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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.*INAUGURAL PROJECT GROW
GRADUATION CEREMONY

Throwing their caps into the air, 11 fifth-graders beamed with pride as the honored guests at Project Grow's first-ever formal Graduation Ceremony, held May 16 at Adopt-A-Family's headquarters. A dedicated Graduation Committee spearheaded the effort, an agency wish-list item for many years and a way to ensure our graduates received a well-deserved send-off before their transition to middle school.

Project Grow is Palm Beach County's only afterschool program designed to address the unique academic, emotional, and social challenges faced by elementary school students who have experienced chronic housing instability. The program offers hands-on lessons, one-on-one tutoring, academic advising, mental health counseling, and enrichment experiences, all of which help position the students for success long after they leave Project Grow.

The Graduation Ceremony was designed to recognize the fifth-grade students' growth, development, and achievements during their years at Project Grow. Many of the children have been enrolled since they were in kindergarten. CEO Matt Constantine, Director of Youth Educational Programs Daron Morse, fourth/fifth-grade teacher Mr. S, and Youth Success Coach Michelle Pinto offered words of affirmation, before presenting each student with a diploma and gift.

A resident high school sophomore spoke about the agency's Youth Success Program before extending a warm welcome to the newly minted middle-schoolers. Launched in 2021, the



Youth Success Program provides tutoring and homework help, small groups, game nights, college/career guidance,

and field trips for teenage students who live on campus and/or attended Project Grow.

After the graduates ceremoniously moved their tassels and sent their hats flying, they shared dinner and cake with their families, teachers, advisors, tutors, volunteers, and agency board members who have invested in the work of Project Grow for many years. Adopt-A-Family is grateful to everyone who helped make the Project Grow Graduation Ceremony such a joyful occasion.

We look forward to marking this rite of passage for all future graduating classes.

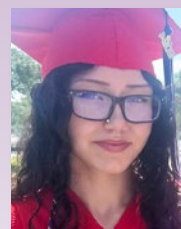
**Congratulations to the Project Grow
Class of 2024!**

YOUTH SUCCESS PROGRAM STUDENTS GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to the four Youth Success Program students who earned their high school diplomas! Each student worked incredibly hard to achieve this momentous milestone. **We are proud to report that each student is continuing their education in the fall.**



Destiny (a former Project Grow student) will attend Palm Beach State College and hopes to transfer to Florida Atlantic University to earn a degree in Engineering.



Alana is graduating a year early, and she will attend Palm Beach State College.



Noah is heading to Tallahassee to attend Florida A&M University.



Dexter will pursue a certification in the trades with the help of the Xcel Network.

WILEY REYNOLDS SOCIETY EVENT



Adopt-A-Family's Wiley Reynolds Society is composed of dedicated friends and private foundation partners who have lifetime contributions to Adopt-A-Family exceeding \$100,000. The Society carries on the tradition of compassion and generosity that was embodied by its namesake, Mr. Wiley Reynolds, one of the agency's first "adopters" who helped create the model upon which Adopt-A-Family was built.

In April, Carrier hosted the annual gathering of Society members at its global headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens. We thank Carrier CEO David Gitlin and his team for arranging this impressive new venue for the event. The agency was honored to formally welcome the Society's newest members: John and Karen Marasco and Karen Fischer. The new inductees have a long history of service and dedication to our mission, agency, and the families we serve.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Wiley Reynolds Society's two esteemed annual awards.

Wiley Reynolds Society Award of Appreciation: John and Mary Castronuovo

John and Mary Castronuovo have poured their time, talents, and resources into Adopt-A-Family for nearly 30 years. As a dedicated member of our Board of Directors, John's wisdom, passion for service, and genuine care for others have shaped our programs, guided our growth, and strengthened our agency. Mary's dedication to tutoring Project Grow students and her support of our special events have made a lasting impact on the families we serve. The Castronuovos' kindness has cultivated a strong agency culture and made our community brighter. We are grateful for their steadfast commitment to our work and mission.



Crystal Castor Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service: Joanie Maduri

For over ten years, Joanie Maduri has been the driving force behind the wrapping room at our Santa Shoppe event each December, recruiting over 20 volunteers from the Clipped Wings Organization, a group of retired United Airlines flight attendants, of which she is a proud member. Joanie's unwavering commitment and meticulous attention to detail ensure that hundreds of children make unforgettable holiday memories. Joanie has lent her support to numerous other agency events, and she always brings her warm smile and boundless energy.



THE BENJAMIN SCHOOL

When The Benjamin School selected Adopt-A-Family to be their school-wide community service partner for the 2023-24 school year, we were honored by their belief in our mission and thrilled with their vision for the partnership. After learning about our agency through presentations made to the student body by CEO Matt Constantine, students came together to brainstorm ways they could help the families we serve. Their ideas manifested into meaningful events, heartfelt connections, and genuinely thoughtful donations from teachers, faculty, parents, and students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. We are incredibly grateful for The Benjamin School's investment, generosity, and impact on the lives of the children and families we assist.



Here is a look at some of the many ways The Benjamin School supported Adopt-A-Family over the course of the school year:

- Halloween costume donation in October.
- Donation of pajamas, socks, undergarments, and blankets.
- Food provided for Thanksgiving meal kits.
- Cleaning supplies and hygiene products collected for families in our shelter and supportive housing.
- New board games and puzzles donated to Project Grow.
- Two student-led dance lessons for the children we serve.
- Field Day at Project Grow led by the Benjamin Parents' Association.
- Valentine's Day gift bags for our case managers from the first-graders.
- Free online academic tutoring sessions.
- Birthday kits that included cake mix, decorations, and gifts for agency kids.
- Family Movie Night and craft station sponsored by the National Art Honor Society.
- Sports equipment and soccer drills facilitated by high school students.



PNC BANK MOBILE BRANCH

As a part of their outreach efforts in underbanked communities, a PNC Bank mobile branch visits Adopt-A-Family every other Thursday. Aiming to foster financial security and make banking accessible, PNC selected our campus as its first Palm Beach County site. These “banks on wheels” offer residents as well as members of the community the opportunity to open an account, deposit/withdraw funds, and even print a new debit card.

Residents from all agency programs have utilized the service, and several clients opened their first savings account. Housing Compliance Manager Rae Harris shares, “A vulnerable population has been provided access to essential banking products and financial information through the partnership with the PNC Bank mobile van.”

We are grateful for PNC Bank’s dedication to ensuring underbanked populations are equipped with the knowledge and resources that will aid them on the path to financial stability.

KIDS HELPING KIDS AT PROGRAM REACH



Long before Adopt-A-Family assumed operations of Program REACH in 2016, Kids Helping Kids hosted monthly family nights for the residents of the 19-unit emergency shelter. The group has maintained a

relationship with the shelter for over a decade, and the young children who volunteered with their parents when the collaboration began are now teenagers.

The group recently renewed their commitment to facilitate monthly family nights, and the partnership is as strong as ever. In the last several months, the group hosted an Easter egg hunt, a Mother’s Day craft night, and a summer kickoff party. Every event includes a full meal for each family and the encouragement of a steady group of volunteers who are passionate about lifting the spirits of families who are emerging from an episode of homelessness.



CEO’S CORNER



We are pleased to offer our second installment of “CEO’s Corner,” a new series in which Adopt-A-Family CEO Matt Constantine will highlight topics that are relevant to the agency’s work and impact.

The highlight of every tour of our Lake Worth campus is the stop at Project Grow – the place I often call the “heartbeat of the agency.” The laughter that rises up from the playground each afternoon serves as a constant reminder of the ultimate purpose of our work.

Approximately 60% of the thousands of clients we serve each year are under the age of 18. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that children who experience homelessness have increased emotional/behavioral challenges, risk of serious health issues, and likelihood to repeat a grade, drop out of school, and have low academic performance.

Fortunately, research also shows that formerly homeless children are highly resilient when given tools to overcome setbacks. For this reason, education continues to be a core agency value and an increasingly pervasive element of the support services we provide.

Our Project Grow afterschool program provides academic support, tutoring, and mental health therapy to elementary school students. An independent evaluation revealed that program students outperform peers with similar income/demographics in standardized testing, grades, and attendance.

Our newest housing program, Julian Place, is an innovative model designed to improve educational outcomes for children through the provision of stable housing. The Youth Success Program offers resident teenagers homework help, an uplifting social circle, and incentives for good grades and attendance. Case managers help families obtain childcare vouchers so educational development starts early; academic advising helps parents navigate school choice and scholarship programs; and there’s even a fund to cover the cost of participation in youth sports and the arts.

Our vision to see families housed and thriving means that we have a responsibility to support the development of the children we serve. As we look toward the future, enhanced educational services will be a critical element of our ability to accomplish our mission, break cycles of homelessness, and empower the next generation.

I had the honor of attending graduation celebrations for many of our students, and I’d like to express Adopt-A-Family’s utmost admiration for the students’ accomplishments.

Matt

FOOD DISTRIBUTION ON AAF CAMPUS

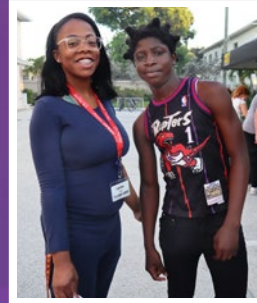


In May 2023, we teamed up with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office to distribute food provided by Restoration Bridge to residents of agency housing and the surrounding neighborhood. One year later, the monthly event is still going strong.

While many food pantries focus on non-perishable items for logistical reasons, this event is unique in that it provides fresh foods like meat, fruits and vegetables, and baked goods to families in need. As households continue to struggle to manage elevated grocery prices, the supplemental items provided at these distribution events enable parents to stretch their dollar further and provide fresh food for their children.

SUMMER KICKOFF CELEBRATION

There was fun for all ages at the Youth Success Program's summer kickoff event at our agency headquarters in May. Celebrating the end of the school year, parents, students, and staff enjoyed yard games, burgers and fries, and the strong sense of camaraderie that has developed among client families thanks to the collective efforts of our housing team and support service staff.



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 \$ _____

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, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ AmEx

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____