



*HOPE, HEART & HOME*

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE: *Hope, Heart & Home* Community Initiatives

**July** Third Quarter Speakers; HHH's *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holy Smoke BBQ*; New Potential HHH Partners; *Holy Rosary - St. Richard Donation Drive*; *SFFAPA* Backpack and Movie Night at the Falls.

**August** *Lourdes Pons* from *Children's Home Society* at August Meeting; NEWLY Issued: *Hope, Heart & Home* ME.NTOR Badges

**September** HHH registers South Dade Parishes with *CAREPORTAL*; HHH recruiting effort highlighted in September 18 *FLORIDA CATHOLIC*; Janice Graham of *Casa Valentina* Speaks at September Meeting; HHH at *EXPLORE FOSTER MIAMI's* Fall Shareholders Meeting; New Foster Care Miami Organizational Chart; *Grandparents' Day Recruiting at St. Louis* "Life Skills" for Mentees, Breaking the Generational Curse.



*HOPE, HEART & HOME*

**2021**

**SPEAKER SERIES**



Monday August 9

**LOURDES PONS**

Regional Director

*Children's Home Society*



Monday September 13

**JANICE GRAHAM**

Executive Director

*Casa Valentina*





July 10th

# *HOLY SMOKE BARBEQUE FOR FOSTER FAMILIES*







Neither rain nor heat nor humidity could dampen the festivities Saturday, July 10, at the *Holy Rosary-St. Richards Pavilion* where HHH welcomed 60 children, foster parents, and child advocates to their *First Annual Holy Smoke BBQ*. The afternoon was a wonderful collaboration between HHH and *Citrus Family Care Network* and our local foster families.

### Special thanks to:

Our *Superhero* Foster Parents, including the Romanek's, the Johnson's, the Lester,' the Sumpter's, the Wasserman's, the Cobb's, the Gain'e's, and the Richard's. It was a *privilege* to serve your families!



## THANKS!

To Event Co-Chairs **Maria Jacques** (GAL) and **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** (FFC Panelist) who deftly planned every aspect of the BBQ. To HHH Operations Manager **Michael Carrier** who secured and transported the SJN Men's Club grill; to **Monica Vega, Stefan Schwindeman, Alexander Schwindeman, and Mike, Rosie, Maria & Victor Jacques** for setting up; Maria and Rosie's shopping prowess, including ice, food, balloons, customized chef's hats, and aprons; to **Stefan Schwindeman** and *Sandbar Sports Grill* for donating our burgers, hot dogs, and buns; and to our Event Sponsor, **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL), who generously provided *Target* gift cards to all our foster families.

To **Wieland Uchdorf** (GAL) and **Stefan Schwindeman** who labored over a hot grill for hours preparing our BBQ; to our donors: **Dick Squires Family, SJN Men's Club,** and the **St. Louis Men's Prayer Muffin** for purchasing our new HHH tablecloth; to our wonderful *Citrus* partners: **Nadine Rolle, Joann Pierre,** and **Kimberly Lopez.**

To our Greeter, **Vivian Uchdorf** (GAL); to **Mary** (GAL) and **David Hamel** who's games and toys were a big hit with the kids; to our *Games & Recreation Directors*, **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL), **Richard Candia,** and **Alexander Schwindeman** who all won "Participation Ribbons" playing with the kids; to **Roberto Lopez** for his *Best In Class* Lego creation; to our Clean-Up crew of **Monica, Stefan, Alex, Rosie & Luis, Maria & Victor, Lorenzo, Vivian & Wieland, Mary & David,** and **Mike Carrier.** (The clean-up went fast!)

To all the Child Advocates who shared home-made side dishes, veggies, chips, pastas, coleslaw, potato salad, brownies, cookies, and watermelon (all the sugar food groups were represented!) with the families. A BBQ feast! Thanks to **John Gentile, Malvina Longoria, the Romaneks (Fred, Maria, and Elizabeth),** and **Ryan** and **Nannally Hamel** for their culinary contributions.

And deepest thanks to **Fr. William Sullivan** and the *Holy Rosary-St. Richard's* families for the use of their beautiful facility.

*God Bless You* for the love you shared with these foster families!



# 4 TEAMS COLLABORATE

## To support Children in Foster Care

Saturday, July 24 proved there is strength in numbers!

Four teams of Child Advocates from *Holy Rosary- St. Richards Catholic Church (HRSR)*, *Catholic Charities*, *Citrus Family Care Network*, and **HOPE, HEART & HOME** joined forces to sort hundreds of donated items and packed them off to needy children in foster care homes and facilities. Over the last two months, HRSR parishioners collected a wide range of gifts - including laptops, a printer, gift cards, blankets, linen, towels, toiletries, detergent, hoodies, socks, duffel bags, soccer balls, crayons, and back-to-school items.

Primary recipients were the *Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program* (Catholic Charities) and the foster families in Dade County that *Citrus FCN* serves.

Pictured below: Left to right: **Monica Farias** (Catholic Charities), **Ros Hagley** (HHH- St. Louis), HHH Executive Director **Eric Schwindeman** (St. John Neumann GAL, Mentor), **Alecia Mendes** (Holy Rosary-St. Richards), **Shaena Wan** and her Citrus Retention Team, **Lynda Arostegui** (HHH Mentor) and **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** (Case Review Panelist) both of HRSR.



Many thanks to the generous parishioners of the HRSR community; to **Alicia Mendes**, Parish Life Coordinator (and daughter Julia) who organized the event; to **Monica Farias**, Program Director at *Catholic Charities*; **Shaena Wan**, *Citrus* Retention Supervisor and her team (**Alicia Conley**, **Lynette Brooks**, **Stevens Gideon**, and **Nay Bolivar**); and the HHH team of **Rosie Perez Lacayo**, **Rosalind Hagley**, **Lynda Arostegui**, and **Eric Schwindeman**.



Special thanks to **Fr. William Sullivan** (HRSR) for his donation of 50 duffel bags; and to the **Vivian** and **Wieland Uchdorf** Family for hundreds of dollars of Publix gift cards.

God bless everyone for their collective contribution to these children! Great job, **TEAM!**







*Hope, Heart & Home's* child welfare partner, *South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association*, held another successful **Back-To-School Backpack Giveaway** for children in foster care on Friday afternoon, July 30. HHH's **Dr. John Gentile** helped with the event set-up. Congratulations to **Minette Rivero** for her amazing effort!





*Hope, Heart & Home*  
*August 9 Meeting Introduces:*  
**CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY**

*A Leader Serving Children & Families In Foster Care*



**Lourdes Pons**, Executive Director of the Southern Region of *Children's Home Society (CHS)* in Florida, addressed the 38 HHH Child Advocates at their virtual meeting August 9, telling her audience that CHS is working diligently "to provide security, guidance, and opportunity for children in the child welfare system. Our priority is always their safety and well-being, and our case managers are passionate about building bridges to success for each child in foster care."

Pons explained, "We empower our kids to realize their full potential by providing opportunities for counseling and tutoring as well as educational and recreational activities. This is why we are excited to introduce the **HHH Mentoring Program** as a service to our teens!"

Agency Leaders who joined the meeting included **Panos Kourtesis** (*One More Child and Care Portal*), **Melissa Kowieski** (*Lifeline*) **Nadine Rolle** (*Citrus*), **Juliana Albino** (*Safe Families*), and **Laurie Mulrooney** (*Safe Families*) from Tallahassee! All are courtesy of HHH partner **Georgia Downey** and *Explore Foster Miami*.

HHH Child Advocates included **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL), **Malvi Longoria** (GAL), **Joann Pierre** (GAL), **Maria Jacques** (GAL), **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL), **Chuck Caldwell**, **John Sennetti** (GAL/Mentor), **Vivian Uchdorf** (GAL), **Luis Andujas**, **Monica Vega**, **Wieland Uchdorf** (GAL), **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** (FFCR Panelist), **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL/Mentor), **Alexander Schwindeman**, **Mary Andujas** (GAL), **Stefan Schwindeman**, **Mike Carrier**, **John Gentile** (HHH Care Portal), **DK Knox**, **Mary Hamel** (GAL), **David Hamel**, **Carmenza Ortiz**, **Susan Dingler**, **Ros Hagley**, **Lou Confessore**, and **Jose Del Valle**.

They were joined by newcomers **Sabrina Lawrence** (St. Catherine's) **Charlie Carricarte**, and **Bruna Carricarte** (St. Louis). Welcome aboard! Architect **Melbelena Lagos-Latorre** was also introduced as a newly licensed *HHH-Citrus Mentor*! Congrats, Melbelena!

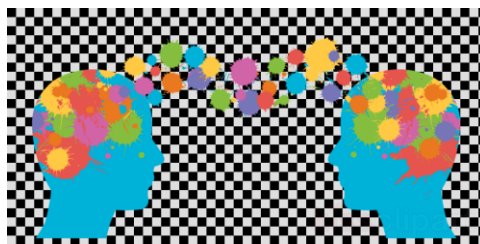


NEW  
*Hope, Heart & Home*

## MENTOR BADGES

Courtesy of Lorenzo Cosio  
SOLO Printing  
Victor Platt

Teenage children “age-out” of dependent care at age 18. Studies have shown that teens who connect with a Mentor achieve better grades, finish school, and find better jobs. **HHH Mentors** assist high school and college students navigate their way through college entrance & curriculum, life skills, and career paths. Applications are being accepted now. Contact Eric Schwindeman at [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com) TODAY!





## **HOPE, HEART & HOME** REGISTERS WITH



September 2, HHH took a giant leap forward in helping our community's foster families by officially registering as a Partner on the new child welfare platform, **CARE PORTAL**. Regional Director of the program in South Dade, **Panos Kourtesis** (of *One More Child*) walked a team from HHH through a 90 minute training session to learn the fundamentals of this new state-wide initiative,

**CARE PORTAL** acts as a "gateway" to family support services to pair those in need of assistance with local faith institutions and community organizations eager to help.

**HOPE, HEART & HOME** is now serving as one of those "local faith institutions!"

One of our HHH parishes, *St. John Neumann*, is now registered as part of this network. (SJM will be shortly followed by *St. Louis* in Pinecrest.)



Here is a simple **7** STEP explanation of how **CARE PORTAL** works:

- 1.** A Foster Family determines they need a highchair and communicates that need to their Case Worker.
- 2.** Their Case Worker enters that request on the **CARE PORTAL** website.
- 3.** **CARE PORTAL** sends a request to fill that need for a highchair to the Member Churches in that foster family's zip code (in a 10 mile radius).
- 4.** Our HHH Program Administrator (**Dr. John Gentile**) receives the email and forward the request to all of his team members (Currently includes **Maria Jacques, Susan Dinger, Sabrina Lawrence, and Don Jackson**) to scour their parish contacts to find a high-chair OR a decision is made to purchase one.
- 5.** If a chair is located or purchased, John notifies **CARE PORTAL** that HHH (SJN) has met this request.
- 6.** Dr.Gentile arranges a drop-off of the highchair with the originating Case Worker.
- 7.** The Case Worker delivers the chair to the Foster Family - fulfilling the need.

If you want to join this Team of HHH Child Advocates that is delivering this **CARE PORTAL** service to our Foster Families, contact Dr. John Gentile at [drjohngentile71@gmail.com](mailto:drjohngentile71@gmail.com)





*HHH COLLABORATIVE  
RECRUITING EFFORT  
HIGHLIGHTED IN*

*The Florida Catholic*

## Child Welfare Groups Recruit Foster Parents

Saturday, September 18, 2021 Florida Catholic staff - Florida Catholic



Catholic Charities' **Monica Farias** signs up prospective foster parents after Masses Sept. 12, 2021, Grandparents Day, at St. John Neumann Church in Miami. Farias is looking for homes for four small Afghanistan children transported here from Qatar by the US State Department.



On **Grandparents Day**, Sept. 12, 2021, three child welfare organizations came together at *St John Neumann Church* to appeal for foster parents: **Citrus Family Care Network**, the primary community-based care provider for the Department of Children and Families in Miami-Dade County and **Catholic Charities' Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program**, and the **Hope, Heart & Home** ministry founded at *St. John Neumann* and now active in several parishes in South Dade.

MIAMI | Three child welfare organizations launched a recruiting event for foster parents after Sunday Masses at [St. John Neumann Church](#) on Grandparents Day, Sept. 12, 2021.

The three manned side-by-side information booths in the loggia of the church: [Catholic Charities' Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program](#), St. John Neumann's [Hope, Heart & Home ministry](#) and the **Citrus Family Care Network**, the primary community-based care provider for the Department of Children and Families in Miami-Dade County.

“Children in foster care desperately need safe and secure homes with caring parents,” said **Hope, Heart & Home's Eric Schwindeman**. “Praise God! Seven parish families answered the call and signed up to explore foster and respite parenting.”

The three organizations will team up once more on Sunday, Sept. 26, for a similar recruiting event after the 8 a.m. to noon Masses at [St. Louis Church](#) in Pinecrest.



The requirements to be a foster parent include: Be at least 21 years old; be able to provide adequate bedroom space and a separate bed for each foster child; have reliable transportation; be willing to participate in a 30-hour free training; be prepared for adults in your household to undergo complete background checks; be able to meet basic resources to support the household.



**Catholic Charities** provides 24-hour case management, monthly stipend to help with the care of the refugee minor or youth, continuing education and more. For more information, call 305-883-3383 or visit [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org).

Hope, Heart & Home also registered as a partner on a new child welfare platform, [CarePortal](http://CarePortal). This new statewide initiative pairs families in need of assistance with local faith institutions and community organizations who can help meet specific requests.

“One of our HHH parishes, *St. John Neumann*, is now registered as part of this network and will be shortly followed by *St. Louis*,” said Schwindeman.

**CarePortal** works this way: A caseworker enters a request for a foster family on the platform. Recent requests have been made for needs such as diapers, a bunk bed frame and a crib. The request goes out to all the churches registered on the site near the foster parents' zip code. The church's **CarePortal** administrator relays the need to those in the network, then responds to **CarePortal** with the part of the request the church can meet.

**Dr. John Gentile** is Hope, Heart & Home's **CarePortal** administrator. Those who are interested in helping with requests can reach out to him at [drjohngentile71@gmail.com](mailto:drjohngentile71@gmail.com).



**Harrison Griffis** and Hope, Heart & Home Guardian ad litem **Maria Jacques, Ada Avallone, Malvina Longoria, and Valerie Van Ostran**. Recruiting foster parents after Masses Sept. 12, 2021, Grandparents Day, at *St. John Neumann Church* in Miami, from left: attorney



Above Left: **Joann Pierre** (GAL) explains foster parenting. Right: Operations Manager, **Mike Carrier** greets parishioners

Remember, we are always looking for **Foster** and **Respite Parents**, **Guardian ad Litem**, **Panelists** for case reviews, **Mentors** (and **Mentees**) for teens aging out of foster care, and **Sponsors** to join our **CarePortal** network to find items to fulfill foster family needs.

If you are looking for way to put YOUR faith in action, or you know somebody who is - you will find your place with **HOPE, HEART & HOME**.

Please email Eric at [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com) to volunteer today!

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/ministryHHHmc>

Thank you, **Ana Rodriguez-Soto** and your Staff  
@ *The Florida Catholic* for your continued support!



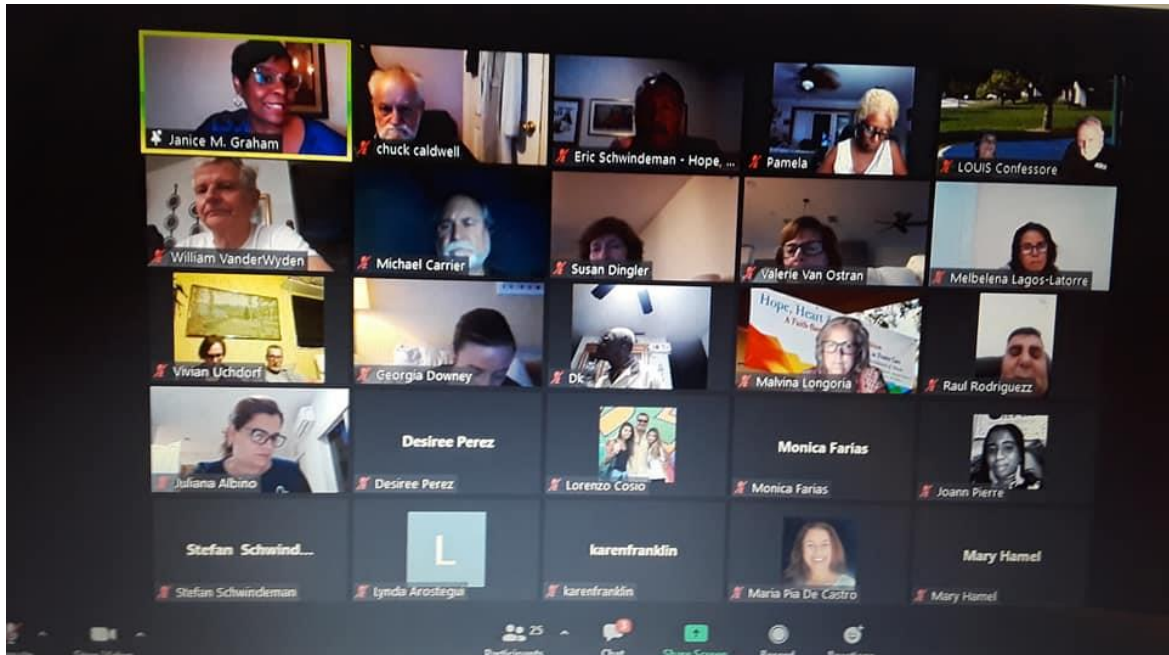


# *HOPE, HEART & HOME*

WELCOMES

**JANICE GRAHAM** of  
*CASA VALENTINA*

As New Child Welfare Partner



The Executive Director of *Casa Valentina*, **Janice Graham** gave a passionate introduction of her facilities' services for foster children aging out of foster care to 30 *Hope, Heart & Home* child advocates on their monthly zoom call Monday night, September 13th.

*Casa Valentina* serves as a "working model of care" here in Dade County - providing safe, affordable housing and critical life skills to help teens transition into independence. Over the last 15 years, they have served over 250 youth in their residential program but have helped thousands more in their public-private partnerships.

Ms. Graham outlined the "5 Pillars" of care *Casa Valentina* provides their teens: (1) financial skills, (2) education, (3) employment opportunities, (4) self-care, and (5) "ADLs" acts of daily living. HHH hopes to augment this care with joint events and our **HHH Mentoring Program** to *Casa Valentina's* teens this fall.

On hand to hear Ms. Graham's success stories were child welfare leaders **Maria Pia de Castro** (*UM's First Star Academy*), **Georgia Downey** (*Explore Foster Miami*), **Juliana Albino & Desiree Perez** (*Safe Families For Children*), and **Monica Farias** (*Catholic Charities' Unaccompanied Refugee Minors*).

HHH Child Advocates in attendance included newcomers **Venus Mottley** (HHH Mentee), **Raul Rodriguez**, **Pam Angelo**, **Harriet Confessore**, and **Karen Franklin**. HHH veterans included **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL), **Chuck Caldwell**, **Malvi Longoria** (GAL), **Mary Hamel** (GAL), **Vivian Uchdorf** (GAL), **Wieland Uchdorf** (GAL), **Joann Pierre** (GAL), **Lynda Arostequi** (Mentor), **Ana Gaspert**, **Melbelena Lagos Latorre** (Mentor), **Valerie Van Ostran** (GAL), **Monica Vega**, **Stefan Schwindeman**, **Alexander Schwindeman**, **Lou Confessore**, **Mike Carrier**, **DK Knox**, **Bill VanderWyden**, **Susan Dingler** (HHH Care Portal), and **Eric Schwindeman** (GAL, Mentor, Care Portal).

HHH would like to thank our new IT Supervisor, **Stefan Schwindeman** for handling our Zoom technology effortlessly and for introducing many new features. Thanks for stepping up with a minimum of arm-twisting! (And thank you, Monica!)

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/ministryHHH>

Kendall's children in foster care desperately need FOSTER PARENTS, MENTORS and GUARDIAN AD LITEM! HHH is accepting applications NOW!

Contact Eric Schwindeman at [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com) to get started.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THESE CHILDREN'S LIVES!**







Director **Georgia Downey** Opens  
**EXPLORE FOSTER MIAMI**  
 Fall Shareholders Meeting – September 22



Citrus FCN was well-represented by **Leslie Veiga, Nadine Rolle, Joann Pierce,** and Executive Director **Esther Jacobo**



HHH sent 5 delegates to the Shareholder's Mtg. All are Guardian ad Litem (L to R) Maria Jacques, Malvi Longoria, Valerie Van Ostran, Joann Pierre, ad Eric Schwindeman



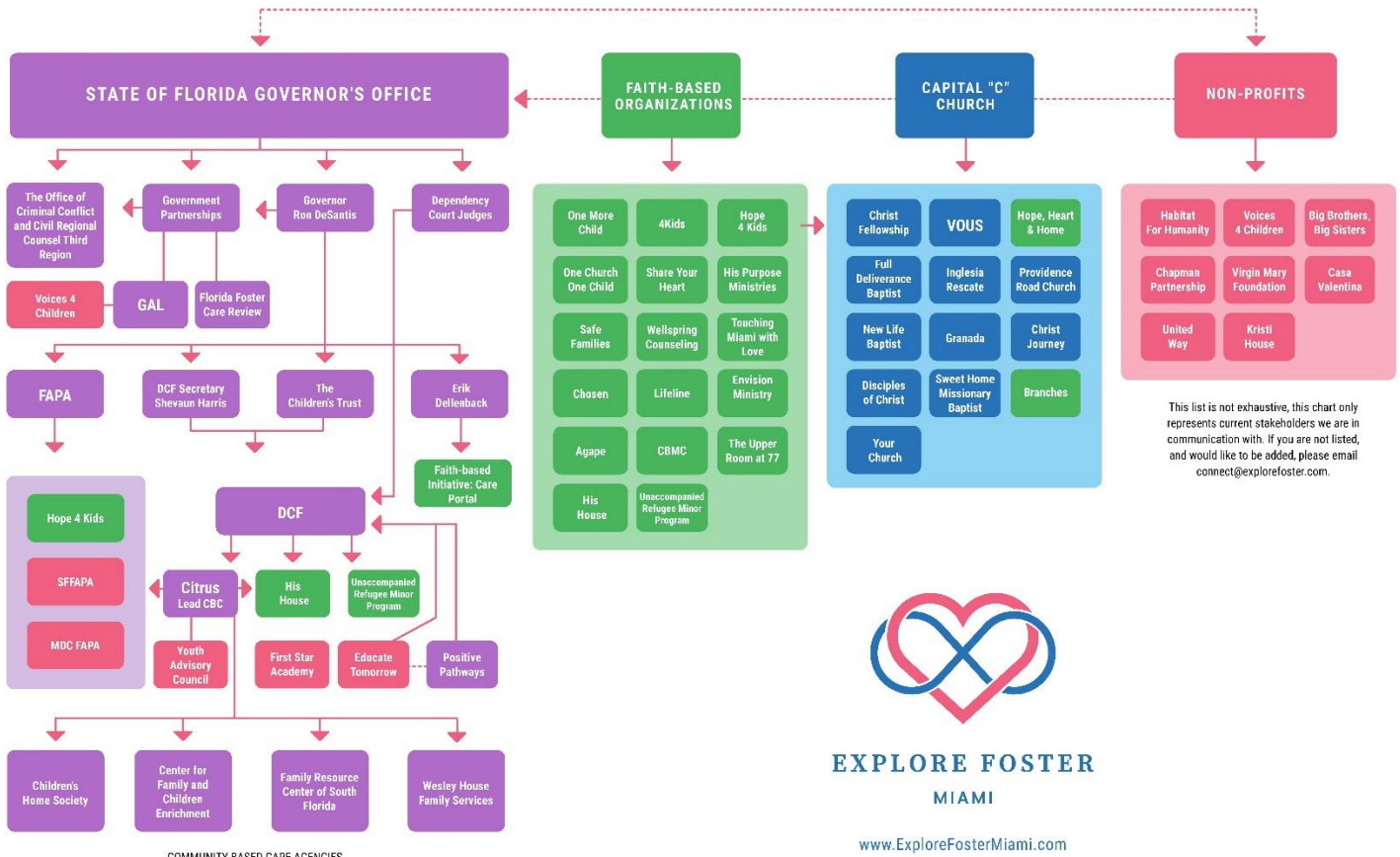
Thank you, *Explore Foster Miami* for welcoming us to their Fall Stakeholder Breakfast! It was wonderful to be part of this uplifting event to see the faith community and non-profits come together as part of our system of care to support children and families. Georgia did a great job!



EXPLORE FOSTER  
 MIAMI

EXPLORE FOSTER MIAMI

Foster Care System Organizational Overview



UPDATED SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

EXPLORE FOSTER'S NEW ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

**HOPE, HEART & HOME** has had some wonderful speakers over our short lifespan of in-person and virtual monthly meetings: Nelson Hincapie, our founding mentor (**Voices For Children**), Patti Abaroa & Jessica Allen (**Guardian ad Litem**), Esther Jacobo, Marta Torres, & Nadine Rolle (**Citrus FCN**), Jim Haj (**Children's Trust**), Brett McNaught & Amy Rubinson (**Educate Tomorrow**), Steve Rios (**Positive Pathways**), Deborah Billings (**Kristi House**), and Monsignor Pablo Navarro (**Archdiocese of Miami**).

Lourdes Pons (**Children's Home Society**), Janice Graham (**Casa Valentina**), Erik Dellenback, Gilda Fernandez & Beatriz Lopez (**My Florida My Family**), DeMarco Mott (**Citrus Youth Advisory Council**) Mary J. Walton (**GAL**), Vanessa Munoz (**Florida Foster Care Review**), David Castrillon, (**His House**), Denise Beeman-Sasiain (**South Florida Foster & Adoptive Family Assoc.**), Panos Kourtesis (**One More Child, CarePortal**), and Georgia Downey (**Explore Foster Miami**)

Their organizations *are all on this chart!* (Can you find **HHH**? Hint: We're the green box in with the blue ones...faith-based organization AND affiliated with the Archdiocese of Miami)



# GRANDPARENTS DAY RECRUITING

**HAPPY**  
Grandparents day

*Come join us*  
for information on how to  
be a foster parent or  
respite parent

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**

St. Louis Church  
after Masses 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

 **SAINT LOUIS**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7270 SW 120th Street  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
[www.stlcatholic.org](http://www.stlcatholic.org)

Hope,  
Heart &  
Home  
  
Citrus  
Family Care Network

Flyer courtesy of Alicia Mendes - HRSR

## St. Louis Embraces *Hope, Heart & Home*: 17 Families Sign-Up to Explore Foster Parenting



The "Braintrust" of our St. Louis recruiting coalition; (l to r) **Giancarlo Zambrano**, Operations Manager **Michael Carrier**, **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL), who made altar announcements after all the Masses, **Maria Jacques** (GAL), and the Supervisor of Recruitment at Citrus FCN, **Joann Pierre** (GAL).

**Eric Schwindeman** (HHH Executive Director, GAL Mentor), greets visitors to the HHH information booth at St. Louis, Sunday, September 26



Recruitment at Citrus FCN, **Joann Pierre** (GAL). HHH Child Advocates **Jose Umana** (second from left) and **Lorenzo Cosio** (GAL) recruiting foster parents at St. Louis Catholic Church. They were joined later by St. Louis HHH volunteers **Mary Hamel** (GAL) and **Ros Hagley**.



St. Louis' Fr. **Paul Vuturo** welcomes HHH volunteers **Mike Carrier** (left) and **Lorenzo Cosio** as well as Citrus FCN Supervisor of Recruitment and HHH Leader, **Joann Pierre**. We were blessed, once again, to team up with Joann to meet & greet St. Louis parishioners.





**HOPE, HEART & HOME MINISTRY**  
A FAITH - BASED COMMUNITY COALITION  
SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

If we told you a major and well-established risk factor in the top 10 causes of death in the United States and worldwide - received virtually no coverage in the media, would you be surprised?

And if this risk resulted not only in premature death but in significant increase in suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, brain damage, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, asthma, obesity, and depression - would that surprise you even more?

Well, *all of this is true* about **Child Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect!**

All the painful scenes we have recently witnessed of immigrant families seeking asylum in the US along our southern border - and the heart-wrenching photos of children separated from their parent and being kept in cages - all of that pales in comparison to what pediatricians, child psychiatrists, psychologists, and the Department of Family Services (DCF) see daily in this country!

Last year **676,000** children were verified as “abuse and neglect” cases in the United States. Of those, **1700** died. That number is certainly much higher when human trafficking, malnourishment, and unreported violence is factored in. Today **437,000** children are in foster care, **2000** in Miami-Dade County alone.

**HOPE, HEART & HOME MINISTRY** was created to oversee a recruiting effort in the *South Dade Deanery of the Archdiocese of Miami* to support a coalition of child advocate groups committed to serve foster care in Miami. Over a dozen Catholic parishes have joined forces to team up with child welfare partners including *Citrus Family Care Network, Guardian ad Litem, Voices For Children, Educate Tomorrow, Florida Foster Care Review, Children’s Trust, Kristi House, His House, South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, One More Child, The Citrus FCN Youth Advisory Board (YAC), Explore Foster Miami, Casa Valentina, Children’s Home Society, First Star, UM Law School, Safe Families for Children, Catholic Charities Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, Lifeline Children Services, Center for Family and Child Enrichment, and CAREPORTAL!*

HOPE, HEART & HOME recruits for 6 opportunities to support children in foster care:

(1) FOSTER PARENTS

Children entering foster care due to child abuse, neglect, or abandonment need quality foster families to provide safe, nurturing, and loving homes where they can thrive and feel they belong. These children need support, comfort, and guidance during this difficult time in their lives. Foster parenting can be a short or long term commitment. *Citrus* provides *CARE* classes for interested parents.

(2) RESPITE PARENTS

Foster parents often need “breaks” during their time caring for children. Respite Parents provide that break by temporarily caring for children in their homes for short periods of time. Anyone interested in becoming a respite parent completes the same *CARE* training with *Citrus* that full-time foster parents go through.

(3) GUARDIAN AD LITEM

These same children also need court-appointed *Guardian as Litem (GAL)* to advocate for their best interests in dependency court procedures. Guardians make sure children are not lost in over-burdened legal and social service systems or languish in an inappropriate home or shelter. The *Guardians* require 30 hours of training, including on-line study and courtroom observation.

4) MENTORS

Teenage children “age-out” of dependent care at age 18. Studies have shown that teens who connect with a volunteer mentor achieve better grades, achieve higher graduation rates, and find better jobs. HHH Mentors will assist high school and college students navigate their way through college entrance, curriculum, “life questions,” and career paths. Extensive training and background checks required.

(5) PANELISTS

*Florida Foster Care Review* conducts review sessions of pending cases before the Children’s Court. They interview, screen, and train panelists to serve on civilian review “roundtables.” Panelists serve one full day a month.

(6) CAREPORTAL NETWORKING

HHH needs Child Advocates to volunteer to help meet the specific needs of local foster families posted on the CarePortal platform. Anyone from 19 to 90 can join!

HHH meets the second Monday of every month. Please email [eschwindeman@yahoo.com](mailto:eschwindeman@yahoo.com). for more information. Or go to our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ministryHHH>



COMING SOON

*Hope, Heart & Home's*  
"ADOPT A FOSTER FAMILY"  
PROJECT



TO MEND A HEART YOU  
DIDN'T BREAK  
IS PART OF LOVING A CHILD  
YOU DIDN'T MAKE

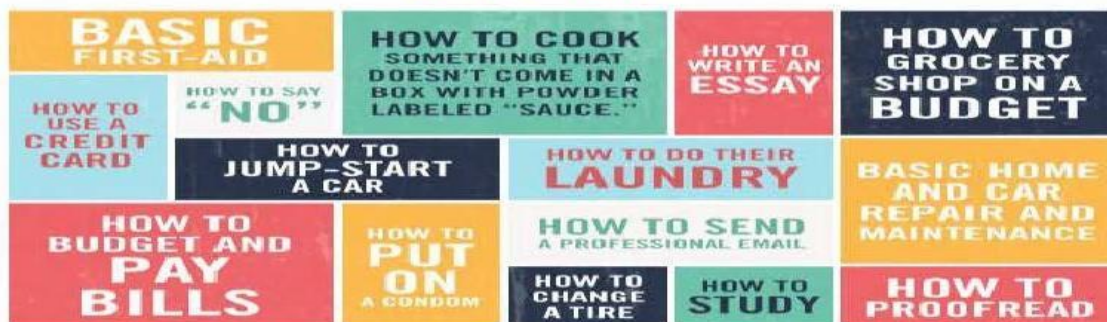
@THEPONDERINGNOOK

# HHH Mentors Work with Mentees on Life Skills!



## LIFE Skills

DO YOU KNOW...



If you answered "no" to any of these questions, consider reaching out to your Transitioning Youth Specialist "TYS" to request Life Skills Assistance.

Life skills are the abilities and behaviors that help you deal effectively with the events and challenges of everyday life. They include some of the skills listed above, but the list of skills to learn are endless!

Your TYS can help you assess your Life Skills knowledge. This will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses. They can then provide you with educational opportunities to learn the Life Skills that you need support with. These opportunities can range from phone apps, to YouTube videos, to after-school classes, to in-person/virtual workshops and conferences.

*Better yourself TODAY!*



## Breaking the generational CURSE

Quit yelling at your kids before they go to bed and expect them to sleep well

Quit yelling at your kids in the morning right after they wake up, before school and expect them to have a good day

You set the tone for your children. You set the tone for YOUR voice that they will always remember in their heads. You become their inner voice. Don't be their inner critic.

Speak life. Speak love. Speak bravery and kindness and hope. Speak wisdom and truth. But most of all, LISTEN to your children

