HOPE, HEART & HOME

4th Quarter 2024

NEWSLETTER





HOPE, HEART & HOME's

4 R's

OUR MISSION:

THE 4 R'S

RECRUITMENT

HHH recruits volunteers as Foster Parents, Respite Parents, Guardian ad Litem, Mentors, Panelists for Case Reviews, and First Responders to CarePortal and Random Acts of Kindness.

Reflection

HHH hosts monthly zoom meetings on the second Monday of the month which features guest speakers from every facet of the child welfare world and provides on-going education

RETENTION

HHH partners with a variety of non-profits, parishes, agencies, and civic organizations to host various events and holiday drives benefitting foster families- including meals, swim lessons, school supply drives, and athletic & cultural events.

REVIEW

HHH publishes a quarterly newsletter highlighting programs and joint ventures from the last ninety days. (You're reading one now!)

KIWANIS CLUB OF MIAMI PARTNERS WITH HOPE, HEART & HOME ELEVATE TWO HHH ACTIVISTS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



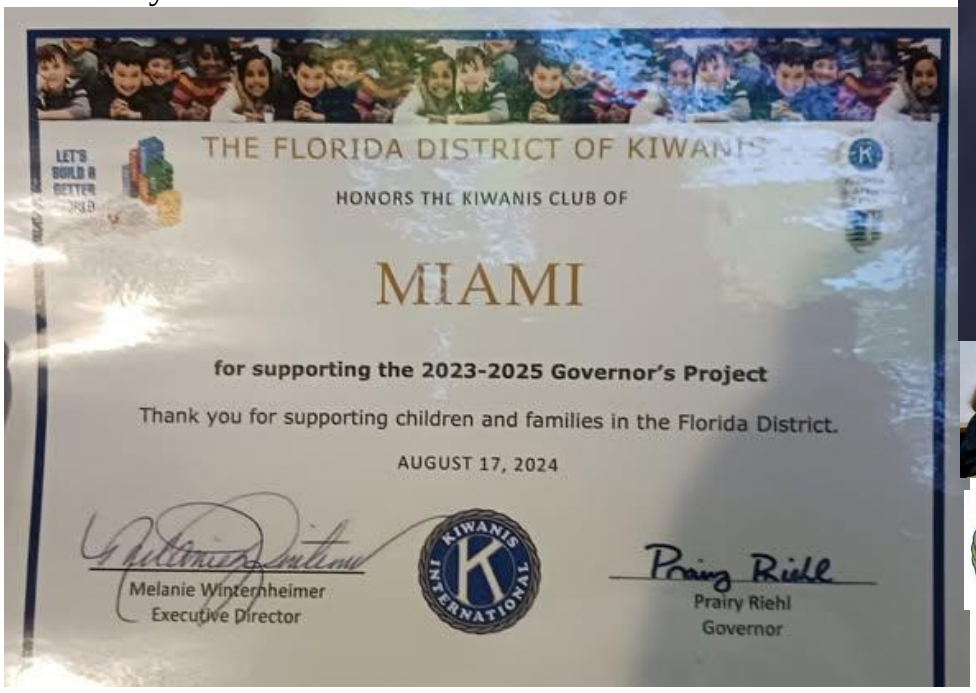
The **Kiwanis Club of Miami, Florida** and **Hope**, **Heart & Home** continue their award-winning support of children in foster care. On October 7, the Kiwanis Board voted to sponsor two additional child welfare events with HHH this quarter**:**

Citrus Family Care Network's *Hoops4Unity Basketball Tournament* and sending a team of children from foster care to race in the **Annual ZooRun** held at **ZooMiami o**n November 2. HHH is grateful for the Kiwanis' love of children and their unwavering commitment to foster families.



At that same meeting, HHH's Executive Director, **Eric Schwindeman** and **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez** were both chosen to serve on the Kiwanis Club of Miami's Board of Directors which will strengthen the partnership supporting foster care in Miami for years to come.







Mentoring Makes a Difference

It is, indeed, a pleasure to work with the consummate professionals in the **Hope Heart & Home Mentoring Program**. HHH's **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez , Vanessa Akiki**, and **Paul Czekanski** joined **Dr. Kele Stewart** and **Maria de Castro** of ***First Star Academy*** and 25 scholars at another 4th QTR mentoring session on the UM campus. Great to see old friends **Venus Motley** & **DeMarco Mott** of Citrus Family Care Network's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) leading a class.






SCHOOL OF LAW

Sowing
Accompanying
Harvesting
Showing
Catalyzing
MENTORING TECHNIQUES


FIRST
STAR

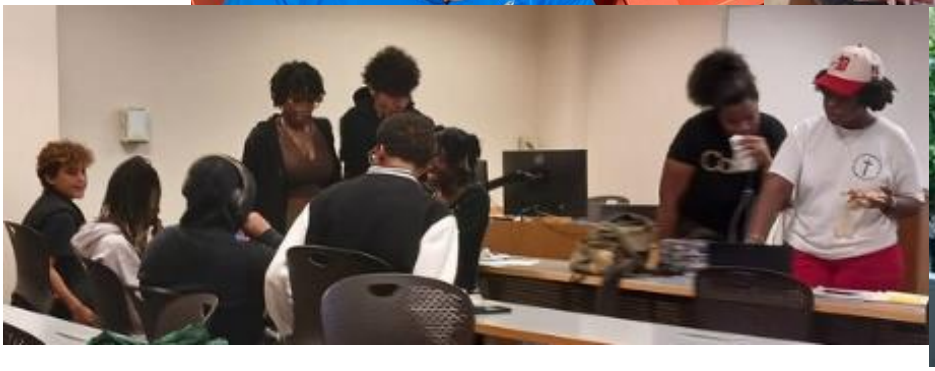





Sowing
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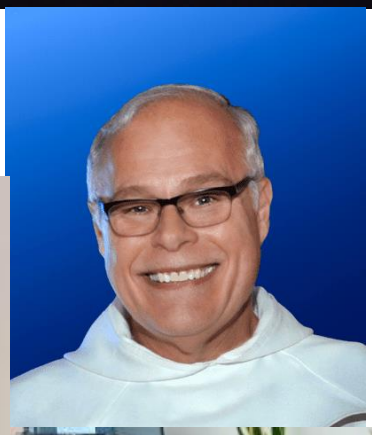




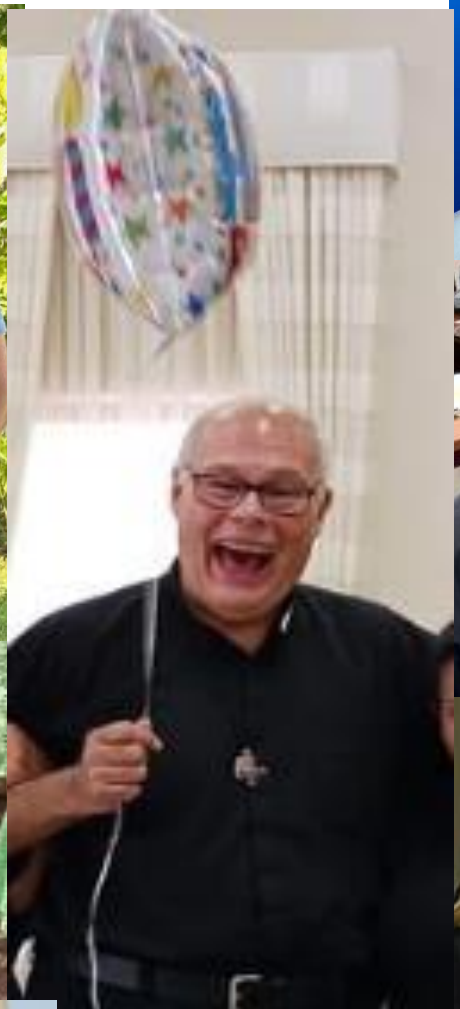


We Mourn

On October 11 Hope, Heart & Home lost a dear friend and champion of foster children FATHER DAN HOUDE from Holy Rosary-St. Richard Catholic Church.













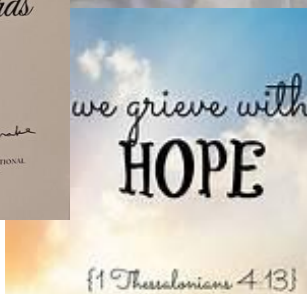










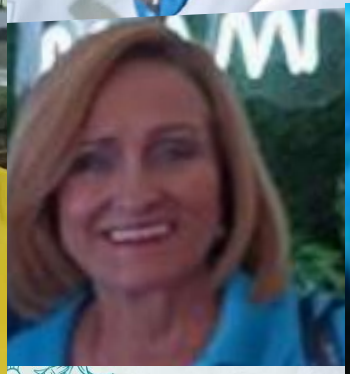


Our Loss

On October 31 Hope, Heart & Home lost our angel and founding trustee, Maria Jacques



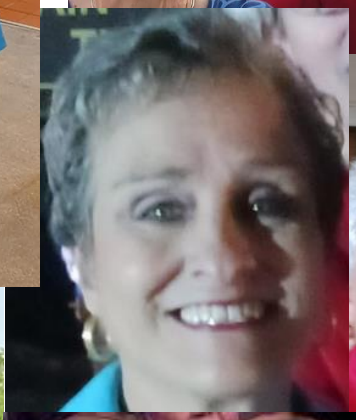






























PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Celebration of Life

-IN MEMORY OF-



Maria Angela Mejia-Jacques

October 19, 1957 - October 31, 2024

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

eleven o'clock am

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

3176





HHH HONORED BY ST. LOUIS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Hope Heart & Home honored last night Oct 5 at St. Louis Catholic Church as champion of children in foster care at the **Knights of Columbus Council 14730** "*Casino Night 2024*."

Other honorees included **Lucas Alvarez LA6 Foundation** and **Nick Silverio's Safe Haven For Newborns**. Many thanks to **Manny Padron** and his team of Knights for a festive & fun fundraiser for these charitable community activists!



Great to see old friends **Jose Umana, Liz Arquimbau** & **Tony, Liz & Alex Alvarez**, and **Giancarlo Zambrano.** Congrats to HHH's **Dr. Alecia Rodriguez** and His House's **Liz Anon** for "cleaning up" at the blackjack table!

























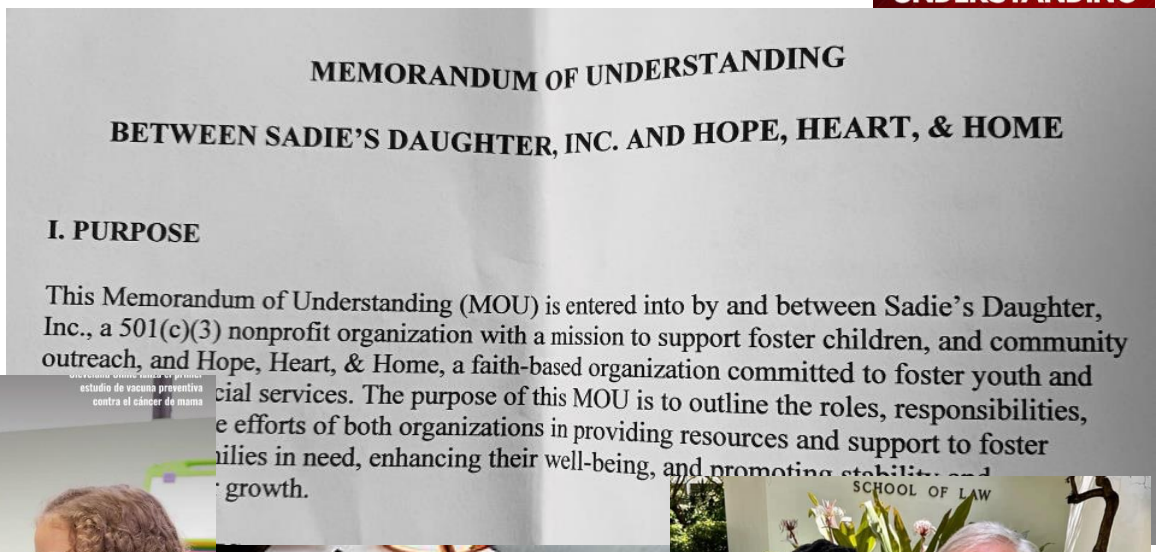
SADIE'S DAUGHTER 501c3 PARTNERS WITH HHH

After a series of meetings, the principals of **Hope, Heart & Home** and **Sadie's Daughter** (a 501c3) announced an agreement on November 6 with a "Memorandum of Understanding" to forge a partnership "providing greater resources and support to foster children and families in need" and "promoting stability and opportunities for growth."

Dr. Alecia Rodriguez *and* ***Eric Schwindeman,*** *both trustees with HHH and the* ***Kiwanis Club of Miami,*** *will seek new ways to leverage their personal and their organization's experience in the child welfare community to expand their impact in Miami-Dade. Both are excited at the prospects!*



Sadie's Daughter



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN SADIE'S DAUGHTER, INC. AND HOPE, HEART, & HOME

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between Sadie's Daughter, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to support foster children, and community outreach, and Hope, Heart, & Home, a faith-based organization committed to foster youth and cial services. The purpose of this MOU is to outline the roles, responsibilities, e efforts of both organizations in providing resources and support to foster ilies in need, enhancing their well-being, and promoting stability and growth.







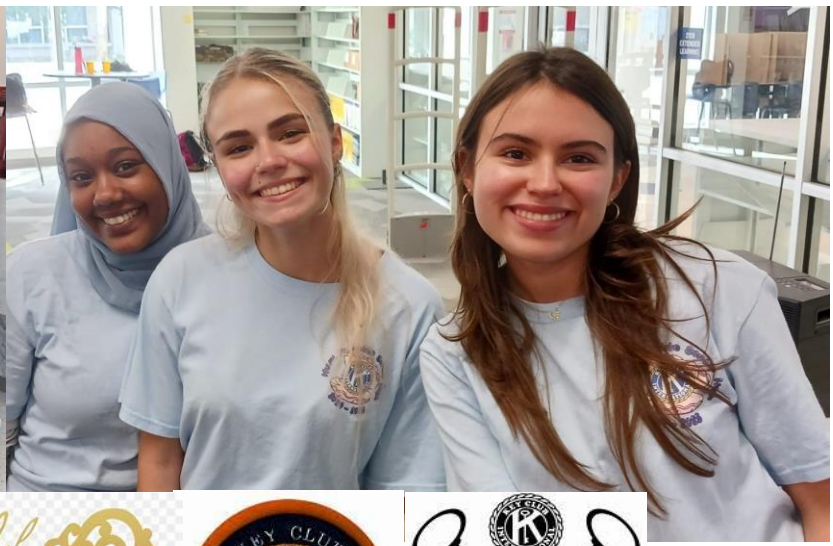
KEY CLUB

COLLABORATION!



Another great quarter with the service organization and **Hope Heart & Home** partner, the **Miami Palmetto HS Key Club.** At their monthly meetings, the Club voted to participate in a number of upcoming events to support children in foster care. They are sending volunteers to support HHH and the **Kiwanis Club of Miami,** on a School Supply Drive, Fishing Tournament, Holy Smoke BBQ, Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Christmas Toy Drive, and a Holiday Dinner for the WOW Center at the Salvation Army. What a great service organization to partner with!



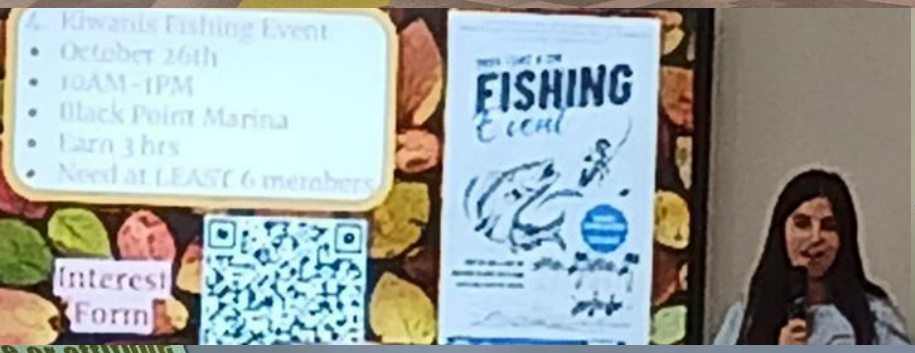














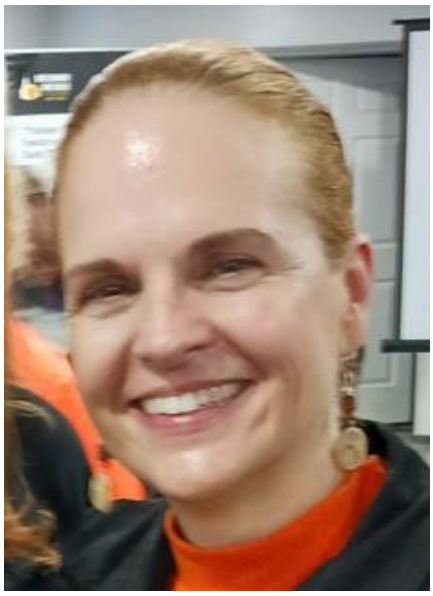




KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL Key Club

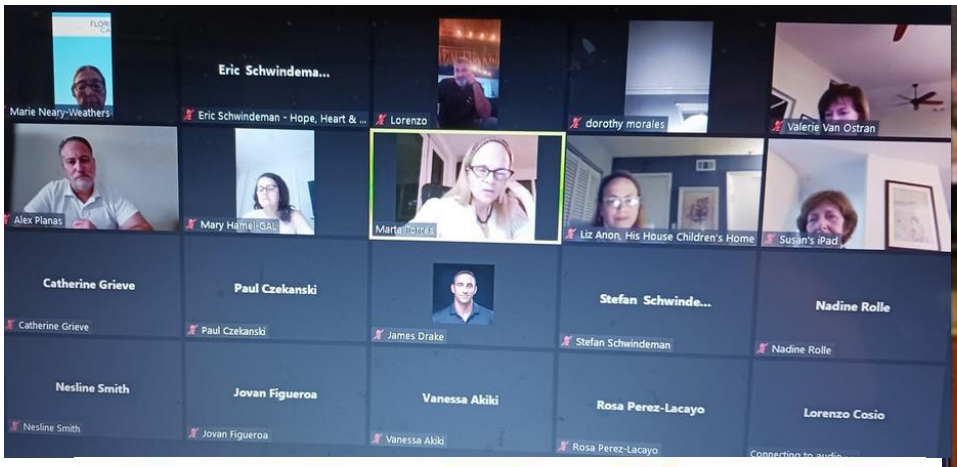
KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL

HOPE, HEART & HOME
HOSTS
MARTA TORRES



Hope, Heart & Home was honored to host Citrus Family Care Network Director of Licensing & Transitioning Youth Services **Marta Oliva Torres** who delivered an uplifting message as our October 14 meeting. Marta shared a compelling overview of the need for more foster parents in our community with infants, sibling groups, and teens as the most pressing needs.

She praised the work of HHH and numerous faith-based organizations that are raising awareness for the need to support the healing children in need of foster homes. HHH is blessed to partner with such a dynamic champion of children as Marta continues her positive impact on our child welfare community.











Infant Needs (0-1 year of age) - FY 23-24

- Children 1 year of age or younger made up **21%** of all children in need of licensed care
- **65 infants** were in need of licensed care
  - 54% were from the North
- The number of infants is relatively lower, but the need is CRITICAL for families that have the flexibility and support system to care for young children that may not be able to attend daycare due to tender age or have medical concerns where daycare is not recommended at the time

Sibling Group Needs– FY 23-24

- Citrus' current success with placing siblings together is **60%**
- **66 sibling groups** were in need
  - This represents **172 children**
- More than **50%** of the children placed in licensed care were part of a sibling group
- Homes to keep sibling groups is a great need

Current Foster Home Population - (FY 23-24)

- Ongoing need to engage new families willing and able to open their hearts and homes to children of varying ages with varying needs related to their trauma history
- Currently there are **336 traditional foster homes** in the Southern Region
  - We have **lost 118 homes** since FY 20-21 (COVID 19)
- There is also a need to **support our current foster families** dedicated to the care of the children.
- **16%** of our foster families are residents of the Miami Gardens or Opa-Locka areas.
- **10%** of our licensed kin and fictive kin are residents of the Miami Gardens area.

HHH : HOOK, LINE & SINKER!

What a glorious day out on the water and for a BBQ feast. 52 Kids and 13 Boat Captains joined the Kiwanis Club of Miami, *Hope, Heart & Home*, and Citrus Family Care Network at the **Kiwanis Kids Annual Fishing Tournament**, October 28 at Black Point Park & Marina.

Congratulations to Bruce Ross, Eric Carpenter, Carole Johnson, George Lucas, Diana Morrell, Mo & Alecia Rodriguez, Valerie Van Ostran, Dot Moran, and Rosie Perez- Lacayo and all the volunteers who made the day special for these kids (some who had never fished before!)







FISHING TOURNAMENT


KIWANIS CLUB
MIMI
FLORIDA




Kiwanis KIDS
Fishing Tournament
Miami Dade Police Department
Tropical Anglers Fishing Club
South Florida Sports Fishermen
Chapman Partnership
Hope, Heart & Home


PROFESSIONAL
FISHING
TOURNAMENT




ANIS CLUB
Kiwanis Kids Fishing Tournament
SPONSORS


Sea Tow Key Biscayne
MIMI
FLORIDA


SYLVAN






FALCON













HOPE, HEART & HOME

is celebrating an incredible milestone with

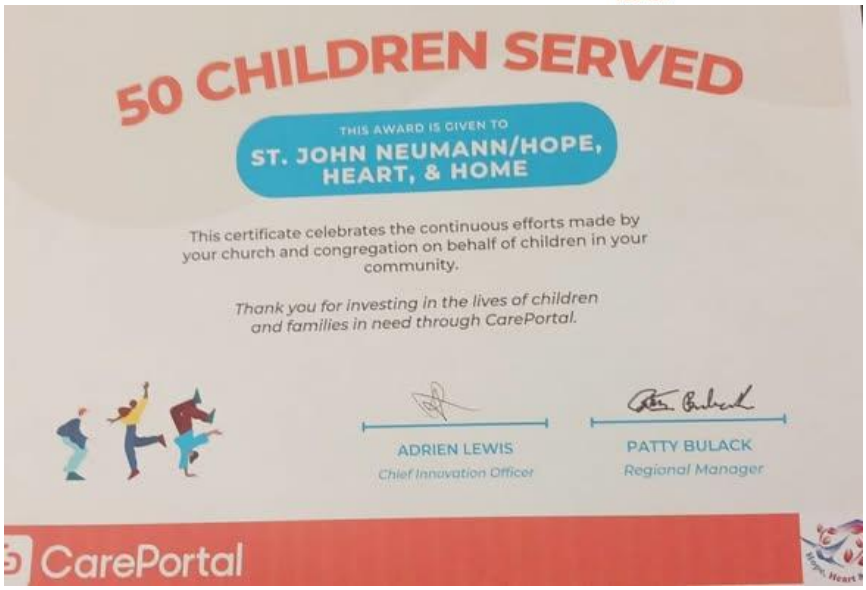
CarePortal
every church doing a little

—25,000 children served through the CAREPORTAL platform in Florida!!

Thanks to the efforts of agencies, churches, community responders, and generous donors, vulnerable children and families across Florida have received the support they need. And HHH has done our part. Thanks to the efforts of Co-chairs Valerie Van Ostran and Dr. John Gentile, the HHH Response Team served over FIFTY children by October!



With additional support from the Kiwanis Club of Miami, the Knights of Columbus Council 14730, and the St. Catherine's Men's Prayer Group, our CarePortal team hopes to make an even greater impact with foster families 2025.



CARE PORTAL is active in every county, offering churches a powerful tool to serve their communities. Together, we're making a lasting impact!

ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION ZooRun



HOPE. HEART & HOME joined forces with the Kiwanis Club of Miami and Citrus Family Care Network on November 2 to enter 10 children from foster care in the 2024 ZOO RUN at ZooMiami.

A little early morning rain couldn't dampen the kids' spirits as they lined up with 5000 exuberant runners to compete in this year's race. All the kids, aged 8 to 14, enjoyed the 5K race route through the friendly confines of giraffes, elephants, and monkeys! They finished the race under the watchful eyes of Citrus's **Marta Torres.** Congratulations to all on this inaugural collaboration!

ZOO MIAMI










ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION
2024
ZooRun
PRESENTED BY
Baptist Health
32


3130
28


ZOO RUN 5K 2017
ZOO RUN 5K 2019
ZOO RUN 5K 2019


BLESSED
ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION
ZooRun
Baptist Health
ZOO WILDLIFE MIAMI CONSERVATION
2024 SPONSORS


ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION
ZooRun


PEI WEI
DICED

November 16



Collaboration for Kids!

HOPE HEART & HOME MINISTRY'S

4TH ANNUAL FATHER DAN

HOLY SMOKE THANKSGIVING BBQ

FOR FOSTER FAMILIES"





This gatheringwas a huge success as a crowd of 140 enjoyed a gorgeous day at Holy Rosary – St. Richard's Pavilion Gardens & Hall honoring **Fr. Dan Houde**, and sampling a delicious Thanksgiving feast prepared by **Chef Marcus Costa** and his son, Gabriel.

Many thanks for the support and hospitality from **Father Kevin**, **Father Allan**, Marcus Costas BBQ Place, Propelled in Christ Ministry, Miami Palmetto HS Key Club, the Knights of Columbus Council 14730, Lucas Alvarez LA6 Foundation, Leanna Roberts Family, Robert & Joan Buksch, Sadie's Daughter Foundation, HRSR Youth groups, Couples For Christ, Citrus Family Care Network, and Parish Office Manager, **Coraly Maldonado.**

Everything came together under the tireless leadership of HHH's **Rosie Perez-Lacayo** with **Kathleen Nelson-Smith** and **Doris Gonzalez.** All the foster families appreciated the love shown by this incredible coalition of champions!









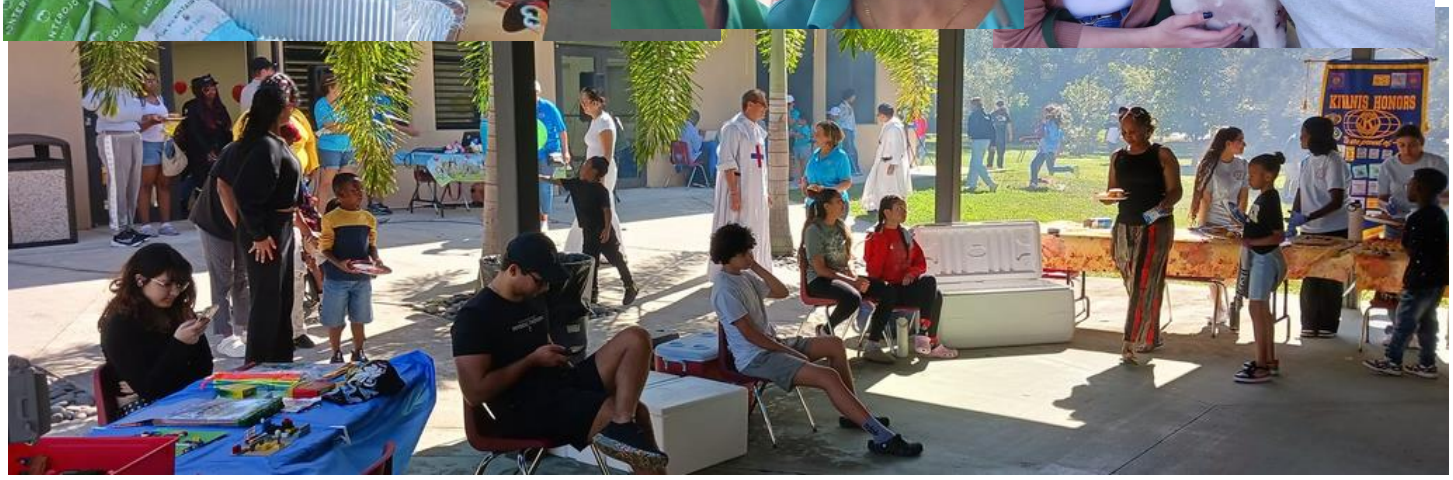











KILWIS HONORS


KILNIS HONORS


Hope, Heart & Home
RUN DMC









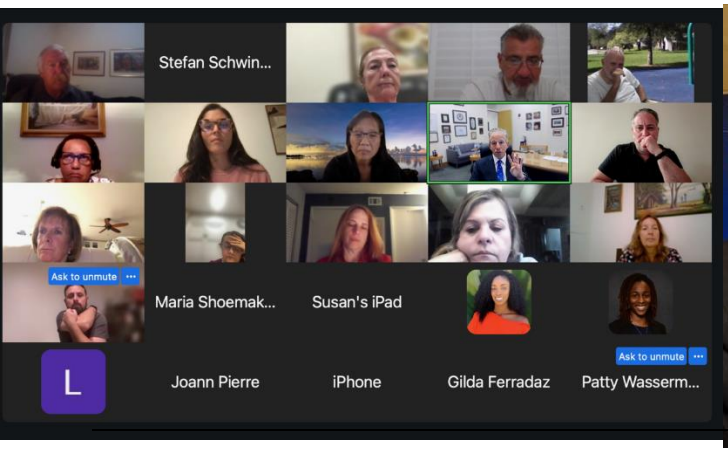
















Judge Jason Dimitris: *Eternal Optimist Addresses* ***Hope, Heart & Home*** *at November 18 Monthly Virtual Meeting*

Thirty HHH Child Advocates enjoyed a candid and inspirational meeting with **Judge Jason Dimitris**, who after 11 years on the bench, still considers himself "an optimist with a good feeling" about the progress of the dependency system in Miami-Dade.

Dimitris presides over the "Complex Trial Division of Family Court" and sees a positive trend for the future: "99% of cases *result in positive outcomes."* He called for continued efforts *at* collaboration and praised **Hope**, **Heart & Home** for its leadership in recruiting volunteers from the local community and retaining our existing foster parents.

HHH thanked Judge Dimitris' for his support on the Community Based Care Alliance (CBC) and at the upcoming Explore Foster Miami breakfast on December 4.



HOPE, HEART & HOME PARTNERS ON FOOD DRIVE



Over 100 children in foster care had a little extra on their Thanksgiving table this year, thanks to the incredible generosity of **Holy Rosary- St. Richards Catholic Church** in Palmetto Bay.

Partnering with host ministry, **Propelled In Christ**, and **Miami Palmetto Senior High Key Club**, **Hope, Heart & Home** was able to help collect and distribute over **200** baskets, bags & gift cards to needy families.

This year **Citrus Family Care Network** , **His House For Children**. **First Star Academy, Genesis Hopeful Haven**, and **St. Vincent de Paul** were the primary beneficiaries of HRSR's annual community outreach.

Thank you, **Kathleen Smith,** for organizing this most successful holiday delivery! Father Dan would be proud!














HARVEST BLESSINGS












MASHED
POTATOES
cheese
macaroni and cheese
Del Monte
Fresh Cut
WHOLE KERNEL CORN

Stove Top
Stuffing Mix
Del Monte
Fresh Cut

TURKEY
GRAVY

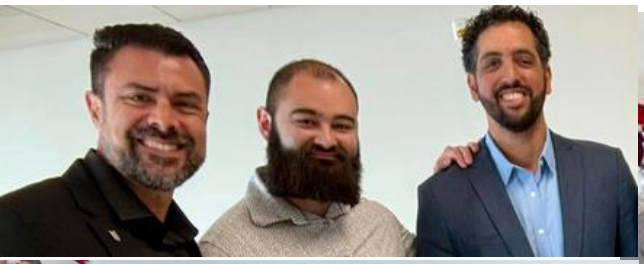



Stove Top

Hope, Heart & Home Sends 9 Delegates to Explore Foster Miami Breakfast



HOPE, HEART & HOME was honored to join over 100 faith-based child advocates at the 2024 **EXPLORE FOSTER MIAMI BREAKFAST** held December 4 at the *Lexus of West Kendall* gallery. **Father Allan Gastardo** of Holy Rosary- St. Richard Catholic Church opened the session in prayer and Judge **Jason Dimitris** delivered the keynote address. HHH took part in a panel discussion on the tremendous collaborative impact Explore Foster has brought to Miami over the last 5 years. HHH delegates included **Lorenzo Cosio, Rosa A. Perez-Lacayo**, **Carmenza Ortiz, Kathleen Smith, Susan Dingler,** and **Mary Walton,** along with our honorary member **Liz.Anon.**







Congratulations to **Panagiotis Kourtesis, James Drake, Bertha Pino, Jessica Lancaster,** and **Chris Lane** for another inspirational gathering! **Maria Jacques,** we knew you were looking down on us!



















South Florida
Foster & Adoptive
Parent Association





Hope Heart & Home trustees, **Mary & David Hamel** and **Patty & Ron Wasserman**, enjoyed the **South Florida Foster & Adoptive Parent Association's Annual Christmas Party** held December 6 at the Gold Coast Train Museum.



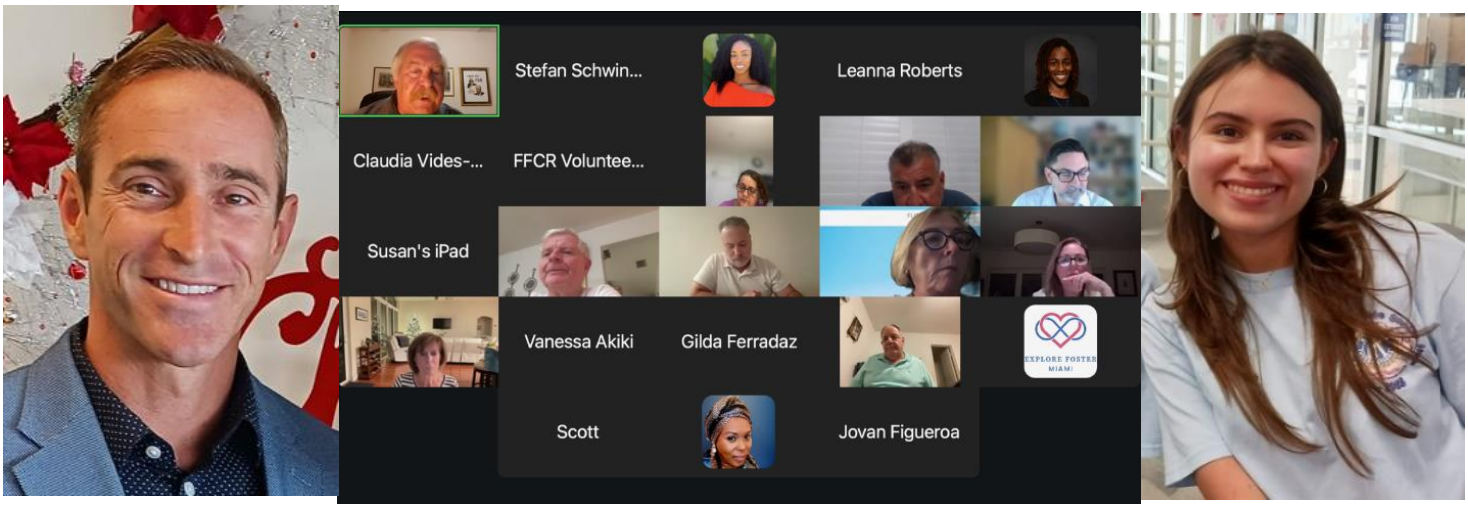




Many thanks to SFFAPA's **Minette Rivero**, Citrus Family Care Network's **Marta Oliva Torres**, **Kim Lopez** (aka Mrs. Claus) and all the volunteers that make this one of the favorite holiday events!



HHH HOSTS JAMES DRAKE
At December Virtual Meeting and GREETS
Palmetto High School Key Club President



Wonderful to host James Drake at our monthly virtual meeting (December 9). This "renaissance man" called on the 30 child advocates " to reflect, connect, and celebrate the work being done to bring restoration and hope to foster families." He thanked HHH and their partners for "championing the cause of foster care," and concluded "together, we're making an impact that lasts far beyond the holiday season."

HHH also welcomed the President of the Miami Palmetto HS Key Club, Claudia, to her first meeting and thanked her team for their outstanding service at the *Holy Smoke BBQ, School Supply Drives,* and *Thanksgiving Basket* collection - all events held at Holy Rosary-St. Richard's Catholic Church. Next collaborative projects: A Christmas Toy Drive and a dinner for the WOW Center at the Salvation Army!





HOPE, HEART & HOME partners with Holy Rosary-St. Richards, Solo Printing, Miami Palmetto HS Key Club, and CAREPORTAL

in 2024

CHRISTMAS TOYS FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE!

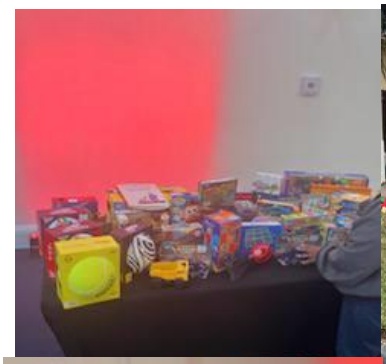
This year HHH collected toys for Citrus Family Care Network 5 different times: Twice with *Propelled In Christ Ministry* & Kathleen Smith at Holy Rosary-St. Richards (Teddy Bears and Gift Bags), with **Lorenzo Cosio** & SOLO Printing, and with **Marie Sanin** & the Miami Palmetto HS KEY CLUB. HHH also donated $125 in gift cards to families through the CAREPORTAL platform. Thanks to the efforts of these generous donors, over 400 children received toys this year!
























CHARIS
COMMUNITY
CENTER


Toy Drive




FRAGILE





HOPE, HEART & HOME SPONSOR HOOPS4UNITY









Hope Heart & Home was proud to partner with the **Kiwanis Club of Miami** in sponsoring the **Hoops4Unity Basketball Tournament** for children in foster care run by **Citrus Family Care Network.** The tournament brought 80+ kids together with law enforcement & first responders at the Fair Expo Center, Dec 15. This year the Kiwanis made sure each child went home from the games with a brand-new basketball! Merry Christmas to All!











HOPE, HEART & HOME team-up with the Kiwanis Club of Miami, Miami Palmetto HS Key Club, and the Salvation Army to celebrate Christmas with the WOW Center













Christmas came early to clients of the **WOW Center** as volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Miami and Miami Palmetto HS Key Club prepared and served a sumptuous holiday feast at the Salvation Army's Sunset Hall. Under the tutelage of Chefs Chuck Little and Eric Carpenter, students mashed potatoes, sliced meat, stirred stuffing. and plated a smorgasbord of Christmas goodies for the festive crowd. Many thanks to Valerie Dacks, Carole Johnson, Jo Smelser, and Teresa Della Monica for assembling the gift bags, centerpieces, and decorations. Bruce Ross was, once again, a jolly Santa! Merry Christmas and God bless to all the joyful clients at the WOW Center!

















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