

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeff Preston
Garth E. Rosenkrance

Chris Oberlink
Lifetime Emeritus Director

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.*

SEPTEMBER 2023

JOHN ELDER NAMED NEW BOARD CHAIR

Adopt-A-Family is proud to announce that Mr. John Elder was elected Chair of the agency's Board of Directors. After volunteering on the board since 2016 and serving two terms as Treasurer (2017-2021) and one term as First Vice Chair (2021-2023), John was instated as Board Chair on July 1 for a two-year term.

A West Palm Beach resident for almost 40 years, John has strong ties to his community. He spent his formative years in Palm Beach County - attending Palm Springs Middle School and John I. Leonard High School before receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of Florida.

After graduating college, John joined global accounting firm Ernst & Young's tax practice and is now a Managing Director in their Global Compliance and Reporting practice. He has over 17 years of public accounting experience serving entities in multiple industries and is actively involved with



education and recruiting efforts for Ernst & Young.

In addition to his work with Adopt-A-Family, John is a member of the United Way Emerging Leaders Society and supports a variety of local and national organizations striving to improve housing affordability and family stability, create visible support for mental health and trauma, and increase accessibility to education and the arts.

Adopt-A-Family is fortunate to have the opportunity to grow under John's leadership. We are grateful for his commitment to our mission, staff, and the families we serve.

Additional new board officer terms began on July 1 with Eli Morales serving as First Vice Chair, Heather Ferguson as Secretary, and Jonathan Bain as Treasurer. We thank all 18 members of our board for their dedication, guidance, and commitment to improving the lives of families in Palm Beach County.

Takelia Hay and Stephanie Gitlin Join the Board of Directors

Adopt-A-Family is grateful to benefit from the expertise and guidance of Ms. Hay and Mrs. Gitlin, who committed to serving the agency as members of the Board of Directors beginning in April of this year.



Takelia Hay

Ms. Takelia Hay is a longtime employee of the School District of Palm Beach County and an ongoing supporter of Adopt-A-Family, most recently through her service on the agency's Appeals Committee.



Stephanie Gitlin

Mrs. Stephanie Gitlin is an attorney at Halloran Sage, a dedicated community volunteer at several Palm Beach County charities, and member of several national and local philanthropic organizations.

Chris Oberlink Elected First Lifetime Emeritus Director



Chris Oberlink
In August 2023, longtime board member Chris

Oberlink was unanimously elected to be the board's first Lifetime Emeritus Director. Chris has dedicated nearly 30 years to the work of Adopt-A-Family, serving in many leadership roles including Board Chair from 1998-2000. We thank Chris for her ongoing commitment to our agency and passion for serving local families in need of a helping hand.

SERVICE ENRICHED HOUSING CLIENTS MOVE INTO NEW HOME



Jerrod and Iesha James



Rae Harris, AAF

Photos by: MasterWing Creative Agency

When Jerrod and Iesha James entered the Service Enriched Housing program, they made a promise to Program Manager Rae Harris: “We’ll be in a home of our own in the next four years.” While in the program, Jerrod and Iesha repaired their credit, saved money for a down payment, increased their earning potential, and welcomed a third daughter to the family.

Exactly four years later, the James family stood proudly alongside friends, family, Adopt-A-Family staff, and the team from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County at the ribbon-cutting celebration for their newly constructed – and fully furnished – home.

“They’re a young couple who embrace teamwork and work together to stay focused and accomplish their goals. It’s powerful!” Harris said. “They were always determined to get a

house. You could tell they were going to do well; I knew it from the start. Even if they didn’t meet up with Adopt-A-Family, they would have found a way to purchase their home. We just had the honor of connecting them to resources and helping them get there quicker.”

We thank Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County for supporting Jerrod, Iesha, and their daughters through Habitat for Humanity’s homeownership process, and we commend the James Family for their incredible achievements. We wish them a happy and prosperous life in their new home.

“You could tell they were going to do well; I knew it from the start.”

*Program Manager
Rae Harris*

YOUTH SUCCESS PROGRAM STUDENTS EXPLORE SOUTH FLORIDA

Supported by agency friends Walter and Lisa Wick, our Youth Success Program provides our resident teenagers with tutoring, academic advising, field trips, and an uplifting community of peers. In addition to its focus on school attendance and academics, the program aims to place students on a path to long-term success through a curriculum with four core components: life skills training, career and college preparation, character development, and financial literacy. This summer, the teenagers of our Youth Success Program enjoyed a variety of special events and field trips designed to inspire deep thinking and ignite big dreams.

■ **THE PARK WEST PALM** invited the students to their facilities for an afternoon of hands-on golf lessons and free use of the practice range.

■ **MIAMI’S FROST SCIENCE MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM** welcomed the students during one of the final summer excursions. The day trip included transportation via the Brightline train and a dinner at The Hard Rock Café.



■ **BARBARA CHEIVES OF CONVERGE & ASSOCIATES** worked with the Youth Success Program through a 6-week dialogue titled, “Youth Issues, Youth Voices.” To conclude the program, Cheives invited local leaders in the criminal justice field for an open Q&A discussion.

■ **PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE** once again welcomed the students to campus for an in-depth tour of program offerings, financial aid opportunities, and campus life.

PARTNERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO MAKE AN IMPACT



LEWIS MILLER DESIGN:

Through the gift of his elaborate floral designs, Lewis Miller and his team have inspired our resident families, staff, and students. This summer, Mr. Miller celebrated his birthday by treating Project Grow to a day at Lion Country Safari!



AMG: Our friends at AMG dedicated a day of their annual Week of Service to coordinating a field day for Project Grow! The students played soccer and other field games and made crafts with the AMG volunteers.



PBSO: The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office has worked with Restoration Bridge to provide free groceries to our resident families. From fresh produce to bakery treats, thousands of food items have been bagged and distributed on-site by PBSO deputies.



THE BREAKERS: Through the "Breakers Gives" program, employees of The Breakers Resort gathered to paint the interior of one of our off-site affordable homes in Lake Worth, freshening up the unit in preparation for a new family.

2023 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT SHOWS NO INCREASE IN UNSHELTERED FAMILY HOMELESSNESS



Every year, Adopt-A-Family joins Palm Beach County's Continuum of Care to conduct the annual Point-In-Time Count, a HUD initiative designed to tally the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness over a 24-hour period. Just-released results from the 2023 count identified 120 families (398 persons) experiencing some form of homelessness (unsheltered, in emergency shelter, or in transitional housing). This represents a 36% increase since the 2022 count, a stark reminder of the effects of the ongoing housing crisis on low-income families.

Although overall homelessness in Palm Beach County rose by more than 30% year-over-year, **the 2023 count shows no increase in unsheltered family homelessness.** This data demonstrates that the targeted services of Adopt-A-Family and our partners are making a measurable impact, even during a rental housing affordability crisis. Expanded efforts at the Family Division of the Homeless Resource Center, funded by a significant grant from the Day 1 Families Fund, have enabled the agency to meet our clients' needs through creative interventions and housing solutions.



Read the recap of Project Grow summer camp – scan the QR code to visit our blog!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FOR THESE UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS!



TRUNK-OR-TREAT OCTOBER 27

Families dress in their spookiest costumes and enjoy a fall festival, where decorated cars, games, a photo booth, and loads of candy await.

Contact:
aabreu@aafpbc.org



THANKSGIVING ASSISTANCE NOVEMBER 15-17

Families receive ingredients for a full holiday meal - hand-delivered by Adopt-A-Family staff ahead of Thanksgiving.

Contact:
thanksgiving@aafpbc.org



HOLIDAY ADOPTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Donors sign up to "adopt" a family for the holidays. Families receive gift cards and presents purchased directly from their wish lists.

Contact:
holidayadopter@aafpbc.org



39th TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION DECEMBER 5

Holiday cheer abounds as agency friends gather for an evening of celebration and fundraising.

Contact:
lcalvo@aafpbc.org



SANTA SHOPPE DECEMBER 9

Children explore a winter wonderland, where they enjoy lunch, pick out gifts for their parents, and take photos with Santa Claus.

Contact:
santashoppe@aafpbc.org



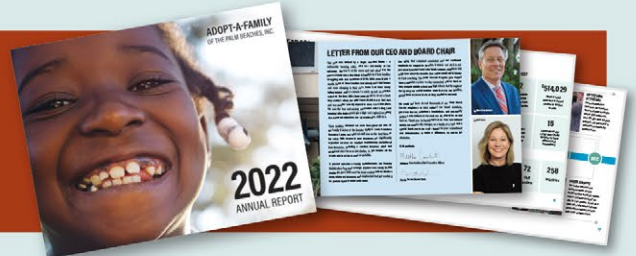
HRC GIFT GIVING DECEMBER 14-16

Parents browse hundreds of gifts donated by a multitude of generous supporters. Presents are wrapped on-site by HRC staff.

Contact:
giftgiving@aafpbc.org



In case you missed it - the 2022 Annual Report is available on our website! Scan the QR code to read today.



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 \$ _____

Please Direct My Donation To:

☐ Tree Lighting ☐ Holiday Adopter ☐ Santa Shoppe ☐ Gift Giving Event ☐ General

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

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____