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# ADOPT-A-FAMILY *of the Palm Beaches, Inc.*

## 40TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

For four decades, friends of Adopt-A-Family have gathered for Tree Lighting, bringing in the holiday season with good cheer and boundless generosity. The 40th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration broke the agency's single-event fundraising record, a true testament to the commitment of everyone involved in this milestone event.



**CEO Matt Constantine  
and Chair Nancy Kyle**

Held Dec. 3, 2024, Adopt-A-Family's largest fundraiser generated more than \$1.2 million, thanks to the leadership of Chair Nancy J. Kyle and the work of the dedicated Tree Lighting Committee.

In addition,

the leaders of the 10th, 20th, and 30th events – Paula Michel, Alice Tarone, and Beth Hennessy, respectively – served as Honorary Chairs.

"The impact of Tree Lighting is indisputable," CEO Matt Constantine said in his welcome address. "For every person attending this evening, there is a family of four sleeping somewhere safe tonight. Thank you for joining us as we work to prevent and end family homelessness in Palm Beach County."

In keeping with tradition, arriving guests were serenaded by The King's Academy Choir. The silent auction drew thousands of bids on holiday decor, themed gift baskets, outings, salon services, and orchid arrangements. Dine & Dash and the Wine Pull sold out once again, and several benefactors purchased Baskets from the Heart for the families we serve.



In the dining room, stunning tablescapes featured centerpieces designed and donated by Lewis Miller. The first course, a bourbon-glazed pear salad, was followed by petit filet mignon and grilled shrimp with potato gratin and asparagus. Diners savored cheesecake tarts and chocolate peppermint bark for dessert. Auctioneer Neil Saffer led a good-natured but highly competitive live auction that yielded a record-high bid for a Cuban-themed cocktail party for 50.



On behalf of the families we serve, Adopt-A-Family extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make the 40th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration such a success.

## 2024 TREE LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Nancy J. Kyle, Chair	Heather Ferguson	Carol Jeney	Michelle Otremba
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Jen Dudnyk	Beth Hennessy	Chris Oberlink	

## SAVE THE DATE!

The 41st Annual  
Tree Lighting  
Celebration  
will take place on  
**December 2, 2025.**

Adopt-A-Family is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization established in 1983. Our mission is to strengthen families with children in their efforts to achieve stability and self-sufficiency by providing access to all-encompassing services.



# NSP2 RESIDENT SELECTED FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME

When NSP2 resident José drove up to the Julian Place Community Center on a Monday in December, he thought he was there for a case management meeting. Instead, he walked into a life-changing celebration – a surprise party to announce his selection for a Habitat for Humanity home in Lake Worth.

A vehicle service technician and single father, José has been living in Adopt-A-Family housing since 2023. José made it through Habitat's thorough application and interview process by demonstrating his personal resilience, capacity for fiscal responsibility, and willingness to complete 300 hours of sweat equity. To meet



this goal, José and his 15-year-old daughter will work on Habitat houses in Palm Beach County, including their own, which is expected to be ready by early 2026.

We always celebrate when a client becomes a first-time homeowner, and we will continue to walk beside José and his daughter until their move-in date arrives.



## NEW FUNDERS FOR THE HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Every week, we receive hundreds of calls from local families who are facing eviction and the threat of homelessness due to a temporary crisis or interruption in income. Our Housing Stabilization Program (HSP) is designed to keep families rooted in their home and out of the homeless system, a far more costly and often traumatic outcome. HSP serves over 150 families each year, offering rental assistance paired with case management, budget counseling, access to mental health services, job coaching, and referrals to partner agencies. HSP is extremely effective in preparing each family to achieve housing stability—over 80% of households served maintain their housing for a full year after program intervention.

Kingdom Charitable Trust

SIEMER  
INSTITUTE

HSP is equipped to do this important work through the longstanding support of the Gerstner Family Foundation, Palm Beach County, United Way of Palm Beach County, the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation, Town of Palm Beach United Way, Publix Super Markets Charities, the TJX Foundation, and several generous individuals. The agency is thrilled to announce that the program earned the support of two new funders for the 2024-25 fiscal year: Kingdom Charitable Trust and the Siemer Foundation. The new funding will enable HSP to serve additional families while also strengthening the program's infrastructure.

## YOUTH SUCCESS PROGRAM REWARDS GOOD GRADES

In two years, Adopt-A-Family's Youth Success Program has tripled the number of students who did so well on their report cards that they earned a place on one of the group's highly anticipated academic incentive outings. Fifteen teens qualified for the October incentive trip, collectively deciding to have dinner at the Cheesecake Factory in CityPlace. In January, 13 students ate at PDQ Chicken and bounced at the Urban Air trampoline park.



In addition to four sixth-graders who are new to the program, three older students improved their grades enough to go for the first time.

In other news, older students are just completing a five-week Employment Empowerment Program conducted by the Children's Home Society. Participants received work readiness training, interviewing practice, mentoring, and college counseling. It's another first for the Youth Success Program, which is dedicated to helping resident teens maintain their focus on education, work on personal growth, and shape their futures.

All of this work is made possible by a special couple who envisioned this program years ago and provided the support to bring it to fruition.



## POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

On January 30-31, volunteers throughout Palm Beach County spent 24 hours completing the yearly Point-In-Time Count, an annual survey of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Adopt-A-Family was honored to provide over 30 volunteers as well as transportation services for the effort. The volunteers distributed backpacks filled with essential supplies to everyone willing to complete the survey.



The data gathered during the Point-In-Time Count provides critical insight into the evolving state of homelessness in our community. In the year ahead, Palm Beach County and local nonprofits will use this information to formulate effective strategies to meet the local need.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS FOR RESIDENTS

As part of the agency's effort to support our families on the path to financial stability, we welcome trained volunteers to provide financial instruction and guidance tailored to the needs of our clientele. On a Saturday in January, Trina Carboneau of Fifth Third Bank led an engaging budgeting course on our Lake Worth campus. Attended by fifteen residents, the one-hour class taught participants how to track their income and expenditures, prepare for unexpected expenses, and set and achieve financial goals. Clients stayed long after the class ended to ask follow-up questions and express their appreciation for the guidance.



## STAFF SIDEBAR



*Last year, Matt Constantine shared his thoughts here in the CEO's Corner section of each newsletter.*

*This year, this space will be used to give different staff members the opportunity to share their unique insights.*

### LAYREN CALVO

Director of Agency Relations

Twelve years ago, I began my journey at Adopt-A-Family as a case manager in our homeless prevention program. Right away, I was amazed by the care and compassion the agency offered to each family that came through our doors looking for hope and support. I remember visiting clients in their homes and getting to see firsthand how much need there was right here in our county. I had the opportunity to help families secure stable housing, and I spent time researching solutions, advocating, and connecting households to community resources. I'll never forget my first holiday season, which left me overwhelmed by the generosity of so many donors. Back then, I knew there was something very special about this place.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to work alongside and learn from some truly incredible colleagues and mentors. I've received exceptional leadership training and growth opportunities that have allowed me to expand my knowledge about our agency and gain a deep understanding of the pivotal role we play in this community as providers of housing and support to so many.

Today, as Director of Agency Relations, I have the privilege of working closely with our donors and Board of Directors—individuals whose commitment to our mission year after year has helped make significant things happen for our agency and the families we serve. It is an incredible responsibility, but more than that, it is an absolute honor. I am truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to witness your kindness and generosity.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue to passionately advocate for our mission, with a focus on strengthening our long-term partnerships while fostering new ones, all in an effort to benefit the families we serve, especially the children.

## "FROZEN" AT THE MALTZ THEATER

For children who live in a land without snow or ice, it was an extra-special wintry treat to see a live stage performance of *Frozen: The Broadway Musical* at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre. Adopt-A-Family board member Nancy J. Kyle generously donated 40 tickets for Project Grow students and their families to attend the January 25 show, which thrilled

children who have grown up with Elsa, Anna, Sven, and Olaf the snowman. An anonymous donor covered the cost of a charter bus so everyone could travel together, and the agency provided snacks and juice. Our deepest thanks to all those who made this outing possible!

The Maltz is a not-for-profit regional theater that also

welcomed Adopt-A-Family to participate in its annual Communi-Trees holiday fundraiser last December. This festive event benefited 32 participating nonprofit organizations that included agency partners Dress for Success, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Little Smiles, and the Norton Museum of Art.





# THANK YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY HELPERS

Year after year, Adopt-A-Family's community of supporters make sure that the families and children we serve get to experience the cheer, goodwill, and blessings of the holiday season. Despite the difficult circumstances our clients may be navigating, the generosity of our donors ensures that they do not miss out on the joy of holiday traditions, family events, and gifts to unwrap. The board and staff of Adopt-A-Family are immeasurably grateful to everyone who supported Santa Shoppe, Holiday Adopter, and the Gift Giving events. The smiles you see in these photos are a direct result of your kindness.



## ADOPT-A-FAMILY'S 2025 ACCREDITATIONS



**YES!** *I would like to make a difference in the lives of families who are experiencing homelessness by contributing the following:*



☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$500   ☐ Donor's Choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make your tax-deductible contribution to Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches.*

**Mail your donation to Adopt-A-Family in the enclosed envelope  
or give online at [www.aafpbc.org/donate](http://www.aafpbc.org/donate)**

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ AmEx

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_