



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing



HomeSafe

H A P P E N I N G S

A Record-Breaking Edition of *The Classic Rock & Roll Party*

The latest edition of HomeSafe's showcase fundraising event, *The Classic Rock & Roll Party*, not only provided 400-plus attendees with a memorable, fun-filled evening – but raised \$498,000 for HomeSafe with a record-breaking \$367,000 in net profit to support HomeSafe efforts to prepare children and families for safer, more productive lives.

Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain returned as the Event Host, along with Debora Kellogg, Jayne Malfitano and Laura Sylvester as Event Co-Chairs.

With its signature music theme, the event entertained guests with an assortment of musical genres, and performances by the McBrainiacs,

Tico Torres (Bon Jovi), John Allegue, Brett Loewenstern (American Idol), Bev Rohlehr, Tim 'Ripper' Owens (Judas Priest) and Shawn Drover (Megadeth), with legendary rocker Eddie Money as the headline performer. Comedian Dean Napolitano served as emcee.

One of the many highlights included board member Steven Bernstein being honored as the *HomeSafe Hero Award* recipient for his substantial support of HomeSafe. Bernstein gave an impassioned speech about the importance of supporting HomeSafe that led to an unprecedented \$134,000 Call to the Heart appeal. Former HomeSafe client Dariane Taylor received an emotional standing ovation after the premiere of her success story video documenting the young lady's amazing life transformation.

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Event Host Nicko McBrain, with Event Co-Chairs (l-r) Jayne Malfitano, Laura Sylvester and Debora Kellogg (photo credit: LS Photos)

Next Year's Event

March 7, 2015
Seminole Hard Rock
Hotel & Casino

Suffolk Construction raised

\$85,000 for HomeSafe through the company's 8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held at PGA National. Peter Tuffo, Suffolk Construction COO (l) presents Matthew Ladika, HomeSafe CEO, with the ceremonial check during a celebration ceremony at Suffolk Construction's headquarters in West Palm Beach.



Healthy Beginnings

Healthy Beginnings has positively impacted the lives of thousands of families over the last three months, including:

- **7,000...** the number of mothers who completed the Healthy Start Infant Risk Screen while in the hospital after giving birth to their babies. Florida's Healthy Start initiative was signed into law in 1991 to provide universal risk screening of all Florida's pregnant women and newborn infants to identify those at risk of poor birth outcomes (i.e. low birth weight, premature babies), health and developmental outcomes. By participating in the screens, mothers are helping provide important demographic and statistical data about the health of children born in Palm Beach County.
- Healthy Beginnings implemented a new initiative called "Safe Sleep: Free Cribs for Babies," which has benefited more than 50 families who did not have a crib for their babies. These families received a free pack and play and watched a Safe Sleep video, which provides vital information about how and where to safely place a baby to sleep. These families were referred to HomeSafe's Healthy Beginnings program by a nurse, hospital liaison or developmental consultant.

- **3,600...** the number of children and families referred to one or more of the following services:
 - Counseling
 - Speech Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Child Development Monitoring
 - Family Bounding
 - Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)

Healthy Beginnings is a prevention program developed by Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. HomeSafe serves as the entry agency for children ages 0-5 by providing free developmental screenings and assessments to determine if children are developing at a healthy pace. If a concern is identified, HomeSafe makes referrals to appropriate services to help each participating family. The program's goal is to have children excited and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. If parents would like to have their children screened at no cost, please call (561) 383-9880 or submit an online request form at www.HelpHomeSafe.org in the Programs/Healthy Beginnings section.

SafetyNet

Making Measurable Differences in People's Lives

Domestic violence is a pervasive, and sadly sometimes, lethal problem in our communities. Seeking to address a major public health and safety concern, HomeSafe's SafetyNet program confronts this serious issue one group – and one victim – at a time.

To identify its successes and challenges, SafetyNet carefully measures the effectiveness of its therapeutic efforts via several important ways, such as...

...has an adult, teen or children's individual "Safety Plan" been completed and understood?

100 percent of all teen and adult clients complete a "Safety Plan" and it is discussed with them during the intake session.

...have treatment goals been met?

Treatment goals are reviewed and signed every three months. New goals can be implemented if necessary at any time. Goals are reviewed at time of completion of program and indicated in the closing summary.

...have clients learned the 'red flags' of potentially abusive relationships... the cycle of abuse... and the impact of abuse on their kids?

These issues are integral components of the program's group curriculum.

...do kids feel safe and confident in calling 911? *All kids age six and older sign and discuss their "Safety Plan." Calling 911 is an important part of the Safety Plan, which is discussed with the therapist/staff during the intake session.*

...are clients improving their coping skills and resiliency? *This is a major factor in determining if victims return to potentially abusive relationships. All teen and adult clients complete a Coping Skills inventory during their intake session and before leaving the program. All data is summarized in program quarterly reports to determine overall improvements in skill areas.*



SafetyNet also administers a 'How Do You Feel Now?' efficacy scale assessment at admission, then at three months and program completion.

Last year, 87 percent of SafetyNet's adult and teen clients scored better on 'post scale' than 'pre scale' measurements. These promising results indicate victims are incorporating themes learned during goal-setting, effort investment, persistence in face of barriers, and recovery from setbacks. The results represent an overall remarkable change in clients' quality of life.

Residential Group Care

Another HomeSafe Success Story...

The list of attendees at *The Classic Rock & Roll Party* read like Hollywood's walk of fame, but the real star of the evening was former HomeSafe client, Dariane Taylor. You could hear a pin drop in the crowded ballroom during the premiere of Dariane's success story video. The crowd of 400-plus quickly rose to their feet upon Dariane being introduced, and not a dry eye in the house by the time she finished her testimonial.

Born in Los Angeles, Dariane moved to Lake Worth at the age of two. Due to neglect, abandonment and abuse from her mother, she entered foster care in 2009. The trouble started when Dariane was 12, when her family could barely keep a roof over their heads and, all-too-often, a lack of food. To compound the problems, Dariane's mother also suffered from bi-polar disorder and experienced manic episodes.

"One of the worst episodes I went through with my mother was when she came home and physically attacked me," Dariane said. "I didn't really know who that person was. I looked into her eyes, but I didn't see my mom."

On multiple occasions, her mother attempted to stab her children – which eventually led to Dariane finally being removed from her home.

"I had no hope in her," continued Dariane. "I felt like I did something wrong. I felt ashamed. I felt like, well, nothing."

What sets Dariane apart from others who grew up in the foster care system is that she simply refuses to allow her past to determine her future.

"Just because you go through the foster care system doesn't mean you can't accomplish your dreams," "It's so easy to be the child who runs away all the time, but you can learn to face your problems and persevere."

This is an important lesson that Dariane learned during her time at HomeSafe. She arrived at HomeSafe after being placed in over

40 foster and group homes – and spending almost six months in a lockdown facility. She also had a long history of self-harm and suicidal tendencies.

"When I came to HomeSafe, I was low on hope," Dariane admitted. "But, before long, I felt like there was an entire team of people pulling for me. I've never had that before."

Dariane says that every staff member at HomeSafe made a tremendous difference in her life.

"Mr. Kehan was the father figure I never had, and Mr. Bobby got me ready to transition out of foster care."

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Dariane Taylor with HomeSafe Hero Award recipient, Steven Bernstein (photo credit: Ralph Notaro)

LifeSkillsSM

Onward and Upward... for the fall semester, HomeSafe will have eight former clients enrolled in college. This is a tremendous milestone, as it is the most former clients HomeSafe has ever had in college.

The Results are In... youth in HomeSafe's care have increased their overall knowledge of life skills during the past six months – as evidenced by an average overall increase of 38 percent on the Daniel Memorial Life Skills Assessment Tool.

Staying in School... 87 percent of former HomeSafe residential clients, now under the mentorship of HomeSafe's Transition Specialist, are enrolled in school (college, high school or GED programs).

Stable Housing... 100 percent of HomeSafe's former clients maintained stable housing for one year following discharge.

Working at Publix... two youths from HomeSafe's Sylvester Family Campus in West Palm Beach have obtained, and maintained, employment with community partner, Publix – with one of them being promoted to cashier. Additionally, as a result of the recent LifeSkills Jobs2Careers experiential learning program, store management plans to hire three to five additional clients from three HomeSafe campuses. A selected client will work in the bakery department and be groomed for management within the next four years.

Enhancing the Curriculum... to provide reinforcements, preparation and review for HomeSafe youth between the ages of eight through twelve, LifeSkills added grade-level educational materials to the curriculum in all subjects. HomeSafe also added supplemental academic workbooks that now provide clients with directed academic assignments whenever they are home from school.

Meet the Board: Val Perez – HomeSafe President-Elect



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Tell us about yourself. I was raised in Ulster County, NY, then moved to Palm Beach County after attending the University of Arizona. Over 23 years my wife Denise and I relocated seven times, but returned to Palm Beach County eight years ago. My day job is Regional Vice President for TD Commercial Banking; however, my commitment to the community and the organizations I serve

keep Denise and I very busy as we feel it is extremely important to give back to our community.

How did you learn about HomeSafe, and what inspired you to get involved? In 2006, Bill Berger, a longtime member of the Board, introduced me to HomeSafe. After meeting Matt Ladika and spending time with Board members, I knew I had to help the team with their mission of helping abused children and battered women. What sealed my commitment to help HomeSafe grow was understanding its

mission, and knowing it provides the necessary tools to help children and families overcome challenges most of us could never imagine.

What is most challenging and rewarding about being a HomeSafe Board Member? The most rewarding part is listening to the stories. Most of these children have come from environments where success was not an option. Hearing how HomeSafe helped them learn, grow and create that option for kids is very humbling. Knowing that children experienced significant challenges at home, school and elsewhere it is incredible to see them turn their lives around, graduate from high school and attend college. That is what HomeSafe is all about. The biggest challenge is recognizing that HomeSafe can only touch the lives of a small percentage of children in need. This reality magnifies the need to maximize the potential of every child.

What do you see for the future of HomeSafe? The future is very bright as we have staff dedicated to supporting and executing HomeSafe's mission. The Board is committed to growing the organization so it can ideally help a greater number of children.

Another HomeSafe Success Story... *continued from page 1*

The HomeSafe staff helped Dariane to focus on her education. Upon arriving at HomeSafe, her GPA was a dismal 0.7. Within seven months at HomeSafe, Dariane raised her GPA to 2.56 and graduated from high school – on time. In addition to classes at Lake Worth High School, Dariane did what it took to receive her diploma, including taking online classes.

“Nobody thought I’d ever graduate from high school,” said Dariane.

After graduation, HomeSafe’s Transition Specialist Bobby Crume guided her through the registration process at Palm Beach State College, and helped her enroll in the EMT program.

Dariane stated, “I ended up being able to follow my career dreams and goals that I had given up on.”

Dariane’s dream is to become a firefighter after graduation, and she has completed her first two semesters of coursework. In May, she became a certified EMT.

“I want to have a career that is more of a passion than a job. I know

that if I become a firefighter, I will not regret a day of my life, because I will always be helping somebody else.”

And, speaking of helping other people, Dariane spent over six months working with the Guardian Ad Litem program.

“I had a Guardian Ad Litem, and she was someone I always looked up to. She was also my backbone piece in court.”

Even though she aged-out of HomeSafe, Dariane regularly visits her friends and staff. She says every single one of them inspires her.

“I want to help them become better people. I don’t want any of those girls to become just another statistic in the foster care system.”

She has become a HomeSafe advocate and spoken on behalf of HomeSafe on many occasions.

“I don’t mind telling my story if it helps another child. “Without HomeSafe, I would probably be a high school dropout and homeless,” concluded a very appreciative Dariane.

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HomeSafe is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing results-driven prevention and intervention programs for child abuse and domestic violence. Each year, HomeSafe serves more than sixteen thousand infants, children and families.