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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.



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

THE 38TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

On December 6, 2022, over 200 agency supporters gathered for our Annual Tree Lighting Celebration. In a remarkable display of generosity from our guests, a record-breaking \$830,000 was raised in support of Adopt-A-Family's work and mission.

We owe the success of the event to our supporters and volunteers, with special thanks to the 2022 Tree Lighting Committee, who worked diligently throughout the year to curate a beautiful evening complete with the event's signature traditions.

Guests were welcomed with a lively performance by The King's Academy Choir as they proceeded to cocktail hour to peruse and bid on select items in our fully in-person silent auction – the first since 2019. The auction room was filled with stunning orchids, holiday décor, and an array of household items, and featured the return of the Wine Pull, where every buyer



Committee Chair, Elizabeth DeBrule and Co-Chair, Karen Fischer with CEO Matt Constantine



CEO Matt Constantine with speakers Jerrod and Iesha James

was sure to win a bottle of wine valued up to \$1,000.

Guests then enjoyed presentations from CEO Matt Constantine, Tree Lighting Committee Chair Elizabeth DeBrule, and Co-Chair Karen Fischer, followed by an exciting live auction led by auctioneer Neil Saffer. To close out the evening, current Adopt-A-Family clients Jerrod and Iesha James shared their family's story of perseverance and hope as soon-to-be homeowners through Habitat for Humanity. The room responded with extraordinary generosity, and a multitude of direct pledges were made to support our work.

Our Committee chairs generously gave their time, talent, and resources to lead the event to historic success. We thank Elizabeth and Karen for their many years of support and volunteerism, and their thoughtful leadership of the 2022 Tree Lighting Committee.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**The 39th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration
will take place on December 5, 2023!**

38TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Elizabeth DeBrule, Chair
Karen Fischer, Co-Chair

Patricia Anathan
Judy Backstrom
Lynn Boda-Menery
Judy Coran
Lori Corrigan
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Michelle Mason Otremba
Debby Parr
Kathleen Peterson
Jeanette Ristau
Julie Rudolph
Susan Spera
Alice Tarone
Anita Tauber
Barbara Thomas
Carolyn Thompson

REPORT REVEALS PROJECT GROW'S IMPACT ON STUDENTS



We are pleased to announce the release of the *Project Grow Student Progress Report*, which concluded that Project Grow makes a measurable positive impact on the students who participate in the program.

Adopt-A-Family hired independent evaluation firm Geo Education & Research (Geo) to conduct a study on Project Grow's short- and long-term outcomes. Using data provided by the School District of Palm Beach County, Geo analyzed Project Grow's impact on the academic performance and high school graduation rates of program participants.

Geo compared Project Grow students to classmates with similar demographics and household income and documented the following achievements:

- **FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) Test:** Project Grow students scored 18 percentage points higher in Math and 7 percentage points higher in English Language Arts.
- **Palm Beach County i-Ready Diagnostic:** Project Grow students scored 14 percentage points higher in Math and 7 percentage points higher in Reading.
- **2022 Report Card Grades:** The percentage of Project Grow students earning "Proficient" or "Approaching Proficient" was 23 points higher in English Language Arts and 10 points higher in Math.

Geo also tracked high school graduation data for the students who participated in Project Grow during the 2007-08 school year and found that the Project Grow graduation rate was 4.4 percentage points higher than the district-wide average.

The agency is grateful to Project Grow's many supporters for equipping the program to place vulnerable young students on a path to long-term educational success.



Scan to read
the report

OUR FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Every five years, Adopt-A-Family's Board of Directors and staff collaborate to create a strategic plan for the next five years of agency operations and impact in Palm Beach County. This plan responds to our county's changing needs, identifies goals and opportunities for improvement and growth, and cements agency values as we create a roadmap for continuing to achieve our mission in the years ahead.

After a year of workshops and a full day retreat facilitated by Rita Barreto of Top Tier Leadership, Adopt-A-Family's recently completed strategic plan sets a vision for our next five years, spanning July 2022-2027, and focuses on maximizing the agency's efforts in four key areas: Program and Service Excellence, Talent Management and Culture, Fiscal Strength, and Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness.

As we expand our staff and reach, we build on the heart and longtime mission of Adopt-A-Family: to strengthen families with children in their efforts to achieve stability and self-sufficiency by providing access to all-encompassing services.



Read more
about the plan

ADOPT-A-FAMILY JOINS THE 2023 GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Adopt-A-Family was thrilled to be one of the 34 charities randomly selected to participate in the 2023 Great Charity Challenge, a friendly equestrian competition designed to increase funding to Palm Beach County nonprofits. The annual event has awarded \$19.4 million to local charities since its founding in 2009.

On February 4, Adopt-A-Family staff members joined the crowd at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center to enjoy the festivities and cheer on the team representing our agency in the competition. Clad in Candy Heart costumes, our riders earned \$15,000 for the agency. The funds will provide direct support to our Project Grow afterschool program.

Special thanks to Adopt-A-Family's team sponsor, Dragon's Lair Farm, and corporate sponsor, On Course Consignment. We send our gratitude to the Great Charity Challenge and event sponsor Fidelity Investments for facilitating this annual fundraiser.



GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Sponsored by



LEWIS MILLER DESIGN BRINGS SMILES TO FAMILIES

Esteemed florist Lewis Miller of Lewis Miller Design is giving back in beautiful ways through a new partnership with Adopt-A-Family. On a sunny November day, Miller and his design team transformed an outdoor bench into an explosion of floral artistry. Throughout the afternoon, residents visited the bench to admire the work, take photos together, and select flowers for their homes.

In February, participants of a Flower Flash arranging event donated dozens of small bouquets – a sweet surprise for parents and staff ahead of Valentine’s Day.

In collaboration with Jennifer Zabinski Events, Lewis Miller held a Flower Flash arranging class for Project Grow students during spring break. After arranging their very own bouquets, the kids took to the turf to enjoy games, a bounce house, snow cones, and face painting. Delicious brownies and cake pops were also served, courtesy of Creative Edge Parties and Southern Belle Cakery.



Lewis Miller assembling a flower flash outside the Wiley Reynolds Gardens Apartments.



Project Grow teacher Briahna Odom receiving a surprise bouquet.



SPECIAL THANKS TO LITTLE SMILES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Adopt-A-Family wrapped up the ever-popular Movie Night on the Turf season in March. We are grateful to the donors, board, staff, and community partners who made the monthly event a highlight for the families we serve. We extend a special thank you to Little Smiles of Florida, a nonprofit partner that provided consistent and creative support every month. The Little Smiles team donated special treats for each Movie Night, including full size candy and fresh popcorn from their popcorn machine.

Little Smiles is a local organization that serves South Florida children who find themselves in difficult circumstances, and their support of Adopt-A-Family extends beyond Movie Nights. Other agency events, like Trunk-or-Treat and Project Grow parties, benefit from their provision of snacks, crafts, and hands-on involvement. We thank the Little Smiles team for their dedication to children throughout our community.

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.aafpb.org/donate

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Check Enclosed
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Mastercard
- ☐ AmEx

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

LOOKING BACK ON A SEASON OF GENEROSITY!

The holidays can be a difficult time for families experiencing financial instability, but thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, the season was full of joy and the families we serve were showered with gifts! We extend our gratitude to each and every person who helped spread holiday cheer through your generous donations and volunteered time.

HOLIDAY ADOPTER

More than 140 families were adopted through the 2022 Holiday Adopter Program! The program was supported by 120 donors, ensuring wishes were granted for every family on the Holiday Adopter list.

SANTA SHOPPE

Over 85 families participated in our annual Santa Shoppe, held on December 10. Thanks to the support of our donors, the event was able to provide 200 kids with toys!

GIFT GIVING EVENT

Thanks to an outpouring of donations from our community, our Homeless Resource Center was able to provide gifts for hundreds of children who are currently experiencing homelessness.