

HOPE, HEART & HOME

3rd Quarter 2025

NEWSLETTER





WHO WE ARE !

HOPE, **H**EART & **H**OME IS A FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY COALITION RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR CATHOLIC AND INTER-FAITH COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT FOSTER CHILDREN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

WE **S**USTAIN AND **R**ETAIN FOSTER FAMILIES BY PARTNERING IN LOCAL EVENTS AND BY SERVING AS **F**OSTER PARENTS,

RESPITE PARENTS, **M**ENTORS, **G**UARDIAN AD LITEM, **P**ANELISTS, AND **C**AREPORTAL **F**IRST RESPONDERS.



WE HOST MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS ON THE **S**ECOND **M**ONDAY OF EVERY **M**ONTH WITH EDUCATIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS THAT INTRODUCE OUR CHILD ADVOCATES TO EVERY FACET OF **O**UR **C**HILD **W**ELFARE **C**OMMUNITY.

Visit us at www.hopeheartthomeministry.com

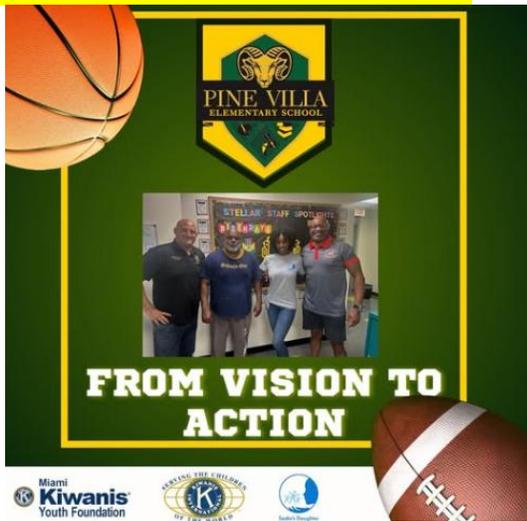


HOPE
HEART
HOME



SADIE'S DAUGHTER:

VISION TO ACTION



Pine Villa Elementary School's youngsters in Homestead celebrated a significant milestone July 1 with the unveiling of their new flag football uniforms, generously provided by the [Kiwanis Club of Miami](#).

[Dr. Alecia Rodriguez](#) of [Sadie's Daughter Foundation](#) and [Eric Schwindeman](#) of [Hope Heart & Home](#) Ministry worked with Principal Pascal, Coach Bennett, and Angus Charles (Done Right Athletics) to outline the summer schedule.

Uniforms were fitted for players across all age groups, and the coed team is poised to make a sharp impression this season with their new attire.





HOPE, HEART & HOME partners with the **Kiwanis Club of Miami** to support children in foster care through organizations like Citrus Family Care Network, His House For Children, First Star Academy, and Random Acts of Kindness. Upcoming initiatives include back-to-school drives, Take a Kid Fishing Day, Hoops For Unity, Field Trips, and the Holy Smoke Barbeque. Thank you, Kiwanis, for positively impacting these children's lives—kids truly benefit from your dedication and support.





Kiwanis Club of Miami donates \$200K to S. Florida charities

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

The Kiwanis Club of Miami, one of the oldest Kiwanis clubs in Florida, recently donated \$200,000 to 15 charities for sports and recreational programs throughout South Florida.

During the past 26 years the Kiwanis Club of Miami has distributed — through its Miami Kiwanis Youth Foundation — approximately \$2.6 million.

“We are very much aware of the challenges the charitable community faces with the significant impact of inflation on their missions,” said Chuck Little, Kiwanis Club of Miami treasurer. “We’re blessed to be able to do our part to provide a significant boost to help their efforts to provide the best recreational activities we can for our youth. Especially over the past five years, we have focused on expanding our efforts to new charities serving the needs of our community. This is the focus of our continuing and primary investment in our youth and our South Florida community.”

Founded in 1921, Kendall-based Kiwanis Club of Miami has been distributing funds for youth sports and recreational activities since 2000. Paul

Zee, a South Florida contractor and longtime member of the club, left money in his will to fund the Miami Kiwanis Youth Foundation.

Organizations receiving grants this year are: Junior Orange Bowl Committee, Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade, Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, YMCA of South Florida, Chapman Partnership, Kiwanis Club of Little Havana Foundation, Richmond Perrine Optimist Club, Children’s Resource Center, Cutler Ridge Soccer Club, South Miami Grey Ghosts, Sadie’s Daughter, Cristina’s Academy, Coconut Grove Preparatory Optimists, Ives Estates Optimist Club, and Greater Miami & South Florida Youth & Community.

The Kiwanis Club of Miami is part of Kiwanis International, a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. With more than 7,000 clubs in 80 countries representing more than 550,000 members, Kiwanis clubs host nearly 150,000 service projects each year.

For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Miami, contact Little at 786-546-3386 or email him at ChuckBig@bellsouth.net.

KIWANIS CLUB

MIAMI FLORIDA

Kiwanis
CLUB OR DISTRICT NAME

ENRICHING EVERY COMMUNITY WE SERVE AND EVERY MEMBER WE ENGAGE



KIWANIS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
ERIC SCHWINDEMAN



**HOPE, HEART & HOME
& RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

Hope Heart & Home Ministry's **Random Acts of Kindness Campaign** kicked off July in Miami-Dade with contributions of infant items from **Rosa A. Perez-Lacayo** and deliveries by **Bernadett Horvath** to bio and foster families. Bernadett and **Mary Walton's** team (with BDW & More) also delivered much needed furniture to a needy family. Great teamwork by these wonderful ladies over the holiday weekend!

The Random Acts teams continued their comprehensive efforts throughout the 3rd Quarter of 2025. These photos represent a mere fraction of the families HHH and BDW were able to help. Theirs is an incredible accomplishment!











HOPE, HEART & HOME

Partner in 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL



SUPPLY DRIVES



Hope. Heart & Home and Sadie's Daughter Inc is incredibly grateful to have received funding from Explore Foster Miami and National Christian Foundation in support of foster youth currently in care and those transitioning into adulthood.

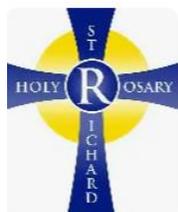
This generous support will help us continue our mission of providing essential resources, emotional support, and meaningful opportunities to youth who often navigate life without a safety net. Every contribution brings us one step closer to building a more compassionate and empowering future for these young people. Thank you for believing in their potential and in our work.

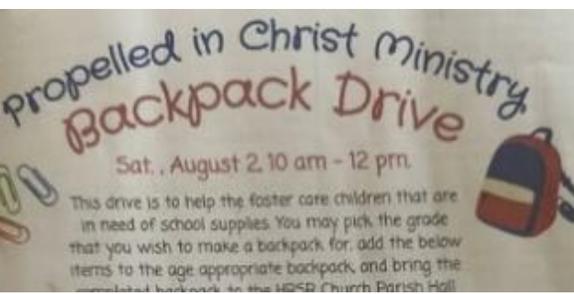


Sadie's Daughter



EXPLORE FOSTER MIAMI





HOLY ROSARY – ST. RICHARD

DONATES BACKPACKS TO FOSTER FAMILIES!

Organizing back-to-school backpack drives is a customary practice for the generous parishioners of **Holy Rosary-St. Richard Catholic Church**.

On August 2, a collaborative effort between **Propelled In Christ Ministry, Hope Heart & Home Ministry**, and **HRSR & Key Club** teens resulted in the collection and preparation of 85 backpacks and hundreds of teddy bears for children in foster care. Gratitude is expressed to **Kathleen Smith, Rosa A. Perez-Lacayo**, and **Claudia** for their remarkable leadership.





BACKPACK DELIVERIES

TO CITRUS FAMILY CARE NETWORK,



HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME



& BDW & MORE



The Back-to-School Drives continued into August 2025 with joint efforts by *The Propelled In Christ Ministry* (**Holy Rosary-St. Richard's Catholic Church**) and **Hope, Heart & Home**, benefiting children in foster care.

On Saturday, August 2, a donation of 90 backpacks, 200 teddy bears, and bags of school supplies was received at the HRSR Hall. Teams from local youth & Key Clubs, Propelled In Christ Ministry, and HHH worked together to process the donations.

Subsequently, on Tuesday, August 5, teams from **BDW & More** (**Bernadett Horvath**), **His House Children's Home**, and **Citrus Family Care Network** (Nadine Rolle) collected the items for final distribution. Deliveries started the same day and ran through the commencement of school that week.

Heartfelt congratulations to HRSR's **Kathleen Smith** for her leadership and guidance with this remarkable event!



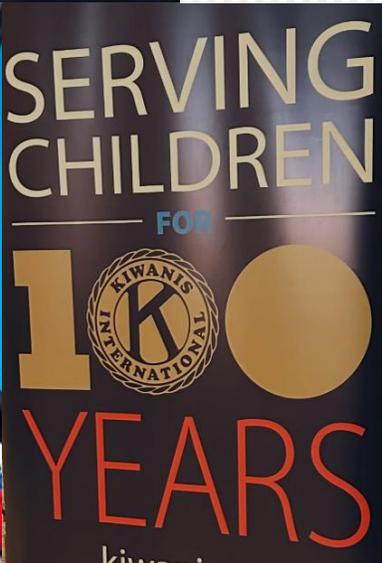


BACK 2 SCHOOL BACKPACKS & HAIRCUTS

HHH's last backpack drive was Saturday, August 10, when SDI - **Sadie's Daughter, Inc.** hosted a school supply giveaway at their Palmetto Bay barber shop sponsored by the **Kiwanis Club of Miami.**

Dr. Alecia Rodriguez ensured the event's success by overseeing the distribution and packing of backpacks. The event benefited over 130 needy and foster kids, who received lunch, free school supplies, haircuts, and braiding services.

We thank our sponsors, including the Kiwanis Club of Miami and Alecia & Mo's family, for their generosity and service.



FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC LEARNING RESOURCE SYSTEM



Hope Heart & Home Ministry child advocates held their monthly virtual meeting on July 14, where thirty-one advocates received an overview of the extensive services provided by **Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)**.

Tyia Glass, Child Find Specialist, highlighted the importance of early childhood developmental screenings and the support and coordination FDLRS offers to foster and biological families in Dade and Monroe counties. The presentation's success is credited to the support of FDLRS' **Rachel LaFrance** and **Marguarette Liger**.





Florida Diagnostic & Learning
RESOURCES SYSTEM

FDLRS Provision of Services
fdlrs.org

CHILD FIND

Service Delivery

- Appropriate Practices
- Child Development Milestones
- Child Find Awareness and Outreach
- Child Find Service Coordination

fdlrs.org/child-find

- CHRIS Database Management
- Early Childhood Developmental Screenings, Coordination, and Resources
- Interagency Collaboration

PARENT & FAMILY SERVICES

Professional Learning

- Academic Supports
- Accommodations Overview
- Assistive Technology Tools
- Behavior Management for the Home
- Educational Surrogate
- ESE 101
- Facilitated IEP
- Family Involvement in Education
- IEP Process

fdlrs.org/parent-services

Service Delivery

- Coordination and Support for Local Family Conferences and Events
- Disability Resources
- Educational Supports

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Professional Learning

- Accessing the General Curriculum
- Accommodations
- Behavior Management Strategies
- Classroom Management Strategies
- Differentiated Instruction
- Disability Awareness
- ESE 101
- Evidence-Based Instructional Strategies for all Content Areas
- Explicit Instruction

fdlrs.org/hrd

Service Delivery

- Facilitated IEP
- Gifted
- IEP Development
- Matrix of Services
- Multisensory Learning
- Support Personnel & SWD
- Universal Design for Learning

TECHNOLOGY

Professional Learning

- Accessibility
- Accessible and Instructional Technology
- Accessible Educational Materials
- Accommodations
- Assistive Technology
- Universal Design for Learning
- Virtual Instruction
- Visual Supports

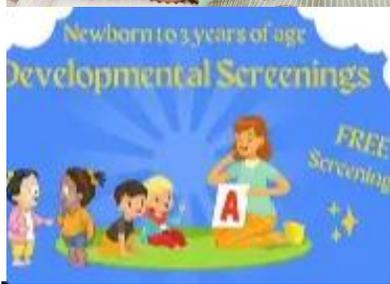
fdlrs.org/technology

Service Delivery

- Classroom Coaching and Modeling
- Instructional Design
- LATS and RLATS Support and Collaboration
- Professional Learning Supports



**Developmental Milestones,
Monitoring, and Screening**



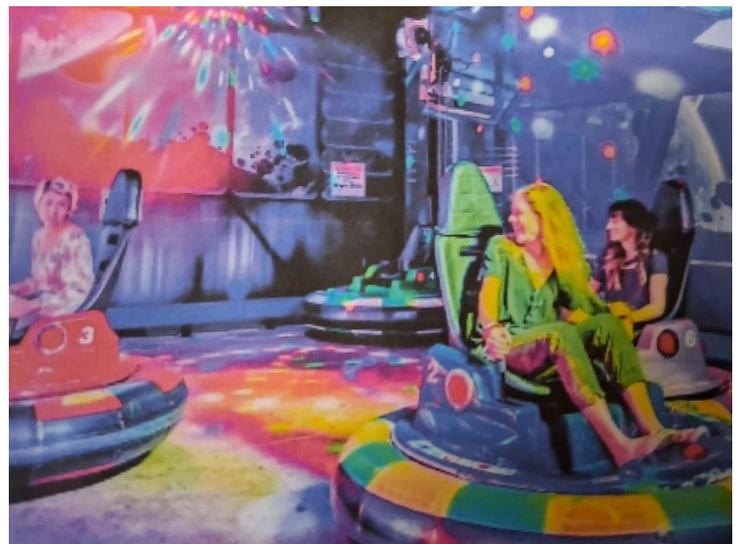
HOPE, HEART & HOME FIELD TRIPS



The **Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida** stepped up again for our youth in foster care, with a generous sponsorship of two field trips for the University of Miami's **First Star Academy** teens.



Dr. **Keli Stewart**, First Star Director, and Kiwanis & HHH's **Eric Schwindeman** met to work together on organizing activities at **Fun Dimension** (for 23 ninth graders) and **Miami Roller Rink** (for 18 upper-class students).



Kele & Eric serve together on the **CBC Alliance Board of Trustees** and **Hope, Heart & Home** has a team of **Citrus Family Care Network** mentors working with First Star Academy scholars since 2022. Collaboration at its best!



HOPE. HEART & HOME AT MIAMI INT'L AIRPORT



Exploring an airport behind the scenes is an incredible experience. Twenty local youth from the **Sweet Home Baptist Church** embarked on a magical tour of MIA on July 16, courtesy of the **Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida**.

The efforts of Kiwanis Deacon **Ron Tookes, Carole Johnson,** and **Eric Schwindeman,** who joined forces with **Peter Calhoun** and **Kevin Ballard** to guide the youth on this remarkable journey, are gratefully acknowledged! Tookes, Calhoun, and Ballard are now active in Hope, Heart & Home and the Kiwanis.





OH NO, SANTA IS GROUNDED!



Chuck Caldwell, the original Santa for Hope Heart & Home, has provided joy to numerous children in foster care over the years. Each fall, he faithfully grows his beard in preparation for his holiday role.



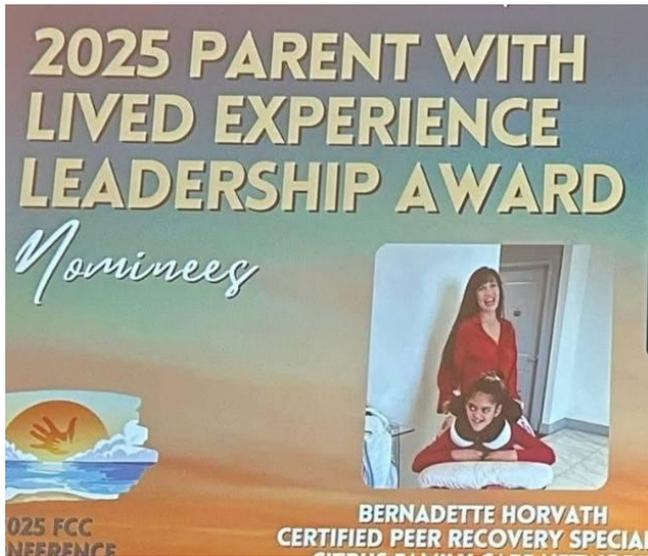
This year, Chuck has been recuperating from hip surgery following a significant fall last summer. Although he misses the children he normally entertains, Chuck maintains a positive attitude throughout his physical therapy and frequently shares light-hearted moments with his colleagues at Hope Heart & Home.



Chuck, an Air Force veteran, describes flying a sleigh as a fighter pilot in Korea with Ted Williams, though these accounts are met with some skepticism. While his full white beard resembles that of his alter ego, Chuck is now welcoming visitors to NSPIRE Healthcare in Kendall, where, interestingly, reindeer can be seen grazing outside his window.

GET WELL, CHUCK!





H orvath onored

The **Hope Heart & Home Ministry** and the **Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida** are proud to announce that **Bernadett Horvath** was nominated for the **Outstanding Lived-Experienced Leader Award** at the **2025 Florida Coalition for Children Conference**, held in Orlando from July 13-15.

This recognition acknowledges Bernadett's exemplary service to bio and foster families in North Dade through HHH's **Random Acts of Kindness** Campaign, as well as her steadfast commitment to supporting family unification as Executive Director of her creation, **BDW & More**, and as a peer parent.

Congratulations, Bernadette!



Providing funding for vocational and technical school attendees.



Hope Heart & Home Ministry conducted a strategic planning session with partners **LA6 Lucas Alvarez LA6 Foundation** (Alex & Liz Alvarez) and **Citrus Family Care Network** (Marta Oliva Torres, Director of Licensed Care & Teen Transition) on July 18 to evaluate and strengthen the scholarship program designed to empower youth aging out of foster care to pursue careers in technical trades. HHH sincerely appreciates Alex & Liz hosting the meeting in their elegant *LeJeune Upholstery* showroom! New scholarship announcements to come!



Our Values

We believe that everyone has a God-given talent. Our foundation gives individuals an opportunity to explore and capitalize on those talents, and paves the way for a future filled with hope and success.



Vocational Education & Career Support



Hope, Heart & Home Visits *His House Children's Home*

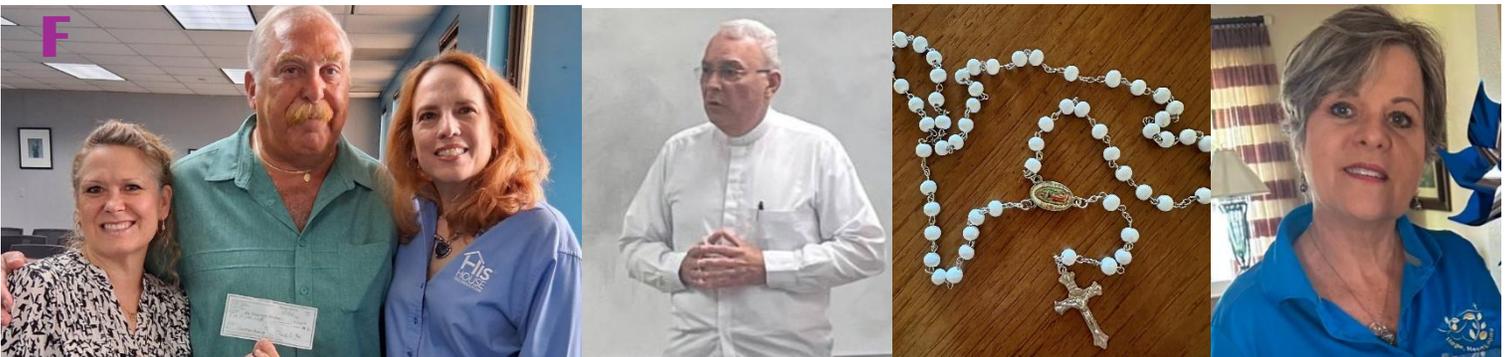


Acclaim Images.com

HHH has established a collaborative relationship with **His House Children's Home** over the years, sponsoring field trips and life experience scholarships.

This year, we introduced a new element to our partnership. HHH's **Rosie Perez- Lacayo**, joined by **Monsignor Rodrigo Urbina**, visited unaccompanied refugee minors at His House on July 21, where Monsignor offered prayers of hope and faith, presenting each child with a rosary and prayer card.

The ministry expresses thanks to Rosie, **Liz Arquimbau**, and **Sylvia Smith- Torres** for coordinating this wonderful visit. Quote from Liz below:



A special thanks to Monsignor Urbina for his spiritual message of hope and for praying the rosary with our children. Thank you HHH for coordinating this beautiful service for the children.



**HOPE, HEART
& HOME
TEAMS UP
WITH THE**

**KIWANIS
CLUB
OF MIAMI**



The **Hope Heart & Home** Ministry marked the culmination of the 2025 community giving campaign with esteemed partners, the **Kiwanis Club of Miami**, Florida, and **SDI- Sadie's Daughter**. This year, Kiwanis allocated \$200,000 in recreational funding to 14 local charities through the Zee Foundation, including SDI.

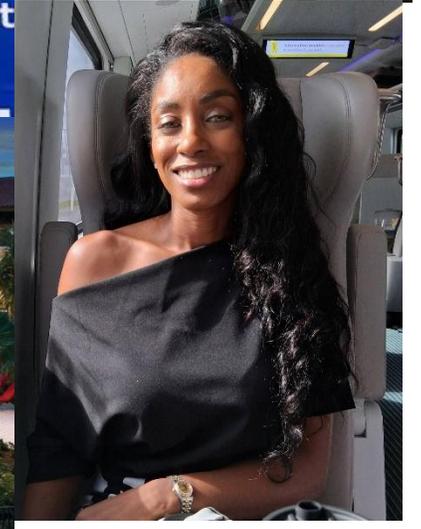
The Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida, and Hope Heart & Home Ministry were pleased to welcome **Bernadett Horvath**, a newly inducted Kiwanis member and advocate for children, on July 28.

Bernadett joins esteemed HHH child advocates who are already part of Kiwanis, including **Paul Czekanski**, Juvenile Probation Officer and mentor; **Valerie Van Ostran**, Guardian ad Litem and Careportal Lead; **Mary Walton**, Guardian ad Litem and Random Acts of Kindness Lead; **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez**, mentor, foster parent, Sadie's Daughter Inc, and Kiwanis Board; **Eric Schwindeman**, Executive Director of HHH and Kiwanis Board.





KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION 2025



Two members from **Hope, Heart & Home** were honored to join child advocates from all over Florida at the **Kiwanis District Convention**, held at PGA National in West Palm Beach from August 7th to August 10th. **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez**, and **Eric Schwindeman** were selected as delegates from the **Kiwanis Club of Miami** and enjoyed a stunning Brightline train ride up to Palm Beach from Miami.





CONVENTION, DAY 2



The second day of the Florida Kiwanis District Convention at PGA National Resort concluded successfully. **Diana Morrell** and **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez**, representatives from the Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida, made a lasting “fashionable” impression at the **Governor's Banquet**. Engaging discussions were held with outgoing District Governor **Jeremy Riehl** and incoming Governor **Tommy Mills**, highlighting a bright future for Kiwanis in Florida, where serving kids remains paramount



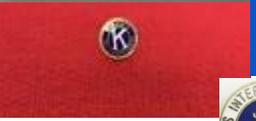
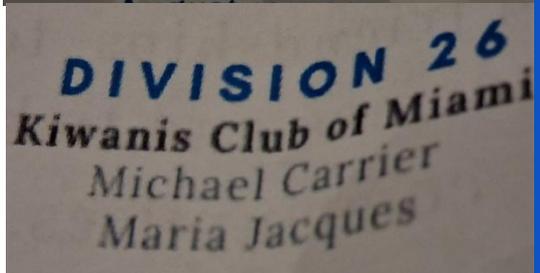
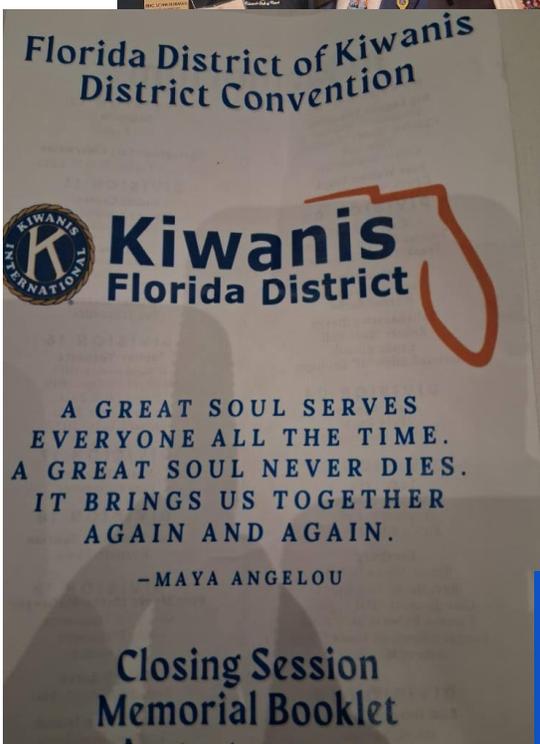


CONVENTION, DAY 3



The Florida Kiwanis District Convention's closing session on its third day was a heartfelt affair, held at PGA National Resort. The District paid tribute to **Michael Carrier** and **Maria A. Mejia Jacques**, two dedicated Kiwanis Club of Miami members (and original HHH trustees) who passed away in 2024.

Diana Morrell's exceptional secretarial skills earned her recognition from the District. As the convention concluded, attendees bid farewell to a productive gathering, with some kicking back and others racing to the Brightline train station.





KIWANIS CLUB OF MIAMI

CAPS OFF FISCAL YEAR HELPING KIDS IN FOSTER CARE!



The Kiwanis Club of Miami, in partnership with **Hope Heart & Home**, held its final meeting of the fiscal year on September 22. During this year, the Club allocated grants to benefit children in foster care, specifically funding the establishment of flag football and basketball teams, free swimming lessons, a Random Acts of Kindness Campaign, donations to CarePortal Florida, Black Tie and Sneaker Ball for teens transitioning out of foster care, recreational outings and off-site field trips, a foster parent appreciation brunch, and Back-to-School backpack distribution initiatives.



The Club's upcoming plans for the fourth quarter include organizing a fishing tournament and barbeque, participating in the ZooMiami Run, hosting a Harvest BBQ for foster families, and supporting Thanksgiving & Christmas celebrations and toy drives exemplifying effective collaboration.



HHH + GTG + AGAPE = LOVING CARE!



Bringing two **Hope Heart & Home** Ministry partners together to support children with special needs is deeply gratifying. **Glory To God**, a faith-based prescribed pediatric extended care facility, showcased its exceptional services to **AGAPE**, an award-winning facility that utilizes a holistic, integrated, evidence-based model of care. A perfect match!

Many thanks to HHH's **Bernadett Horvath** GTG's **Natalia & Gersey** for their informative slide and video presentation. Congratulations on this new collaborative effort!





Thanksgiving DIAPER DRIVE



Hope Heart & Home Ministry is in awe of **Bernadett Horvath's** efforts in creating a coalition of donors, churches, and activists in support of **BDW & More** and HHH's **Random Acts of Kindness** in Miami-Dade.

In September, she garnered the support of **Trinity Christian Fellowship** (Pastor **LaVern Harvey**), **Holy Rosary-St. Richards Catholic Church** (Propelled In Christ- **Kathleen Smith**), and numerous supporters to begin contributing diapers and teddy bears to her Thanksgiving Drive for bio and foster mothers.

God bless the work her team has undertaken!



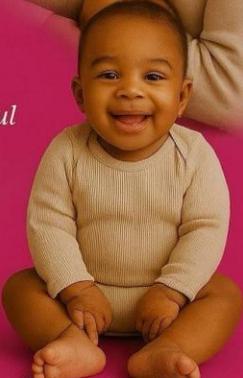
Oct.1-Nov.1



THANKSGIVING DRIVE

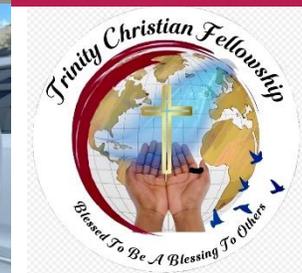
Diapers, Baby Bottles, Baby Wipes, and Baby Essentials

Motherhood is one of the hardest yet most beautiful gifts a woman can have.

MARIA'S **random** act of kindness
Monetary donations accepted

Bernadett Horvath CRPS
786-907-2252
bernadett.bdwandmore@gmail.com
Mary Walton 305-298-6461
mw Walton433@gmail.com



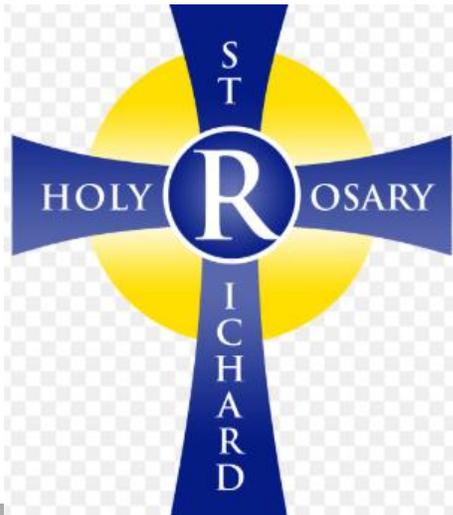
HOPE, HEART & HOME AT COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Hope Heart & Home and **Propelled In Christ Ministry's** Kathleen Smith made a heartfelt appeal to Holy Rosary-St. Richards' Council of Catholic Women, drawing attention to the challenges faced by children in Miami's foster care system.



Her talk encouraged collaboration with HHH, BDW & More, His House For Children, Genesis Hopeful Haven, Casa Valletina, and First Star Academy, highlighting notable initiatives such as back-to-school backpack drives, Valentine & Thanksgiving baskets, Teddy Bears, Gift Cards, and Christmas Toy drives.

May God bless the women of HRSR for their ongoing commitment to supporting the child welfare system in our community!





Hope Heart & Home Ministry was motivated by a passionate plea for change in the nation's foster care approach at its September 15 virtual meeting. **Terry Harrak**, a leading national voice for the **Quality Parent Initiative (QPI)**, shared her personal story, highlighting the value of "co-parenting" between biological and foster parents.

She also advocated for a shift in focus from "independence" to "interdependence" for teens transitioning out of foster care. Thank you, Terry, for your inspiring message!



Our Mission

The Youth Law Center advocates to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the nation so every child and youth can thrive.

September Meeting Flyer:

HOPE, HEART & HOME SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS:



Needed: A Change in Mindset

Children who enter the foster care system have had traumatic experiences far different from the experiences of ordinary childhood. They are removed from their parents, homes, and neighborhoods without understanding why or what happens next, losing meaningful connections to siblings and familiar adults.

To undo this harm, we must organize the child welfare system around a simple principle: *every child deserves excellent parenting every day*. How would that system look different from the one we have now? What would it mean to measure success in terms of our ability to maintain and build strong relationships for children in the care of the state or county government? Would we select, train, and support families in a different way? How would policies and practices that disrupt relationships change?

Join **Hope, Heart & Home's** Virtual Meeting on **Monday, September 15 @ 7 PM** to hear our guest speaker, **Terry Harrak**, address these pressing questions!

Terry Harrak has more than a decade of child welfare advocacy, curriculum development, training, and facilitation experience. She currently works on the **Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)** and the Just Beginning Program (JB) at the Youth Law Center. Prior to her work at Youth Law Center, she served as Project Manager for Child Welfare League of America and Director of Youth Engagement for Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.

Terry Harrak



She has testified before Congress and elsewhere on issues pertaining to child welfare. Mrs. Harrak is the author of *Guidelines for Development of Foster Care Handbooks: What Foster Youth Have to Say* and co-creator of *Strategic Sharing: a curriculum for youth public speaking*. Mrs. Harrak created The National Foster Youth Advisory Board in 2000. Mrs. Harrak's personal testimony was instrumental in the passing of the Foster Care Independence Act and John H. Chafee Independent Living Program. She was invited to speak at The White House alongside First Lady Hillary Clinton at the 2000 White House Summit on Foster Care.

**HOPE, HEART & HOME
HONORED BY**



CarePortal



CarePortal

Jovan Figueroa

Church Ambassador (Miami-Dade)

954-600-3369

jovan.figueroa@careportal.org



On September 30, HHH received news that our partner, **CAREPORTAL**, has recognized us as one of Miami-Dade County's “incredible churches and community champions” for reaching an impressive milestone!

Hope, Heart & Home's faith-filled coalition has now served **OVER**

1000

children and families supported through **CAREPORTAL**, thanks to the compassion and dedication of HHH's **Valerie Van Ostran's** team.

CAREPORTAL's Jovan Figueroa thanks our ministry for “being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!”

“This is just the beginning! The impact of **CAREPORTAL** is growing fast in Miami-Dade, and lives are being changed every single day. Let's keep showing up, linking arms, and loving our neighbors in powerful ways!”



MIAMI-DADE **THIS IS BIG!**
4 CHURCH CELEBRATION

MIAMI-DADE



Served Over 100 Children!



39,379
CHILDREN SERVED ACROSS FLORIDA

CarePortal FLORIDA

ST. JOHN NEUMANN/HOPE, HEART, AND HOME

39,379 CHILDREN SERVED ACROSS FLORIDA



100 CHILDREN SERVED

THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO
**ST. JOHN NEUMANN/HOPE,
HEART, AND HOME**

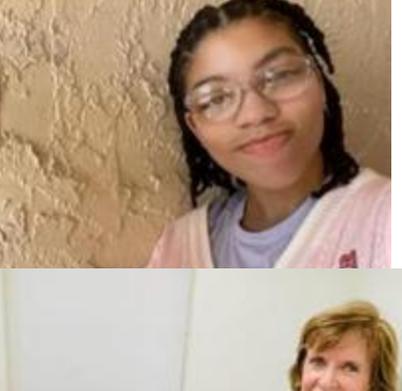
This certificate celebrates the continuous efforts made by
your church on behalf of children in your community.

*Thank you for investing in the lives of children
and families in need through CarePortal.*



ADRIEN LEWIS
Chief Innovation Officer

PATTY BULACK
Regional Manager





HOPE, HEART & HOME CELEBRATE



YEARS OF

BLUE SHIRT POWER!



CONGRATULATIONS

HOPE, HEART & HOME





*Outstanding Community
Service Award
for 2022*

