



Home Safe *Happenings*

Summer 2011

A Safety Net Success Story

“From Victim to Survivor.....now Thriver”

The unstable economy has significantly contributed to a sharp rise in domestic violence. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, it's estimated that more than 21,000 calls were received each month during the earlier part of 2011. Sadly, Florida ranks fourth overall in call volume with a four percent increase over the last six months.

While cases of domestic violence escalate, high quality programs such as Home Safe's Safety Net are making a difference in breaking the cycle of family violence. Thanks to the hard work and unrelenting commitment of Safety Net staff, Home Safe is making a positive impact by reducing and preventing domestic violence. A perfect example is that of a young man, and his family, who participated in the Safety Net program.

From 2008 to 2009, Juan, his mother and two younger siblings attended Home Safe's Safety Net program's therapeutic support groups. By earning Juan's trust, Home Safe staff learned that he was near failing high school, skipping school and was actively being pursued to join a gang. He harbored anger at his father for victimizing his mother and family, who were subjected to severe violence for many years. In a recent essay for a college scholarship he stated, "Life hasn't been easy."

After joining the teen support group, Juan was taught how to appropriately process his feelings about family history and began the all-important healing process.

With the help of Safety Net therapists, Juan became comfortable discussing his experiences and, as a result, was able to understand the root causes of domestic violence. This process allowed him to gain much needed confidence and empowerment.



As part of his healing, Juan participated in therapeutic projects such as *The Garden Project* (a Youth Garden Grants award winner), and the filming of a movie about domestic violence. The production was made by all of the teens in the program with the plot about the lure of gang life, teen pregnancy, domestic violence and substance abuse. The film, "Letters Home: The Autobiography of Carlos Diaz," successfully premiered in February, 2010, before a full house at Palm

Beach State College. Juan did a remarkable job in his acting debut portraying a gang member.

Brian McCarey, Safety Net Supervisor and teen group facilitator, successfully advocated for Juan to be transferred to South Tech Academy. He was initially not accepted due to poor grades and attendance, but signed a contract with the school agreeing to change his ways. Juan recently graduated and was on the Principal's List for excellent improvement in grades and attendance. For his efforts and improvements, Juan was rewarded with a laptop computer.

Juan's goals now are to earn a finance degree at the University of Miami and he recently stated, "After college I plan on starting my own business as a sole proprietor of an auto body shop." He remains an active member of the Safety Net Teen Advisory Council.

Juan has successfully completed his long journey...from victim to survivor and now a thriver. His struggle is an all too common occurrence that Safety Net staff witness on a daily basis. Juan's story is one of the many positive, life-altering transformations occurring at Home Safe through its results-oriented Safety Net program.

To learn more about Home Safe's Safety Net program, contact Brian McCarey, Safety Net Supervisor, at 561-383-9800, ext. 1240, or BrianMcCarey@HelpHomeSafe.org.

Foundation

Clarence ‘The Big Man’ Clemons

January 11, 1942 – June 18, 2011

Home Safe mourns the loss of not only an accomplished musician but, more importantly, an extraordinary human being who quietly did so much to improve the lives of abused children.

Clarence had a tremendously positive impact on Home Safe, helping raise more than \$2.5 million for Home Safe programs through his immensely popular annual charity benefit – *The Classic for Home Safe*. Clarence’s support of Home Safe’s kids wasn’t limited to his yearly event. The Big Man also shared time with Home Safe’s children – one-on-one and in groups – to listen to them and offer words of encouragement and advice about life.

On behalf of all of Home Safe’s children, board members and staff, Home Safe extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to Clarence’s family and friends, as they mourn the passing of a true gentleman who was a hero to so many Home Safe children.



Clarence’s annual event, set for October 1 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, will now serve as the major tribute to the Big Man’s life and all he’s done for Home Safe. Learn more about *The Clarence Clemons Rock & Roll Tribute* at: www.TheClassicForHomeSafe.org

THANK YOU

Recent Major Gifts and Grants

The Grainger Foundation
Harcourt M. & Virginia W. Sylvester Foundation
Hux Family Charitable Trust
A Little HOPE Inc.
The Lost Tree Charitable Foundation
John Rosatti
Aino V. Rouvari Living Trust (via The Karp Law Firm)
The Schlanger Family Foundation
The Sidney Milton & Leoma Simon Foundation
Suffolk Construction
United Way of Palm Beach County
Ron White
Wycliffe Charities Foundation

Rex Kirby (right), president and general manager of Suffolk Construction, presents a \$55,000 check to Andre Bowen (center), former Home Safe client, and Matt Ladika, CEO of Home Safe. Suffolk Construction raised the funds through its charitable golf outing, held at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami. Kirby is a strong supporter of Home Safe, and serves as a Home Safe board member and co-chair of Home Safe’s premier fundraising event of the year – *The Classic for Home Safe*.



Foster Family Licensing and Support Unit

It takes a special type of person to become a Home Safe foster parent, as they’re asked to open their hearts and homes to children who, in the majority of cases, will be reunited with their biological parents.

As time passes with a child remaining in a foster home, a magical connection is made through genuine bonding and attachment between foster parents and child. This newfound connection is greeted by confusion and anxiety as foster parents struggle to balance their roles — as temporary caregivers with the possibility that a more permanent option is within reach. It’s this sense of attachment that motivates some foster parents to adopt children placed in their care and to build for them a forever loving family unit.

Good News

The past few months have been exciting for Home Safe’s Foster Family Licensing and Support Unit. Five foster families finalized eight adoptions for children initially welcomed into their homes for foster placement. The adopted children include a sibling group of three, another sibling group of two and the remaining three children each found a loving family that was eager to adopt them.

The reasons are endless why people choose to become foster parents. Many view foster care as a stepping-stone to adoption, while others have a passion to provide temporary placement to children in need of a loving, secure home. What

ever the reason, for these special people the ultimate reward is knowing they’ve given love and care to children. In the end, thanks to foster parents’ selfless and altruistic acts, they’ve left a permanent, positive, lifelong impact on a child’s life.

These special foster parents are Home Safe heroes. They make a notable difference in children’s and their own lives as they treasure the memories shared with these children – whether from a brief encounter or a more permanent experience.

To learn about Home Safe’s foster care program, contact Keith Johnson, Director of Community-based Services. Keith can be reached at 561-383-9800, ext. 1211, or via email at KeithJohnson@HelpHomeSafe.org.

Residential Group Care Services

The world is filled with inspirational people who often come to our attention through the media. However, most times we don't have to look far to find individuals in the community making a difference in other people's lives. Such is the case of Eric Peterman, Independent Living Skills Coordinator at Home Safe, who along with a supportive team, has implemented a new curriculum at Home Safe's Sylvester Family Campus in West Palm Beach.

Eric's innovative approach of using documentaries, poems, cultural activities and guest speakers have a positive impact on the youth that he and his team work with every day. The approach has resulted in remarkable improvements in the attitude and outlook of many of the kids.

"We've seen our youth take a more

diligent interest in their education," stated Peterman.

The staff at the Sylvester Family Campus has witnessed more and more success stories like that of Jonathan, a young man who recently aged-out of the program. He successfully completed his GED, on time, and subsequently was accepted into a medical program at Palm Beach State College.

"Our foster care system is full of Jonathan's. We never give up or lose faith," concluded Peterman.

Another person who embodies the spirit of optimism is Home Safe's Zakiyyah Williams, an Independent Living Coordinator. She recently worked with Jolanda, helping her with behavioral and emotional issues. When she first arrived at

Home Safe, Jolanda's attitude and outlook on life was dismal at best. Now, after working with Zakiyyah for several months, she's turning her life around. Thanks to Zakiyyah's devotion, Jolanda graduated from high school, is currently employed, and gives back to the community by sharing her stories of perseverance with other less fortunate children.

Home Safe is fortunate to have quality employees who possess unrivaled empathy, patience and an unrelenting commitment to champion their cause of helping abused children.

For additional information about Home Safe's comprehensive residential group home services, contact Dr. Ricardo Buitrago, Director of Residential Services at 561-383-9800, ext. 1249 or at RicardoBuitrago@HelpHomeSafe.org.

Healthy Beginnings

Since its inception only two short years ago, Healthy Beginnings has been working tirelessly to offer families in Palm Beach County the opportunity to help the healthy development of their young children. As the entry agency for young children (newborn - 5 years old), Home Safe's Healthy Beginnings' staff reaches out to families who can significantly benefit from a large array of available services.

The goals of Healthy Beginnings are to:

- promote healthy births
- prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect
- ensure children are eager and ready to learn by kindergarten.

The Healthy Beginnings Staff

Through a coordinated effort, all of Home Safe's Healthy Beginnings' staff contribute toward the goal of helping children and families reach their fullest potential.

Through specialized screenings and assessments, Home Safe's developmental consultants determine if children are behaving, developing and learning at the same rate as other kids their age. Additionally, Home Safe hospital liaisons help assess for infant risk factors.

The Healthy Beginnings staff is structured to reach a large number of families. Records indicate that between January and May 2011, 97 percent of the approximately 6,302 hospital births in Palm Beach County were screened by Home Safe's hospital liaisons. From those screenings, 2,290 babies were referred to Home Safe's developmental consultants who identified 1,510 newborns with delays and referred them to the appropriate providers.

Outreach

Most families in the community are unaware of the many free services available to them. For this reason the Healthy Beginnings marketing team is actively coordinating and attending outreach events to educate and inform the public.

Among many of the outreach events attended this quarter, one of the most successful was the Belle Glade Fair. This exciting event attracted over 1,000 people. The Healthy Beginnings' team was able to screen and assess 17 children and referred five families to services.

More events are being planned for the summer and fall. This includes the Cool Points for Parents fair, which takes place in Belle Glade. This event will include guest speakers, prizes and fun activities all designed to educate first-time parents about the signs and dangers of child abuse and neglect.

For more information about the Healthy Beginnings program, contact Paloma Prata, Director of Prevention Services, at 561-383-9800, ext. 1702, or via email at PalomaPrata@HelpHomeSafe.org.



*Michael Boro,
Marketing Coordinator,
interacting with
children at the
Belle Glade Fair.*

Anniversaries

(through June 30)

13 Years

Matthew Ladika, *Chief Executive Officer*

11 Years

Tommie Duhart, *Youth Development Professional*

9 Years

Robin Doran, *Youth Development Professional*

Linda Wyckoff, *Chief Operating Officer*

8 Years

Marguerite Garvey, *HR Generalist*

Natasha Thomas-Auguste, *YDP II*

7 Years

Monique Barnett, *Program Supervisor*

Derek Earl, *Program Supervisor*

Rhonda Houston, *Shift Leader*

6 Years

Tanya Barnett, *Youth Development Professional*

Leschawn Flowers, *YDP II*

Euphemia Graham, *Youth Development Professional*

Donna Mitchell, *Program Supervisor*

5 Years

Lisa Walton, *Clinical Supervisor*

4 Years

Bonnie Barwick, *Executive Assistant*

Berthard Duvelsaint, *Developmental Consultant*

Engran, Frazier-Elie, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Alean George, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Craig Jackson, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Christopher Jones, *Senior Program Supervisor*

Erica Lewis, *Administrative Assistant*

Audrey Major, *YDP II*

3 Years

Mary Clarke, *Registered Nurse*

Cristen Garrity, *YDP II*

Tonnie Watson, *Youth Development Professional*

2 Year

Lisa Cover, *Associate Director of Prevention Services*

Tauna Clifton, *Therapist*

Sonia Garcia, *Hospital Liaison Specialist*

Cynthia Grazioso, *Clinical Supervisor*

Randy Jackson, *Shift Leader*

Keith Johnson, *Director of Community Based Services*

Clarisa Lopez, *Data Support Coordinator*

Sandra Lozano-Castro, *Developmental Consultant*

Tiffany Lyles, *Youth Developmental Consultant*

Miriam Morales, *Office Coordinator*

Catherine Moretz, *Developmental Consultant*

Paloma Prata, *Director of Prevention Services*

Janice Pulve, *Data Support Coordinator*

Jimmy Ratiiff, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Betty Santos, *Developmental Consultant*

Brian Scott, *HR Coordinator*

Jannie Sutherland, *Developmental Consultant*

Silvia Tray, *Hospital Liaison Specialist*

1 Year

Sherril Barnes, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Stephania Beaudouin, *Developmental Consultant*

Fleurante Joseph, *System Navigator*

Danielle Friedman, *Foster Family License and Support Specialist*

James Grice, *Youth Development Specialist*

Melissa Jenkins, *Program Supervisor*

Elisa Leheny, *Therapist*

Diana Marquez, *Developmental Training Specialist*

Abner Pedraza, *System Navigator*

Lorenzo Razz, *Shift Leader*

Billy Van Ee, *Director of Human Resources*

Welcome New Employees

(through June 30)

Jenny Briceno, *Data Support Coordinator*

Bobby Crume, *Transition Specialist*

Diana Davila, *Developmental Support Specialist*

Maria Demoreta, *Developmental Support Specialist*

Wendy Duretz, *Registered Nurse*

Peter Fernandez, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Sandra Lusunariz, *Program Supervisor*

Meghan Mayo, *Marketing Associate*

Maritere Maysonet, *Developmental Support Specialist*

Demetrius McDougle, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Cherdeline Pierre-Louis, *Developmental Consultant*

Jennifer Raymond, *Developmental Consultant*

Sandlie Salomon, *Developmental Consultant*

Robert Simpson, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Kevin Williams, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Charkera Wright, *Youth Developmental Professional*

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations

Diana Marquez, *Developmental Training Specialist*
on being selected the *Employee of the Quarter*



(From left-right) **Paloma Prata**, *Director of Prevention Services*, with **Diana Marquez**, *Developmental Training Specialist*, and **Linda Wyckoff**, *Chief Operating Officer*

Home Safe

Matthew Ladika
Chief Executive Officer

Linda Wyckoff
Chief Operating Officer

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Home Safe Happenings

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Michael Boro, Assistant Editor

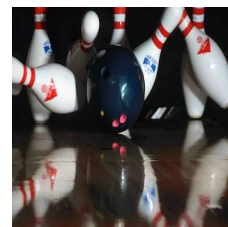
Employee Appreciation Committee

In May as part of an employee appreciation activity, Home Safe employees were treated to a fun afternoon of bowling. Patrice Migliori-Farnes, Safety Net Therapist, organized the event and worked collaboratively with the Employee Appreciation Committee (EAC).

Throughout the year, the EAC organizes activities to express gratitude for all of the staff's hard work and dedication.

The well-attended event brought together 57 employees who enjoyed food and drinks while battling

their co-workers on the lanes. This was the first time the EAC coordinated a bowling event and, based on the staff's feedback, it was a complete and total success.



In an effort to recognize the contributions of Home Safe employees, the EAC plans to have two representatives alternately visit each program during staff meetings and provide refreshments and food for everyone to enjoy.

The next notable event? The employee holiday party. Stay tuned for more information.