAL, Mentor). HHH received the 2022 Outstanding Community Service Award from the *Florida Faith and Community-Based Advisory Board* last October.



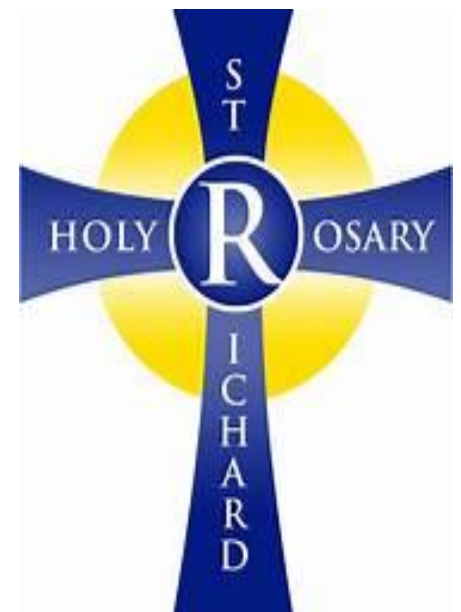
Holy Rosary - St. Richard Catholic Church ***FAITH INSTITUTION OF 2023***



Congratulations to **HOLY ROSARY - ST. RICHARDS CATHOLIC Church**, 2023's *Faith Institution of the Year*, awarded last night at the annual Worldwide International Gala held on a beautiful starlite night at the Rusty Pelican in Key Biscayne.

Over 500 community activists cheered as Father DANIEL HOUDE accepted the award on behalf of his parish's support of children in Miami's foster care system. Fr. Houde and Br. Kevin McGrady joined **HOPE, HEART & HOME'S** Board of Trustees Maria A. Mejia Jacques , Carmenza Ortiz, Eric Schwindeman, Rosie Perez- Lacayo, Kathleen Nelson-Smith and *Florida Catholic's* Marlene Quaroni at the festive dinner.

Many thanks to hosts **James & Heidi Drake** and guest author **Eric Metaxas** for a wonderful evening! And God bless the parishioners of Holy Rosary - St. Richard's for putting their faith in action!



Setting the 'gold standard' for helping kids

Holy Rosary-St. Richard Parish, Hope, Heart & Home Ministry honored by interfaith group

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Marlene Quaroni - Florida Catholic



MIAMI | **Hope, Heart & Home**, and **Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-St. Richard Parish**, once again have been honored for their “distinguished service” on behalf of children in foster care.

The recognition came from **Worldviews International (City Keepers)**, an interfaith organization during a dinner Sept. 7, 2023, at Miami’s Rusty Pelican restaurant.

“We were recognized for the hard work we do in the ministry,” said Eric Schwindeman, Founder and executive director of Hope, Heart & Home.

Members of faith-based organizations filled the upper room of the restaurant to receive one of five awards given to dedicated church groups. Trinitarian Father Daniel Houde, pastor of Holy Rosary-St. Richard Church in Palmetto Bay, accepted the award for his church’s collaboration with Hope, Heart & Home.

That support included hosting annual parish drives to collect backpacks, school

supplies, Valentine “Love Baskets,” Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas toys, toiletries and even blankets and linens for children in foster care as well as hosting a Holy Smoke BBQ for foster families for the last three years. Their efforts included recruiting foster parents after all the Sunday Masses and recognizing those who foster in their parish during Foster Parent Appreciation Month.

The beneficiaries of their work included the Citrus Family Care Network, Genesis Hopeful Haven, Catholic Charities’ Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program, Casa Valentina and One More Child.

“They have set the gold standard for every parish in the Archdiocese of Miami,” said Schwindeman. “Putting their faith into action.”

Father Houde said he is familiar with the foster care system since his family fostered children. Schwindeman, who was adopted himself and is one of four children adopted in his family, started the Hope, Heart & Home ministry in 2018 at his parish, St. John Neumann in Miami.

In December 2022, the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Council gave the ministry an Outstanding Community Service Award for meeting the needs of the vulnerable. That recognition acknowledged the ministry’s efforts to forge collaboration from Tallahassee to Miami-Dade County to help Florida’s 35,000 foster children.



“At this time there are about 1,500 children in the Miami-Dade and Monroe foster care system. It varies,” Schwindeman said. He conceived the idea for Hope, Heart & Home in 2018 after hearing Voices For Children CEO Nelson Hincapie speak about the huge need for Guardians ad Litem, unpaid volunteers who are appointed by the courts to represent the best interests of a child in a legal proceeding.

Hope, Heart & Home began by recruiting volunteers to act as Guardians Ad Litem. Guardians advocate for children in court and support them through abuse, neglect and abandonment. “Trained guardians often know more about the child than the overloaded case workers,” Schwindeman said. “They commit to 12 months of work. The court relies heavily on the guardians to get unbiased, real information from their interaction with the kids.”

Hope, Heart & Home volunteers also mentor children, recruit and support foster families, and serve on the Florida Foster Care Review Board. The leadership team is now spread across 11 parishes in the archdiocese's South Dade Deanery and beyond.

The ministry partners with several non-profit organizations to help foster children, such as Catholic Charities, The Children's Trust and Citrus Family Care Network, a lead agency for community-based care and child welfare services in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

"It's good to have all these people talking to each other, from politicians, church leaders and faith-based non-profits," said Schwindeman, a former professor and marketing executive. "The potential is there to help even more children and foster families. We just need to seize the opportunities. It's helping these kids out and giving them love that they don't get otherwise."

Every second Monday of the month, Hope, Heart & Home members take part in a zoom meeting where they discuss various concerns, listen to guest speakers, and hear from members who serve in different vocations. The organization also publishes a quarterly newsletter with information about the group.

Learn more about this organization at <https://www.hopeheartthomeministry.com/>

Holy Rosary Catholic Church at <https://hrschurch.org/>





A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME
WE HAVE RESTORED THE LIFE OF
+ 20,000
children

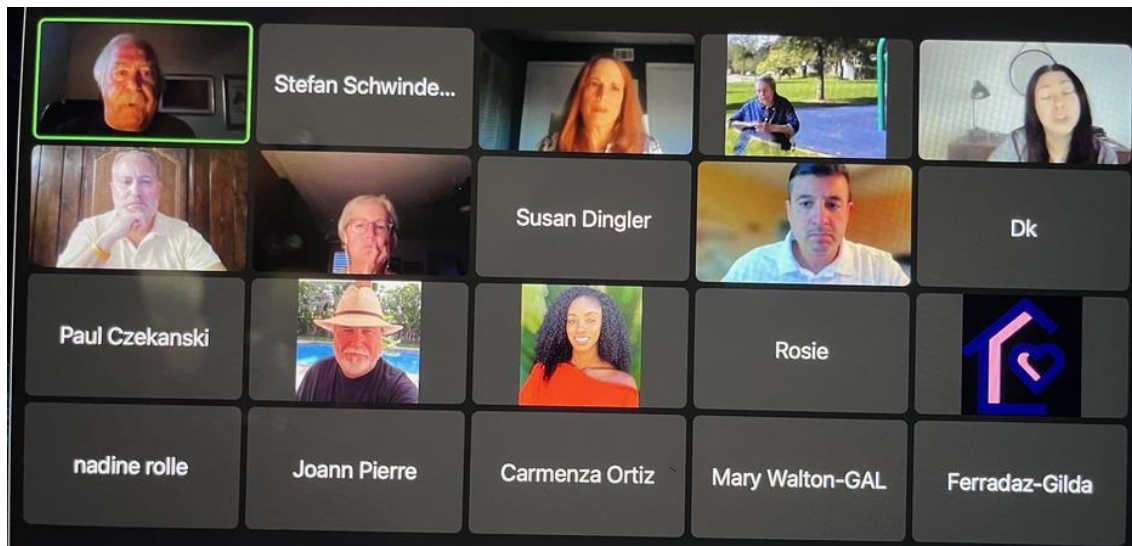
Liz Anon has been in child welfare for over 34 years. With a B.S. from FIU and a law degree from UM, she started in 1989 as an attorney for the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, which later became the Department of Children and Families. She began as a junior attorney handling dependency cases and was later promoted to managing attorney.

HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME

HOPE, HEART & HOME hosted partners **Liz Anon & David Castillion** from **His House For Children** at the September monthly virtual meeting held last night.

Twenty-six Child Advocates heard how His House serves 100+ international (UAC) and 62 dependent children with educational, clinical, and preventative programs on their north Dade campus.

In the weeks ahead, HHH will explore activities and events with Liz & David to support the children His House serves. Thanks so much for the informative overview!



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT FOSTER PARENT TRAINING
C.A.R.E. - CREATING AND RETAINING EXCELLENCE

ORIENTATION:
OCTOBER 30, 2023
FROM 6:30pm - 7:30pm
AT HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME

VIRTUAL CLASSES START:
NOVEMBER 06 TO DECEMBER 18, 2023
VIA ZOOM EVERY MONDAY NIGHT FROM 6:30PM-9:30PM

His House is a faith-based organization established in 1989 to restore the lives of children and families by providing excellent care in a safe, nurturing environment.
WE'RE RECRUITING NEW FAMILIES!
SIGN UP FOR OUR NEXT ORIENTATION IN OCTOBER

Please contact:
Dudly Decoste, 786-417-9782
CHANGE A LIFE, REGISTER TODAY!
foster@hhch.org



HOPE, HEART & HOME *Partners With* *University of Miami's* *FIRST STAR ACADEMY*

Hope Heart & Home Ministry had the pleasure to meet with **Professor Kele Stewart** (University of Miami School of Law) and **Maria Pia DeCastro** (Program Director) who oversee **First Star Academy**, a 4-year college prep program run on the UM campus for high school students in foster care.

HHH is excited to partner with First Star in the introduction of a Mentoring initiative this fall. Interested parishioners from the South Dade Deanery of the Archdiocese of Miami should contact Eric at eschwindeman@yahoo.com to learn more about the training program to become a Mentor!

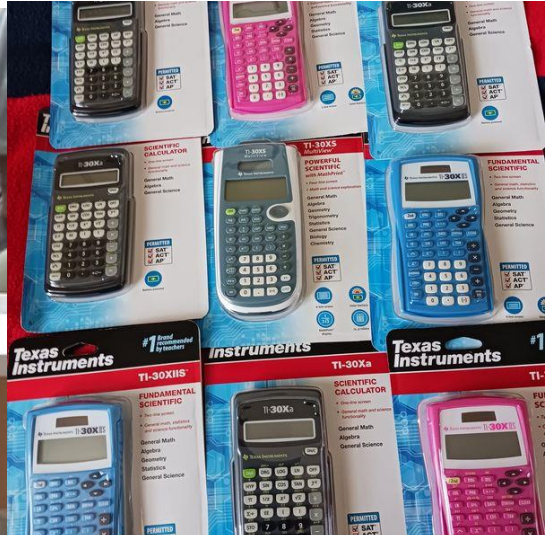




9/23 HOPE, HEART & HOME

visited the Whitten Center on the UM campus September 23 to deliver much needed school supplies and snacks to Professor Keli Stewart's **First Star Academy** morning classes.

Scientific calculators, mechanical pencils, and USB drives (courtesy of HHH volunteers including **Leanna Roberts, Rosalind Hagley, and Mike Carrier**) were well-received – almost as much as the 3 dozen "nutritious" donuts left for 35 hungry high school students in foster care. It was a privilege to meet these teens! Thank you for the warm reception! And thank you, **Keli and Travis** for the great work you're doing in these English, Math, and Life Skill classes.





Miami Kiwaniis & HHH Team UP!



HOPE, HEART & HOME met with the **MIAMI KIWANIS** Leadership team August 28 to collaborate on upcoming events for children in foster care. The Kiwanis club is celebrating a century of helping the community and local charities who focus on children.

HHH and the Kiwanis are, *for the first time this year*, teaming up to (1) provide 40 backpacks for foster children returning to school this fall; (2) recruit & train age-group soccer referees in Dade County; (3) support a basketball tournament uniting foster teens with law enforcement & first responders; and (4) organize a day on the water fishing off Black Point with 60 kids, including 20 from foster care.

Both organizations believe when you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream, and succeed - good things happen! HHH is proud to serve with the Miami Kiwanis!

KIDS NEED PEOPLE TO MENTOR AND CARE FOR THEM

Kids are curious, lovable and hilarious. They're also wild, impatient and vulnerable. Kids need people to look out for them so Kiwanis is there for them in every corner of the globe.

At Kiwanis, we are generous with our time, creative with our ideas, passionate about making a difference and we have fun along the way. Find out what Kiwanis is doing for kids in your community.

JOIN US.
Be part of nearly 150,000 service projects each year that make a difference in kids' lives. Since 1915, Kiwanis members have united to serve kids and uplift communities. Each year Kiwanis members dedicate more than 18.5 million hours in service and raise more than US\$100 million for local and global causes.

WHAT MAKES KIWANIS SPECIAL?

Member-driven clubs. Members choose the club's meeting times, leaders and projects by examining what members want and what the community needs.

Hands-on service. Building playgrounds, reading to children, mentoring kids, preparing and serving meals to families in need and more. Whatever communities need most, Kiwanis is there.

Global impact. Members can serve both locally and globally. In 1993, Kiwanis joined with UNICEF to virtually eradicate iodine deficiency disorders. In 2010, we teamed up with UNICEF again to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus from the face of the Earth.

Personal impact. Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund you can create your own personal legacy and impact.



HOPE, HEART & HOME is thrilled to receive a generous sponsorship for **CITRUS FCN's "Hoops4Unity" Basketball Tournament** (October 14 at Hadley Park) from **MIAMI KIWANIS YOUTH FOUNDATION**.

The Kiwanis Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this event that brings teens aging out of foster care together with law enforcement & first responders on the basketball courts!

The Kiwanis are also sponsoring a Fishing Tournament for boys & girls in foster care, ages 10 thru 16, on Saturday, October 28 at Black Point Marina.

See Flyers on next 2 pages:



LEARN - EARN !

BECOME A PAID SOCCER REFEREE

TEENS WANTED THIS FALL!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR BOYS & GIRLS IN FOSTER CARE AGES 15 - 17



CALL MR. PEDRO VILALLONGA
305-978-0496 FOR APPLICATION

Weekend Games at Fields All Over Dade
County that Pay \$20-75/Game CASH

The Coral Estates Soccer Club, with a grant from the
Miami Kiwanis Youth Foundation has teamed up with
Citrus Family Care Network, Hope, Heart & Home,
and the Florida State Referee organization to offer this
new and exciting program to Miami-Dade County -at
NO COST. Graduates will receive a complimentary
uniform. **CALL NOW!**



**Referee
Pilot Program**
14 to 17 years old
On site Field Training
Online Study Material



The Kiwanis Club of Miami, Tropical Anglers Club of Miami, The South Florida Sport Fisherman Club, Citrus Family Care Network, and Hope, Heart & Home are proud to present

2023 TAKE A KID FISHING EVENT



Saturday, October 28th 7:30 – 11:30 AM

Black Point Marina

24775 87th Ave, Homestead, Fla 33032

The Kiwanis Club of Miami will provide fishing rods & reels, ice, bait, water, and chum for this event.

Each child will be fitted with a life vest prior to getting underway.

All Boat Captains will remain within 2 miles of the headpin of the Black Point Channel.

Return time is 11:30 AM sharp!

Shore Party ~ 12 Noon

The Kiwanis Club of Miami will serve a grilled lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and soda at the covered pavilion across from the Marina.

All participants and parents are invited.

There will be a trophy presentation after lunch.



60 youth (10 to 15 yrs old) will spend the morning 2 miles out on the water fishing from 20 boats assembled by the Kiwanis, complete with fishing rods, reels, bait, and life vests! After the boats return, the Kiwanis will host a BBQ of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and chips for all the kids & their chaperones, followed by a trophy presentation.

HEIDI & JAMES

DRAKE

Star As

"Profiles in Courage"

at October 9

HOPE, HEART & HOME

Monthly Meeting



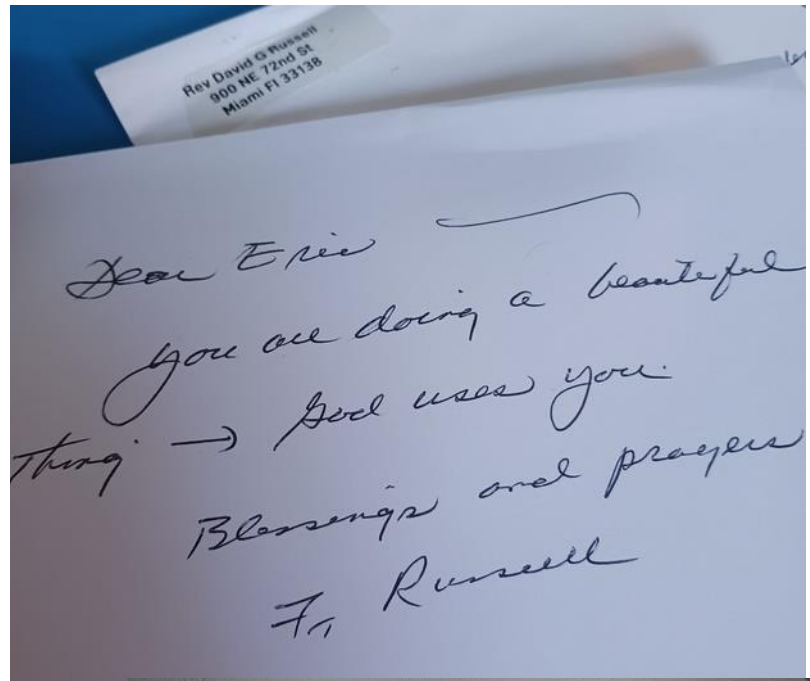
HHH was blessed to host **Heidi & James Drake** October 9 at the ministry's monthly virtual meeting. They both shared their passion about encouraging faith-based institutions to engage the child welfare community in Miami.

As missionaries, teachers, lecturers, chaplains, authors, and avid adventurers, the Drakes have traveled the world to deliver the message of love and hope of Jesus Christ. Their work with *Explore Foster Miami* is pioneering collaboration of faith-based stakeholders - churches & non-profits – with government agencies to support the 1500 children in foster care.

Parents of four children, the Drakes are also fostering a 2 yr-old baby girl named "Peace," a cutie the 41 HHH Child Advocates got to meet on the call. The Drakes hope to adopt Peace by year's end. On hand to hear their talk were *DCF's Violet Ryland and Gilda Farradaz, Guardian ad Litem Alex Planas, Mary Hamel, Lorenzo Cosio, Mary Walton, Mary Jacques, Valerie Van Ostran, Vivian & Wieland Uchdorf, and Dr. Alicia Rodriguez. Agape's Alex Godoy, Casa Valentina's Janice Graham, CAREPORTAL's Emily Hevener, Mentors Scott Scovel, Grato & Miriam Paneque, Vanessa Akiki, and Eric Schwindeman; Florida Foster Care Review Panelists Rosie Perez-Lacayo, Karen Franklin, Susan Dingler, and Carmenza Ortiz; Explore Foster's Georgia Downey.*

Trustees **Mike Carrier, Lou & Harriet Confessore, Kathleen Nelson-Smith. Also DK Knox, Stefan Schwindeman, Alexander Schwindeman, Monica Vega, Danielle Yost, Paul Czekanski, Leanna Roberts, and Minister L. Harvey.**

Heidi & James delivered an up-lifting, emotional, and truly inspirational message to the volunteers and partners of HHH.



Some kind words of encouragement received by **HOPE, HEART & HOME** from clergy, partners, and parishioners as we strengthen our presence in our faith-based community coalition - supporting children in foster care! The HHH Ministry thanks all of you!



Good morning Eric,



I hope all is well. On behalf of First Star at UM, I wanted to thank you for the goodies you brought for our students. The calculators, flash drives and supplies you brought are very helpful to our youth. Thank you for your continued support. Best Regards,

Maria Pia De Castro, Ed. D

Program Director
First Star University of Miami Academy



Hello Eric and Kele,

Excited about this partnership!

Thank you for all you do to make a positive impact in the lives of those in need.

Kind Regards.

Marta O. Torres, LCSW
Director of Licensed Care
Citrus Family Care Network



Eric and Hope, Heart & Home,

What a wonderful email. We also received your kind card in the mail.

Thank you for all you do and stand for!

Keep Pressing On - Phil 3:14,

James Drake // President I

City Keepers – Connecting Donors with Doers

Congratulations to you, Eric, and to all who make Hope, Heart & Home thrive for the community!



William P. VanderWyden, Esq.
Assistant Dean for Professional Development,
Retired 2021
University of Miami School of Law

wvanderwyden@law.miami.edu OR
w.vanderwyden@miami.edu

Congratulations! Thank you for all you do for our children and

TOGETHER WE ARE



ACCOUNTABLE • VALUED
EMPOWERED • DETERMINED
TRANSPARENT • OPTIMISTIC
ENGAGED • COLLABORATIVE
IDEAL TEAM PLAYERS

Gilda P. Ferradaz

Circuit Community Development
Administrator/Southern Region
Office of Child & Family Well-Being
Department of Children and Families
305-218-9498

HOPE, **H**EART & **H**OME is partnering with **LA6 Alvarez Foundation** & **Citrus Family Care Network** to offer scholarships this fall to teens - boys & girls -aging out of foster care to enroll in **technical schools**. This says it all!



Parents: If your teen-early 20's son is not interested in going to college make sure he knows the huge opportunities in trades right now. Young men can apprentice in plumbing, electrical, HVAC and welding and after 2 years be making great money. 3-5 years after that he can start his own business and hire guys who will be flooding into those fields. Those who get in now are gonna reap huge rewards. The self-esteem of being skilled at a craft in demand and the financial security of steady income at a young age and no college debt. College is not for everyone but every house in America relies on the trades!



THANK YOU

FLORIDA Catholic

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS!



HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY

to *HOPE, HEART & HOME*

October 2018 - October 2023

*A Faith-Based Community Coalition
Supporting Children in Foster Care*



