

Summer 2018



HomeSafe

Preventing | Protecting | Preparing

HomeSafe Happenings

**Our Mission: Creating safer, more productive lives for
infants, children, young adults and families**

HomeSafe Earns Reaccreditation

HomeSafe is proud to announce it has been reaccredited for another four years by the Council on Accreditation (COA). This is a significant achievement for our staff and board. COA accreditation affirms that an organization meets the highest national standards of best practice, and establishes the organization's credibility as effective and professionally sound. In addition, it provides assurance to all of our stakeholders (clients, staff, board, donors and funders) that HomeSafe is delivering needed, high-quality services in our community, conducting its operations successfully, and managing its funds effectively.



The accreditation, which took place for four days in early May, involves an in-depth self-review of the organization against currently accepted best practice standards, an on-site visit by an evaluation team comprised of experts, and a subsequent review and decision by COA. It took staff about two months to compile the requested client files, staff files and financial information need for the accreditation. HomeSafe did not receive any out of compliance ratings in the fundamental practice standards, which is testimony to the staff's dedication to providing the highest service possible to our clients.

HomeSafe is one of more than 2,200 human service organizations worldwide accredited by COA.

Pond Place News

We are excited that three of our Pond Place clients recently celebrated a graduation.

Melissa has received her Associate of Arts from Palm Beach State College and is our oldest client, having just turned 23. She has been in the foster care system since age 9. Melissa came to Pond Place just over a year ago, after spending two years at Vita Nova. She was scared entering the program and really being on her own for the first time, but after a few months, she says she built up her courage and now loves her independence. For her last two years of school, Melissa has applied to several Florida colleges. She plans to study early childhood education and be a teacher.

Mariah is a member of Forest Hill High School's class of 2018. She has only been a resident at Pond Place for two months, coming from a foster home and prior to that, residing at Nelle Smith Home for Girls. Mariah loves having an apartment all to herself and not having to share space with several other girls. She is thankful for the help and guidance from Mr. Kehan, the program's Independent Living Supervisor, who regularly checks in with clients to make sure they are doing what they need to do to succeed. Mariah will be attending Palm Beach State College.



Jessica graduated from Lake Worth High School. A few years ago, she was a client at our Libra Girls group home, but transferred to another program where she stayed until she was 18. In October, she moved to Pond Place, and was very scared and untrusting at first, but has blossomed in her "adult" freedom, and absolutely loves having her own apartment. She is thankful for the support she has received from Mr. Kehan, and from the organization Best Foot Forward – both of whom made sure she stayed in school and had the tools and resources she needed to graduate. Jessica loves fashion, sewing and doing hair, and plans to enroll in cosmetology at Palm Beach State College in the fall.



Exciting Happenings at HomeSafe!



1 **Jump for HomeSafe** attendees enjoyed a great night of equestrian competition. More than \$31,000 was raised at the March 31 event.

2 In April, we participated in **The Great Give** and \$4,700 was raised for the purchase of two used vehicles for our group homes. Thank you to everyone who gave that day!

3 **The Jim Moran Foundation** awarded a two-year grant totaling \$130,400 to fund the Independent Living Supervisor position for HomeSafe at Pond Place.



4 Our girls' group home was updated with new paint thanks to employees from **Oasis Outsourcing**. Our two Libra Boys South group homes in Boca also got new paint thanks to members of **Victory Church** on their Go Love Day of helping.

5 **Town of Palm Beach United Way** renewed their annual funding of \$77,000 for our SafetyNet Domestic Violence Program and \$21,000 for our LifeSkills and Education program for residential clients.

6 Talla McGahee, District Manager at **Publix**, and her team recommended HomeSafe for a \$1,250 contribution through their Community Champions Program.

7 Our **Healthy Beginnings Program** is growing! The number of referrals has increased tremendously in the last few years due to HomeSafe engaging more families into the Healthy Beginnings assessment process. Four new positions are being added to create a west team that will have an office in both Belle Glade and the Wellington area.



8 The **Lost Tree Foundation** awarded \$67,000 to purchase two new vans for our residential program in West Palm Beach.

9 The Hans and Mary Stratmann Fund of the **Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties** awarded \$50,000 for general operating support.

10 In May, students **Kiera & Jordan**, from All Saints Catholic School in Jupiter, collected and delivered new books for our clients.





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- 11 The **Sidney, Milton & Leoma Simon Foundation** contributed \$13,000 for general operations.
- 12 **Miami Heat player Rodney McGruder** stopped by our Boca Raton campus to meet with the boys. He encouraged them to stay motivated and work hard to reach their goals. Of course, everyone also played basketball!
- 13 The **National Basketball Players Association Foundation** awarded a grant for \$10,000 to our SafetyNet Domestic Violence Program.
- 14 Our **residential clients** finished up the school year and are attending summer camps provided through PBC Youth Services. These camps provide our clients with educational and recreational opportunities for growth.
- 15 **United Way of Palm Beach County** awarded the agency a Continuous Improvement Initiative Grant for \$15,000 for IT upgrades.
- 16 The **Lattner Family Foundation** awarded \$15,000 to the Libra Girls group home on our Lake Worth campus.

- 17 **BallenIsles Charities** awarded a \$7,000 grant for our residential program in West Palm Beach.
- 18 The **Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton** awarded a \$5,000 grant for new playground equipment and picnic benches on our Boca Raton campus.
- 19 **Ibis Charities Foundation** awarded \$3,000 for our LifeSkills & Education program.
- 20 **Wycliffe Charities Foundation** awarded \$6,000 for our SafetyNet Domestic Violence Program.



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- 21 The **Women's Club at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club** generously raised \$700 to support agency services.
- 22 On May 24, HomeSafe hosted its annual **all-staff meeting** with presentations by Board President Steve Bernstein, CEO Matt Ladika, and Dale Carnegie representative Christine Ramirez. Work anniversaries of 5, 10, 15 and 20 years were recognized. Congratulations to Employee of the Year, Rochelle Lewis, LifeSkills Coordinator for the Libra Girls and Libra Boys South group homes.



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Lake Worth, FL 33461

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Save THE Date

Saturday, February 2, 2019

**Hard Rock Event Center at
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino**



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