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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.

MARCH 2024

THE 39TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION RAISES \$1 MILLION

In a stunning display of collective generosity from the attendees of the 39th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration, the event raised over \$1 million in support of Adopt-A-Family's mission. This momentous milestone is a highlight of the event's storied legacy, marking the first time in agency history that a single fundraising event surpassed \$1 million in revenue.

Building on the accomplishments of past Tree Lighting Chairs, committees, and attendees, 2023 Chair Karen Fischer and Co-Chair Nancy Kyle led the Tree Lighting Committee with dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm for our mission. The Committee collaborated for twelve months to ensure the success of the event's signature elements while ushering Tree Lighting to new heights.

Over 200 agency friends were serenaded by The King's Academy Choir as they entered the 39th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on December 5. During cocktail hour, attendees browsed the silent auction room, which was filled with unique holiday décor, curated gift baskets, and our renowned orchid collection. Guests had the opportunity to participate in the third annual Wine Pull, where

every buyer was guaranteed to win a mystery bottle valued up to \$1,000. New this year were "Baskets from the Heart," which enabled bidders to purchase gift baskets to be given to client families.



Co-Chair Nancy Kyle and Chair Karen Fischer

During dinner, guests enjoyed stunning tablescapes designed by distinguished New York City florist Lewis Miller and heard remarks from CEO Matt Constantine and Chair Karen Fischer. The exciting live auction was led by Neil Saffer and featured items donated by celebrity guests who were in attendance for the event, including a Michelin-starred

dining experience curated by lifestyle guru Danielle Rollins and a private master class in floral arranging with Lewis Miller.

To close out the evening, former client Katongo Chama shared how Adopt-A-Family supported her family as they overcame challenges to achieve stability and self-sufficiency. The room responded with generous pledges to support the agency's continued work in Palm Beach County.

The 39th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration surpassed all expectations and has equipped Adopt-A-Family to achieve our mission in 2024. We extend our utmost gratitude to every person who contributed to the incredible success of the agency's beloved fundraiser.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 40th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration will take place on December 3, 2024



2023 TREE LIGHTING COMMITTEE

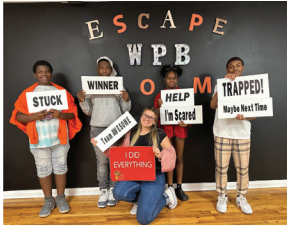
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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH SUCCESS



The Youth Success Program kicked off the new year by creating vision boards and setting goals for personal and academic success. The program's tutoring, advising, and enrichment sessions are designed to help the students achieve their goals.

Students who met academic benchmarks for the second quarter were rewarded with a Friday night trip to an escape room. Thanks to Adopt-A-Family's new partnership with The Norton Museum of Art, all students and their families were invited to enjoy a day at the museum in February – complete with a personal tour, pottery class, and lunch.

When asked what they like best about the program, one student shared, "It's a safe place where I feel like I can relax and not feel judged," and another said, "It motivates me to do something good with my time after school."

We are honored that our resident teenagers have embraced the Youth Success Program, and we look forward to celebrating their ongoing achievements.

NEW WELLNESS SERIES



Launched in 2023, our Wellness Series has positively impacted residents in our housing programs by providing tools to help them prioritize their mental health, personal growth, and mindfulness. Organized by Development Coordinator Sydney Parmet with the support of the agency's Mental Health Therapist Joan Kieffer, wellness session topics are based on suggestions gathered at client focus groups.

Following a recent workshop, one client shared, "I haven't felt this safe in a long time. Now I can focus on bettering myself and being a better role model for my children."

The agency hosted its first Wellness Event in February where attendees enjoyed lunch, freebies, and an exercise class while having the opportunity to chat with various companies and nonprofits that promote wellness. Special thanks to Nature's Corner Café, Humana, Just Salad, Trader Joe's, the IMG Health Clinic, Project Access, Here4You Coaching and Fitness, and The Prego Organization for Women for helping to make our first Wellness Event a success.

DONOR HIGHLIGHT: STUDENTS SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Adopt-A-Family has been overwhelmed by the partnership, support, and thoughtful donations from students, parents, teachers, and administrators from schools throughout Palm Beach County.

SACRED HEART



As part of Catholic Schools Week, Sacred Heart students organized a food drive to benefit the families we serve. Sacred Heart has supported Adopt-A-Family for many years, and several Project Grow students attend there through a scholarship program established by an agency donor.

THE BENJAMIN SCHOOL



The Benjamin School selected Adopt-A-Family for a year-long partnership, and the students have organized multiple collections including board games for Grow, cleaning supplies for residents, and Birthday Boxes filled with cake mix, party supplies, and gifts for the children we serve.

OXBRIDGE ACADEMY



Students from Oxbridge Academy spent a December Saturday on our campus with Project Grow's fourth and fifth grade students and teens from our Youth Success Program. Together, the crew enjoyed climbing on the playground, playing sports, and making gingerbread houses.

PALM BEACH DAY ACADEMY



One of several collections organized by Palm Beach Day Academy this year, their massive Soup-er Bowl food drive in January filled two trucks to the brim with food. The groceries will stock the pantry at Program REACH, our emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness.

TA TA FOR NOW

High school students Jess Baxter and Holly Milsom hold clothing drives and maintain partnerships with retailers to secure donations of brand-new undergarments, which are packaged with handwritten notes of encouragement. Ta Ta for Now has delivered hundreds of new items to the young women we serve.

"When I saw the challenges that girls in my community were facing, such as lack of access to day-to-day resources, it motivated me to take action and make a difference. Partnering with Adopt-A-Family is the perfect opportunity to extend my reach and provide support to not only the girls but their families as well." – Jess Baxter



Jess Baxter,
Ta Ta for Now Founder

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE FROM PARTNER AGENCIES

Partner agencies and donors made sure the families we serve felt loved during Valentine's Day week.

Little Smiles, Inc. provided supplies for a Valentine's Day celebration for the families in Project SAFE. Parents and their kids enjoyed cookie decorating, crafts, and writing cards to their loved ones.

At Project Grow, the **CouTOURe Club** brought sweet treats and set up their signature jewelry shop, where the children could select a gift for a special person in their lives. The **Lake Worth Beach Rotary Club** delivered gift bags filled with treats, coloring books, and a beautiful selection of hardcover books.

First-graders at **The Benjamin School** were thoughtful enough to remember our staff on Valentine's Day and assembled sweet gift bags for our case managers.

We are grateful for the kindness of our community of supporters. We look forward to spreading the love!



CONNECTING PAST TO PRESENT BLACK HISTORY CULTURE TOUR



Agency staff and board member Nancy Kyle had the opportunity to experience the "Connecting Past to Present Black History Culture Tour" conducted by Barbara Cheives of Converge & Associates, marking the third group of agency staff that have participated in the experience. Presented in partnership with Palm Beach County and Children's

Services Council, the tour included stops at Palm Beach County landmarks significant to black history and culture. The tour is designed to bridge gaps in our community and create an environment of inclusivity and respect.

CEO'S CORNER



"CEO's Corner" is a new series where CEO Matt Constantine will highlight issues that impact the agency's mission and service delivery.

I have been honored to work at Adopt-A-Family for over twenty years, serving as CEO for ten. Throughout its 40-year history, the agency has always

adapted to meet the changing needs of the community while remaining firmly committed to our mission.

In the mid 2010s, we observed an increase in the prevalence of mental health issues among our clientele. Folks who experience homelessness have disproportionately high rates of mental illness but are unlikely to engage in treatment due to barriers that include cost, insurance requirements, transportation, waitlists, and strict scheduling policies.

In 2016, we secured a grant from a local foundation to launch our Mental Health Program, an initiative designed to eliminate barriers to engagement. Our Licensed Clinical Social Worker provides free, on-site therapy to the adults and children we serve. The program has served 247 individuals since its inception.

Our intake data shows that mental health issues were identified in one third of the households who sought assistance last year, and demand for our Mental Health Program routinely outweighs its capacity. Unfortunately, securing funding for the operation of the program is more challenging than one might expect, given the program's strong outcomes.

We are encouraged to see a growing focus on mental health in the county's social service sector. "Leading the Way Home: Palm Beach County's Plan to End the Cycle of Homelessness" identified the provision of behavioral health services as a necessity in the fight against homelessness, and Palm Beach County's 2022-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan prioritizes mental and behavioral health as well. We are also exceptionally grateful for nonprofit partners who have provided therapy to underserved communities for many years.

We urge the community to keep mental health at the forefront of the conversation surrounding family homelessness as policy, advocacy, and funding decisions are made in the months and years to come.

FRESH LOOK FOR NSP2 RENTALS

Thanks to a grant from a longtime foundation partner, we repainted the exteriors of our Lake Worth headquarters and all Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) properties. NSP2 provides 24 affordable rentals scattered throughout Lake Worth. The cost of operating housing programs has increased significantly in the past several years as the price of everything from insurance to repair materials has skyrocketed. We are more grateful than ever for partners who fund necessary capital projects that maintain the quality of our affordable housing units.



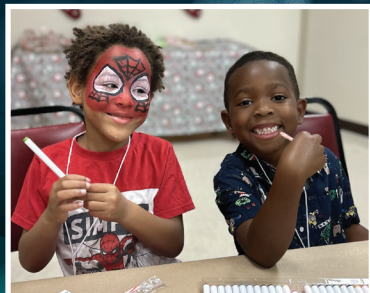
BEFORE



AFTER

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS IN PICTURES

Thanks to an outpouring of support from donors, over 400 children had personalized gifts to open and parties to attend during the 2023 holiday season. Many of these children experienced housing instability during the year, but the kindness of our donors provided joy and served as a reminder that better days are ahead. Thank you to everyone who supported Santa Shoppe, Holiday Adopter, and the Gift Giving Event. We hope you'll partner with us again in 2024.



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

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☐ AmEx

Account Number _____

Exp. Date _____

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