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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.

FALL 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAM REACH



Homelessness is on the rise in our county, hitting a twelve-year high in 2024. The simultaneous affordable housing shortage has made matters worse, causing many low-income families to face homelessness for the first time. On any given night in Palm Beach County, there are at least 30 families spending the night in cars, parks, and other places not meant for human habitation.

Adopt-A-Family is committed to meeting the rising need for shelter through Program REACH, the largest emergency shelter for families in Palm Beach County. Located in West Palm Beach, it provides interim housing to over 100 families per year in 19 furnished, apartment-style units. The agency has served 743 households since assuming operations of Program REACH in 2016.

In addition to offering a safe place to sleep, Program REACH equips families with the tools they need to regroup and regain stability. The staff aims to guide families to a stable housing solution in under 90 days by providing housing-focused case management and links to community resources.

Program REACH also provides:

- A food pantry
- Budget coaching
- A community center and playground
- On-site mental health services
- Academic tutoring for the kids
- Computer access
- Family and holiday events
- 24/7 support staff on-site

Last year, 83% of families secured stable housing (in an average of 65 days), and 89% of those households were still housed one year later. Housing solutions included independent rentals, rapid re-housing rental assistance, moving in with family/friends, and placement in an agency housing program.

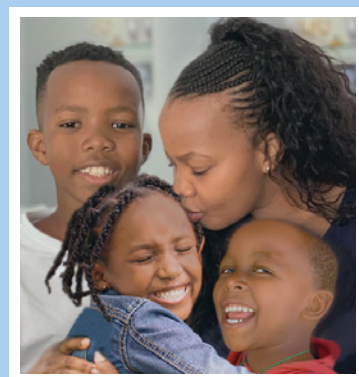
Because the community's demand for shelter exceeds Program REACH's 19 units, the agency also offers scattered-site shelter at local motels/hotels. The 105 families served annually through scattered site-shelter have access to case management and support services as well.

Adopt-A-Family is grateful for the unique partnership with Palm Beach County that has allowed us to operate Program REACH for the past eight years. It is a refuge for families in our



community and the beginning of their journeys to stability. We are grateful to the churches, foundations, schools, and individual donors who have provided longstanding support to this critical community safety net.

DANIELLE'S STORY



After enduring a tumultuous childhood in foster care, Danielle struggled to find her way in the world. She fled an abusive relationship with her young children, but she had nowhere to go. Despite holding a full-time job, Danielle couldn't afford an apartment, and the family spent weeks sleeping in their car.

Relief arrived through Program REACH, where the family stayed in a two-bedroom unit equipped with furniture, fresh linens, and kitchen supplies. The dedicated staff at Program REACH helped Danielle stabilize, set goals, and pursue housing solutions. Two months later, the family moved into a supportive housing program at Adopt-A-Family, which has given Danielle access to therapy, job coaching, and academic support for her children. In September, Danielle earned her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license and secured a promising job in the medical field.

BACK TO SCHOOL SEASON



July and August were filled with donations, drives, and donor-organized events aimed at ensuring the students we serve had new supplies for the 2024-25 school year. Students entering VPK through 12th grade from all agency programs received the donations. In addition, followers of our Instagram and Facebook pages used our Amazon Wish List to make purchases for the Project Grow classrooms, and many individual donors dropped off backpacks, supplies, undergarments, and hygiene items.

The collective kindness of our community ensured that hundreds of students were equipped to start the 2024-25 school year with confidence. Visit aafpb.org/blog to read more about the generous donors, funders, and community members who supported the students we serve during the 2024 “Back to School” season:

- Alton Town Center
- BallenIsles Charities Foundation
- The Barclay Philanthropic Club
- Florida Power & Light
- In Jacob’s Shoes
- Jet Aviation
- Palm Beach Day Academy
- School District of Palm Beach County
- Spirit of Giving
- Ta Ta For Now
- TJ Maxx (District 23)
- Zuhre’s World



JOB COACH PROGRAM



The Job Coach Program is designed to help agency clients increase their earning potential and vocational satisfaction. Education is often the key to new fields and increased wages, and Job Coach Manager Bryan Boudreault guides clients through the process of selecting a course of study, registering, and accessing scholarships.

Bryan is currently working with 31 clients who are enrolled in academic/

certification programs in fields including radiology, real estate, engineering, and graphic design.

- 4 clients are seeking their GED/high school diplomas.
- 11 clients are enrolled in certification programs.
- 16 clients are pursuing a degree at Palm Beach State, Florida Atlantic University, and Palm Beach Atlantic.

35% of these adult students are pursuing a degree/certification in the medical field. The majority of clients are taking classes while working, and 19% of participants are enrolled in online programs.

Nerly (pictured above) completed a phlebotomy course and recently passed her licensing exam. This new credential will open the door to a stable career in healthcare.

2024 STAFF RETREAT



In August, staff from all three agency locations spent the day together at Manatee Lagoon for a full-day retreat. In response to feedback gathered in staff surveys, the day centered around wellness and self-care.

Our Youth Success Program Manager Michelle Pinto planned activities designed to help staff to relax and recharge in a beautiful setting. CEO Matt Constantine and Board Chair John Elder kicked off the day by thanking the team for their hard work and dedication to our mission. The staff got centered during a beginner yoga class led by Jade Wonzon and then expressed their creative side during a guided painting session facilitated by Splash Art Class. After lunch catered by The Lord’s Place’s Café Joshua, staff had time to enjoy the views of the Intracoastal Waterway and learn about manatees in the eco-discovery center.

The retreat was the perfect way to help the team recharge before the busy holiday season ahead!

MAKE PLANS TO SUPPORT OUR HOLIDAY EVENTS



THANKSGIVING ASSISTANCE October-November

Families receive ingredients for a full holiday meal – hand-delivered by Adopt-A-Family staff the week before Thanksgiving.

Contact: Michele Lutas – thanksgiving@aafpb.org



HOLIDAY ADOPTER PROGRAM November-December

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

Contact: Michele Lutas – holidayadopter@aafpb.org



TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION December 3

The renowned Tree Lighting Celebration will mark its 40th anniversary this year, as agency friends gather for an evening of philanthropy and holiday cheer.

Contact: Sydney Parmet – sparmet@aafpb.org



SANTA SHOPPE December 7

Children explore a holiday wonderland where they enjoy lunch, pick out gifts for their family members, and receive a personalized gift from Santa Claus.

Contact: Lyndsey Morrell – santashoppe@aafpb.org



GIFT GIVING EVENT December 12-14

Gifts donated by our supporters stock a “shop” at the Homeless Resource Center. Parents select gifts for their kids, and volunteers wrap them on-site.

Contact: Lisa Raymond – giftgiving@aafpb.org

CEO'S CORNER



We are pleased to share our third installment of “CEO’s Corner,” a new series in which Adopt-A-Family CEO Matt Constantine highlights issues that impact the agency’s service delivery and outcomes.

Adopt-A-Family’s first program in 1983 centered on homeless prevention. We worked with families who were enduring a crisis that caused them to face housing instability and a potential eviction. Our effort to “adopt a family” through a difficult time gave us our name, mission, passion, and fortunately for me, my first job with AAF.

Just like 40 years ago, we receive calls every day from parents facing eviction due to a health issue, car repair, job change, or other unforeseen circumstance. We serve over 200 families a year with our homeless prevention assistance – allowing nearly 400 children to remain in their home, their school, and their neighborhood. Not only is this the most cost-effective method to combat homelessness, but the stability positively impacts so many areas of a family’s life.

Over the last two years, we have noticed a disturbing trend: an escalating number of calls from families with higher incomes who have never needed assistance before. These families often have two incomes, higher wages, and a history of stability. The average rent in Palm Beach County is now \$2,300 a month – so it makes sense that we are seeing this change. Someone earning \$20-\$25 an hour (a decent wage just a few years ago) can only afford a rent of \$1,300 a month. When families spend the bulk of their income on housing, there is nothing left for the emergency fund, car repair, or missed work due to illness. Thankfully, our homeless prevention program is able to serve these new families as well as our traditional cases.

I want to thank the donors, foundations, and supporters that allow Adopt-A-Family to be responsive to the changing needs of our community. We’re fortunate to have partners who understand the evolving issues surrounding housing affordability in Palm Beach County. Our homeless prevention program will ensure families don’t needlessly experience homelessness as we continue to advocate for more affordable housing in our community.

Matt

40th ADOPT-A-FAMILY Annual TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION



Chair Nancy Kyle

On December 3, Adopt-A-Family will mark a significant milestone with our 40th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration. For four decades, this beloved agency fundraiser has generated vital support for our programs and services. We are honored to announce that board member Nancy Kyle will chair the landmark event. Nancy’s leadership skills and passion for our mission have positioned the event to be exceptionally memorable and successful.



Honorary Chairs (L-R):
Alice Tarone, Paula Michel,
and Beth Hennessy

To honor the esteemed legacy of the event, the Chairs of the 10th, 20th, and 30th Tree Lighting Celebrations will serve as Honorary Chairs. We would like to thank Paula Michel (10th), Alice Tarone (20th), and Beth Hennessy (30th) for contributing to the ongoing success of this agency tradition. All three women spearheaded the event with excellence and have remained committed to Adopt-A-Family ever since.

Thank you to every Tree Lighting Committee member, sponsor, donor, and attendee who has supported this event over the last 40 years. You are a special part of the agency’s impact.

SUMMER CAMP AT PROJECT GROW

During the summertime, our Project Grow afterschool program transitions into a full-fledged day camp for elementary school students. In addition to providing academic enrichment to ensure the children maintain their educational gains, the extra hours of camp enable us to expose the students to a wide array of activities and destinations that they might not otherwise experience. Activities on our campus included a field day, spelling bee, talent show, petting zoo, Zumba class, bounce house party, pickleball lessons, and a visit from the Palm Beach County Fire Department. The field trips were especially memorable, with visits to Lion Country Safari, Cox Science Center, Calypso Bay Water Park, the Frost Museum of Science, and a deep-sea fishing expedition with Florida Fishing Academy being the highlights of the summer. Thank you to our partners and donors who made the summer of 2024 one the students will never forget!



ADOPT-A-FAMILY'S 2024 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 \$ _____

☐  Designate my donation to the following holiday program:

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, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

CVV# _____

Signature _____