

## Anniversaries

[July 1 - September 30]

### 16 Years

Karen Radcliffe, *Data Support Coordinator*

### 9 Years

Linda Wyckoff, *Chief Operating Officer*

### 8 Years

Deborah Reives, *Program Supervisor*

### 7 Years

Kenneth 'Joe' Lanham, *Facility Manager*

### 6 Years

Lakesha Cato, *Youth Development Professional*

### 5 Years

Tennille Robinson, *Youth Development Professional II*

### 4 Years

Genoveva Chincilla, *Youth Development Professional*

Dene DeCandio, *Accounting Coordinator II*

Bobby Jones, *Youth Development Professional*

Peaches Kennedy, *Youth Development Professional*

### 3 Years

Jose Rivera, *Youth Development Professional*

### 2 Years

Samuel Barber III, *Shift Leader*

Shayla Brown, *Developmental Consultant*

Jaira Candeloro, *Hospital Liaison*

William Fleuridor, *Youth Development Professional*

Luzmaya Friedlander, *Program Supervisor*

Karen Gorde, *Accountant*

Maria Isaza, *Hospital Liaison*

Suzelande Joseph, *Hospital Liaison*

Patricia Migliori-Fames, *Therapist*

Carmen Padillo-Diaz, *Hospital Liaison*

Katie Rivero, *Front Desk Coordinator*

Monica Samour, *Therapist*

Allen Sears, *Youth Development Professional*

## Anniversaries

[Continued]

### 1 Year

Stella Gould-Brown, *Youth Development Professional*

Joe Maltese, *Marketing Manager*

Melanie Miller, *Developmental Consultant*

Vivian Mullins, *Hospital Liaison*

Ana Ramos, *Program Supervisor*

Yamel Reyes, *Hospital Liaison*

Cynthia Sanchez, *Development Professional*

## New Employees

[July 1 - September 30]

Angie Bailey, *Life Skills Development Supervisor*

Alexandra Medina, *Youth Development Professional*

Olga Mohyuddin, *Program Supervisor*

Elizabeth Strout, *Therapist*

Sarah Walsh, *Therapist*

Linda Morgan, *Youth Development Professional*

Nancy Cano, *Developmental Consultant*

Tracey Rutledge, *Youth Developmental Professional*

## Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations **Elisa Leheny**, Therapist, on being selected *Employee of the Quarter*



(l-r) Matt Ladika, HomeSafe CEO, with Elisa Leheny, Therapist, and Lisa Walton, Clinical supervisor.

## HomeSafe

Matthew Ladika  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Linda Wyckoff  
*Chief Operating Officer*

## Board of Directors

Cherie Copenhaver  
*President*

Alice Nelson  
*Vice-President*

Donna Biase  
*Treasurer*

Debbie Ellman  
*Secretary*

Mike Nichols  
*Past President*

Steven Bernstein  
*Member At Large*

Roberto Vargas  
*President-Elect*

Lawrence M. Abramson

William Berger

Suzi Goldsmith

Lynn Holcomb

Ward Kellogg

Rex B. Kirby

David M. Layman

Val Perez

Gloria D. Pierson

Thomas J. Rooney

## HomeSafe Happenings

Joe Maltese, *Editor*  
Michael Boro, *Assistant Editor*



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing

# HomeSafe Happenings

Fall 2011

## SafetyNet

### Our Eyes, Our World Art and Photo Exhibit

HomeSafe's SafetyNet Domestic Violence program collaborated with Palm Beach State College (PBSC) to showcase an art and photo exhibit created by members of SafetyNet's teen and children groups. The exhibit, taking place at PBSC's Humanities Building, runs through November 18.

Through therapeutic art activities, children and teens were encouraged to express their feelings and become active participants in their own recovery process.

The exhibit displays three creative and unique projects, including...

#### Community Photo Project

Created with *Palm Beach Post* Staff Photojournalist  
Brandon Kruse

#### Teen Mural Project

Created with Professional Artist  
Steve Brouse

#### The Silhouette Project

Created with Professional Muralist  
Sharon Koskoff

SafetyNet was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant by Lake Worth High School's SHAPE Club, with funds raised through a student cupcake sale. SafetyNet volunteer and photographer Brandon Kruse taught children the basics of good photography and how to express themselves through photos. Children took photos of places where they feel safe, play and socialize, helping them connect with their community and avoid isolation and fears often associated with domestic violence.



HelpHomeSafe.org



Phone: 561-383-9800



Facebook: Help HomeSafe

## Meet the Board



Rex Kirby  
President and General Manager  
Suffolk Construction  
Southeast Region

**Tell us about yourself.** I was born in Tallahassee, FL, and lived there until I attended college at the University of Florida, where I obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. I'm a licensed and registered professional engineer and a certified general contractor. I

met my wife Michele at UF, where she earned her engineering degree after already obtaining her architecture degree. She's obviously the smarter one of us.

We were married in 1983, and have three children - Rachel, Christina and Rex III. I'm president and general manager of Suffolk Construction, Southeast Region. We're one of the top ranked contractors in the Southeast and nationally. I was asked to join *The Classic* event committee by Gary Press, then publisher of the *South Florida Business Journal* and, at the time, a co-chair of *The Classic* with Bill Berger.

**How'd you learn about HomeSafe, and what inspired you to get involved?** I agreed to participate because I knew a little bit about HomeSafe and what they do for kids, as Suffolk built HomeSafe's Lake Worth facility in 1997. I wanted to learn more, so I took a tour of HomeSafe's Bernstein Family Foundation's Campus in Boca Raton, met some people, and saw the great things HomeSafe was doing for children taken out of troubled

homes and tough environments.

**What's most challenging and rewarding about being a HomeSafe board member?** I believe the responsibility of a board member is to provide a long term strategic vision to the CEO and recruit money for the organization. It has been rewarding for me to support the organization through our annual golf tournament and through contributions from Suffolk Construction.

**What are your hopes and aspirations for the future of HomeSafe?** I'd like to see HomeSafe expand its Sylvester Family Campus in West Palm Beach to help more young adults learn important independent living skills to not only survive, but thrive, in life. Giving them a chance to succeed is what it's all about. Without HomeSafe, they're at greater risk of turning to a life of crime, poverty and homelessness. I'd also like to see us secure more sustained donors to cover operational costs and allow other funds raised to be used for new and expanded programs.

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# Residential Group Care Services

With high risk behaviors, mood disorders and inappropriate coping skills, Amie was referred to the Libra Girls residential group home at HomeSafe's Simon C. Fireman Foundation Campus located in Lake Worth.

Full of anger, opposition and hopelessness, she immediately isolated herself from staff and peers and, less than 72 hours at HomeSafe, attempted suicide and was hospitalized.

Upon her return, Amie continued harming herself by constantly picking at self-inflicted wounds on her arms and legs. She refused to attend school and would not participate in group and individual therapy. Regularly Amie would antagonize other children with sarcasm and negativity.

Over time she began to show signs of improvement. Thanks to the patience and guidance of HomeSafe staff, especially her lead therapist Elisa Leheny, Amie slowly but surely became more trusting. She cautiously started interacting with staff as well as her peers, and began feeling better about herself to the point of sharing some of her talents such as writing poetry. Amie eventually felt comfortable enough to remove her hooded sweatshirt under which she often hid.

As time passed, her attitude improved with a more positive outlook about her life, better school attendance and regular participation in daily therapy sessions.

Over the past six months Amie has made tremendous gains at HomeSafe. She is no

longer displaying signs of self-inflicting injuries or aggressive behaviors towards others, and is leaning coping skills to become a responsible, productive member of society.

Today, Amie is no longer an insecure, disrespectful and aggressive child but a more confident teenager. She now lives in an independent living program and remains in close contact with HomeSafe staff. Amie knows that HomeSafe's dedication, love and skills have contributed to her success today and in the future.

Learn more about Home Safe's residential group home services by contacting Dr. Ricardo Buitrago, director of Residential Services at 561-383-9800, ext. 1249 or RicardoBuitrago@HelpHomeSafe.org.



The Hard Rock Live was the site of *The Classic Rock & Roll Party - a tribute to Clarence Clemons*, a first-class tribute honoring the life of famed saxophonist Clarence Clemons, a longtime friend of HomeSafe. Approximately 400 people, including Clemons' family and long-time musician friends, attended the event to celebrate the life of the Big Man and support one of his favorite charities - HomeSafe.

Presented by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, with Greenspoon Marder and Suffolk Construction as major sponsors, the event raised over \$300,000 and provided guests with a memorable, high energy evening. The tribute was hosted by the gregarious drummer from Iron Maiden, Nicko McBrain, who entertained and captivated the crowd with his quick wit, British accent and obvious compassion towards victims of violence. Co-chairs of the event were Bill Berger, senior partner and managing partner at Greenspoon Marder, and Rex Kirby, president and general manager of Suffolk Construction - Southeast Region.

The tribute drew notable attendees, including Clemons' wife, Victoria, who gave a touching eulogy, and famed NBA coach, Pat Riley, who spoke about his special relationship with Clarence. Some of the performers included Clemons' brother Bill and nephew Jake, Gary U.S. Bonds, Temple of Soul (band created by Clemons), Davy Jones (the Monkees), JT Bowen (Clarence Clemons and the Red Bank Rockers), Alto Reed (Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band), Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge), Alan White (Yes), Bobby Blotzer (RATT), Brett Loewenstern (popular contestant on American Idol), and the youth band from the School of Rock.

# Foundation

During the event, Bill Berger presented Rex Kirby with the 2011 HomeSafe Hero Award. Kirby was selected for going above and beyond the call of duty to help victims of domestic violence by raising considerable money and awareness for HomeSafe.



Recipient of the 2011 HomeSafe Hero Award, Rex Kirby (c), with Bill Berger (l) and Matthew Ladika.

Andre Bowen, a former HomeSafe resident and -graduate was honored as a HomeSafe success story with an emotional video highlighting the young man's efforts of overcoming a childhood full of abuse, neglect and despair.

The golf portion of *The Classic* took place October 27 at the exclusive Trump International Golf Club, with golfers enjoying a beautiful day of golf on the manicured greens and scenic course.

## THANK YOU

### Recent Major Gifts and Grants

Bank of America  
Steven Bernstein  
City of Boca Raton  
Goody Two Shoes  
Hearst Foundation  
Schmidt Family Foundation

# Healthy Beginnings

The Healthy Beginnings program continues to serve a large, and ever-growing, number of children (newborns through age five) and their families in Palm Beach County. By conducting specialized screenings and assessments, the HomeSafe's Healthy Beginnings staff helps determine whether a child is developing and learning at a healthy rate, as compared to other children of the same age. The goal of the program is to prevent child abuse and neglect, promote healthy births and make sure children are ready and eager to learn before they enter kindergarten.

From July through September 2011, there were an estimated 4,281 live births in Palm Beach County, with HomeSafe staff screening approximately 97 percent of the county's newest residents. During this same time period, Healthy Beginnings also received a total of 1,233 referrals for screenings and assessments from various sources including:

- Outreach Efforts: 338
- Child Care Centers: 238
- Healthy Beginnings Staff: 222
- Phone Inquiries: 59
- Self-referrals: 72
- Department of Children and Families: 15
- Other Sources: 289

HomeSafe's screenings and assessments resulted in a total of 662 children and parents being referred to Healthy Beginnings providers that offer a wide array of services including, but not limited to, counseling, mentoring, family bonding, child social and behavioral development and effective parenting.

## Outreach

HomeSafe recently began collaborative efforts with Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB) to enhance outreach opportunities.

The joint goal is to inform and educate families throughout Palm Beach County on how to take advantage of the large array of free services available.

Both HomeSafe and HMHB are responsible for administering specific key components of the Healthy Beginnings program, which is funded by the Children Services Council of Palm Beach County. HMBH is responsible for serving pre-natal families with the goal of improving healthy birth outcomes, with HomeSafe providing post-natal assessment, diagnostic and referral services to young children (newborns to age five) and their families.

The HomeSafe/HMHB team approach has already proven to be quite successful. Both agencies recently participated in the Obesity Health Fair at the Greater Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in Riviera Beach, reaching and educating more than 200 attendees. Additional events are being planned to continually increase the visibility and effectiveness of the Healthy Beginnings program.

Learn more about Healthy Beginnings by contacting Paloma Prata, HomeSafe's director of Prevention Services, at 561-383-9800, ext. 1702, or PalomaPrata@HelpHomeSafe.org.



Healthy Beginnings booth at the "Obesity Health Fair" in Riviera Beach

# LifeSkills

Research indicates that at-risk children are more likely to have higher rates of criminal activity, school dropout, homelessness, drug abuse, poor health and unemployment. Much of this can be attributed to an unsuccessful transition from foster care to independent living. Many times this vulnerable population lacks the proper skills necessary for success in life.

To address this serious problem, HomeSafe's LifeSkills program was created to provide tangible long-term skills training, support and self-sufficiency services.

The program, through the generous support of the Jim Moran Foundation, includes two fulltime Independent Living Skills Coordinators and a full-time Transition Specialist. Independent Living Skills Coordinators

are responsible for implementing a comprehensive curriculum for transition readiness for pre-teens and teens ages 8-17. The Transition Specialist responds to the transitional needs of 17-year-olds living at HomeSafe and provides ongoing support for young adults up to age 23.

In July 2011, through the assistance of United Way of Palm Beach County, HomeSafe further expanded its Independent Living program by creating the position of Supervisor of Life Skills Development. This position is responsible for supervising and coordinating all LifeSkills program services and providing oversight for academic placement, progress and advocacy.

The entire team is working diligently to provide useful resources, training and support

## LifeSkills Staff

Supervisor of Life Skills Development  
Dr. Angie Bailey  
Independent Living Skills Coordinators  
Eric Peterman  
Zakiyyah Williams  
Transition Specialist  
Bobby Crume

to ensure youths are prepared to be self-sufficient at 18, and well into the future.

Learn more about HomeSafe's LifeSkills program by contacting Dr. Angie Bailey, supervisor of Life Skills Development, at 561-383-9800, ext. 1221 or AngieBailey@HelpHomeSafe.org.