

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Facilitate | Advocate | Innovate | Evaluate

For 25 years, Foster Care Review has worked to promote the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children through volunteer case reviews and advocacy.





25



Florida Foster Care Review

Past, Present & Future

Twenty-five years. Behind those years are stories—the stories that shape who we are and pave the way for who we will become.

A quarter of a century ago, a United Way Committee determined to ease the burden on Miami's inundated Juvenile Dependency Court developed the blueprint for Foster Care Review, Inc. Subsequent legislative action paved the way for Citizen Review Panels. Since then, Foster Care Review's Citizen Review Panel Program has conducted case review hearings to oversee the safety and well-being of thousands of abused and neglected children. Throughout the years, our dedicated staff and volunteers have taken the time to understand each child's story and to ensure that his or her physical, emotional and educational needs are met. Whether connecting a child with tutoring, medical care, counseling, transitional housing, or simply with the chance to experience normal childhood activities, the work of Foster Care Review has not only improved the lives of abused and neglected children—in some cases it has even saved them.

But this is no time to rest on our past accomplishments. Even though the number of children in Miami's dependency court has declined since Foster Care Review's inception in 1989, the problems facing youth in foster care have grown increasingly complex. Recognizing the depth of these challenges, we are implementing new strategies to expand Foster Care Review's impact on the lives of the children and youth we serve.

Building on our core values and extensive history as a key partner in Miami's child welfare system, the newly named **Florida Foster Care Review** will diligently pursue a vision of a child welfare system that protects vulnerable children, ensures their stability and promotes future success:

- Florida Foster Care Review will continue to **facilitate** comprehensive, thorough, individualized case review hearings while also infusing our Citizen Review Panels with best practices, quality training and intensive support. To expand the impact of our panel process, we will ignite the use of citizen-led panels across the state by providing critical expertise, technical assistance and infrastructure to other communities.
- Florida Foster Care Review will harness the power of its redesigned, upgraded database and use data collected by our panels to **evaluate** systemic barriers and to identify transformative opportunities.
- Florida Foster Care Review will join forces with our volunteers, supporters and community partners to **advocate** for policy and practice changes that make a real difference in the lives of children.
- Florida Foster Care Review will develop and implement **innovative** and creative approaches to filling in the gaps and areas of greatest need experienced by the children we serve.

Underwriting our past, present and future efforts are our dedicated volunteers, board and staff members; individual donors and corporate, foundation and governmental funders; community stakeholders and providers; and, most critically, our Chief Judge and Juvenile Court Judges and General Magistrates. Your unwavering support, time and resources have made the past 25 years a success. You have brought us to this pivotal moment in our organization's history and we pay tribute to the tremendous foundation that you have laid.

Now, as always, our community's most vulnerable children are depending on all of us to jointly weave the narrative of their future. Together, we can ensure that their stories are filled with success and happiness. Thank you for all you have done and will do to ensure that Florida Foster Care Review's next 25 years are as great as the first!

1988

United Way Task Force on Child
Protection



11th Judicial Circuit
Administrative Order
Allowing the Citizen
Review Panel in Miami

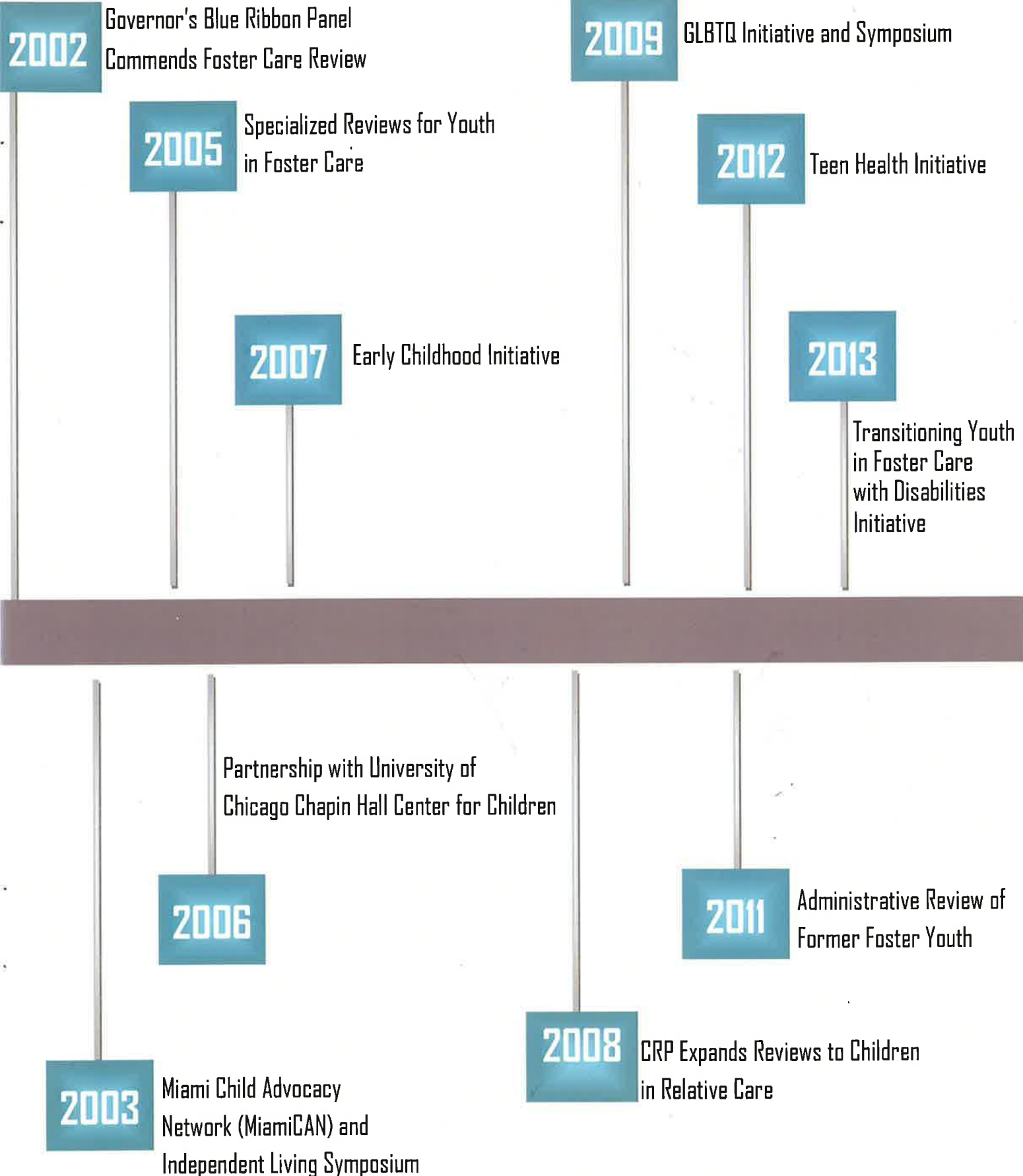
1991

1989

Legislation and Authorizing Citizen Review
Panels. Foster Care Review, Inc. is
incorporated.

1999

Electronic Database
Developed



25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Ana Maria Pozo
Attorney (retired) and Former Executive Director of
Florida Foster Care Review, Inc.

Ana was the Executive Director of Florida Foster Care Review from 2001-2012. She feels privileged to have served in this role with committed board members, staff and volunteers who gave their time, energy and wisdom to serve children in need from our community. Ana left her mark on Florida Foster Care Review by ensuring adequate funding and by capitalizing on opportunities to expand the organization's impact. She always speaks with admiration of the many people she worked with during her tenure, and expresses sincere appreciation for the staff's support, hard work and dedication – which she describes as "unequalled and unforgettable."



Barbara Rostov*
Community Volunteer and Social Worker

Barbara volunteered with Florida Foster Care Review from 1991 until 2013 as a panel member and eventually as a panel chair. She served as the volunteer coordinator for two years before it became a staff position and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1997-2002/2003-2012. Barbara has remained involved with Florida Foster Care Review because she believes that the organization plays an important role in the child welfare area and it is so gratifying to be a part of changing children's lives.



Berta Blecke*
Child Advocate

Berta is a founding board member of Florida Foster Care Review as well as a founder of the Guardian Ad Litem Program in 1980. She currently is a member of Florida Foster Care Review's Legacy Board. Berta's passion for the rights of abused and neglected children and belief that our community has the responsibility and capacity to change lives has been the driving force behind her decades of involvement with Florida Foster Care Review and the many other organizations she's spearheaded.



Ann Shepard Feeley
Swaner
Associate Professor of
Theology - Barry
University
Citizen Review Panel
Volunteer

Ann moved to Miami from Iowa in 1992 to teach at Barry University. Looking for a way to learn and give back to her new community, Ann discovered that Florida Foster Care Review was looking for volunteers. Since that time, she has served as a Citizen Review Panel volunteer. Ann remains motivated to continue this work because of the dedicated, conscientious and insightful volunteers and staff as well as the profound sense that their collective work makes a real, positive difference in the lives of the children and families we help.



Brian F. Misiunas
Partner/CPA - Pinchasik Yelen Muskat
Stein LLC

Brian served on the Florida Foster Care Review Board of Directors from 2003 to 2013. Towards the end of his tenure, Brian served as President of the Board during the executive leadership transition. A CPA by profession with more than 13 years in public accounting, Brian provided thorough financial oversight and guidance throughout his many years of Board service. In 2013, he was awarded the President's Award for his many years of service and he continues to support Florida Foster Care Review as a member of the Legacy Board.

25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



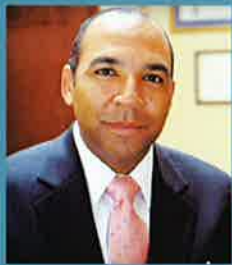
Christopher M. Hutchins
Senior Manager, CPA – Cherry Bekaert LLP

Chris served on the Florida Foster Care Review Board of Directors for 11 years. During this time, he was Treasurer, Vice President and President. Throughout his tenure on the Board, the organization benefitted tremendously from his financial and accounting expertise and guidance. Having adopted his son from the foster care system, Chris strongly connected with Florida Foster Care Review's mission to serve at-risk children and he remains committed to Florida Foster Care Review as an active member of the Legacy Board.



Cindy S. Lederman*
11th Circuit Court Judge – Dependency Division

The Honorable Cindy S. Lederman has been a steadfast advocate and supporter of Florida Foster Care Review from her first days on the Dependency Court bench. Judge Lederman shared that she has relied upon Florida Foster Care Review to assist her with the handling of Judicial Reviews for two decades. She believes that four minds concentrating on one family for one hour provides the most well-reasoned, thoughtful decision making. She is very grateful for the time and expertise of the Florida Foster Care Review volunteers, and Florida Foster Care Review is equally grateful for her unwavering support throughout the years.



David Duckenfield
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the US Department of State

David began his relationship with Florida Foster Care Review as a board member in 1999, thanks to the persistent insistence of his good friend, Michael Samway. Within a year, David was in charge of the 10th year Anniversary event. One of his most rewarding experiences during his tenure on the Board was selecting Ana Pozo as the then new Executive Director. David has stayed connected to Florida Foster Care Review because he believes in the organization's mission and believes that the staff and volunteers better the lives of children in the foster care system, creating a lasting and positive effect for both the children and the community.



David Lawrence, Jr.*
President – Early Childhood Initiative Foundation and The Children's Movement of Florida

David Lawrence, Jr. retired in 1999 as publisher of The Miami Herald to work in the area of early childhood development and readiness. He has been instrumental in establishing many of our community's most impactful children's organizations, including The Children's Trust. Dave serves all of our children through his many leadership roles including, president of the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation and The Children's Movement of Florida. He has received countless awards for his tremendous contributions to the citizens and environment of Florida. Dave, more than most, understands the incredible value of engaging citizens to speak out on behalf of the



Douglas M. Halsey
Partner - White & Case

Douglas M. Halsey has been affiliated with Florida Foster Care Review since its formation and served as a founding board member and Board President. Over the past 25 years, he has remained significantly involved and is currently serving as the chair of the Legacy Board. Doug has devoted countless hours also to litigating cases against state agencies on behalf of vulnerable children. In honor of his enormous contribution to the community, in 2000, Florida Foster Care Review created the Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service that is given to an individual who exemplifies Doug's commitment to community service and child advocacy. When not helping children in need, Doug is a partner at the global law firm White & Case LLP where his legal practice covers all aspects of environmental and land use law, including litigation, transactional advice and regulatory matters. We are grateful for his many years of support and know that Doug has been - and will always be - close to the heart of Florida Foster Care Review.

*Denotes Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service Recipient

25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Edith Hudson
Citizen Review Panel Volunteer

Edith has been a volunteer with Florida Foster Care Review since 1996. Introduced to the organization by Barbara Rostov and taught "everything" by her first panel chair, Claude Hurst, Edith became a panel chair herself in 1997 when Claude retired. As a panel chair, she has tried very hard to be fair and non-judgmental, but above all, to never lose the focus of the work – the children. Notwithstanding the ups and downs of the child welfare system, Edith has faith in the volunteers who do this work solely to improve the lives of children in foster care.



Judy Webb
Citizen Review Panel Volunteer

Judy started her volunteerism in the child welfare arena in 1993 as a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer and began serving as a CRP volunteer in 1995. She now chairs two of the citizen review panels. According to Judy, "Volunteering for Florida Foster Care Review has been the most rewarding thing I have ever done!" She is grateful for all of the caring volunteers she's worked with over the years and appreciates the staff for their support and expertise.



Kathy Ezell, Esq.*
Partner – Podhurst Orseck, P.A.

Kathy Ezell is the consummate child advocate. A partner at the law firm of Podhurst Orseck, Kathy has been a volunteer attorney for children, parents and guardians in dependency cases for more than a decade, and she has received numerous awards for her advocacy efforts. Kathy is a Past-President of Florida Foster Care Review, which is one organization of many in Miami that has benefitted from her leadership, guidance, wisdom and grace. Kathy now serves on Florida Foster Care Review's Legacy Board and continues to be a source of support and insight.



Glenda S. Whatley
**Retired Stock/
Commodity Trader**
**Citizen Review
Panel Volunteer**

Glenda was first made aware of Foster Care Review in October of 1997 through an announcement in the "Neighbors" section of the Herald. She joined as a volunteer and became a panel chair in the same year, never losing sight of the organization's drive to promote prompt, permanent, positive outcomes for each child. Glenda feels "pure joy" when a child is adopted or reunified with a parent. Even raising a school grade from failing to passing is cause for celebration. Just knowing that the panel's recommendations make a difference in the life of a child has kept her volunteering with Florida Foster Care Review through the decades.



MaryAnne Lukacs, Esq.*
**Attorney and Florida Supreme Court
Mediator in Family, Circuit Civil and
County Court**

MaryAnne joined Florida Foster Care Review in 1996 as a volunteer panel member and then panel chair until 2005 when she was appointed as a General Magistrate for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. She served on the Board of Directors from 2005-2010 and then again from 2012-present. Most of MaryAnne's life has been dedicated to youth as a teacher, coach, mentor, board member, lawyer, mediator and member of the judiciary. Being a part of Florida Foster Care Review has given MaryAnne the opportunity to contribute to children and youth in a meaningful and significant way.

25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Michael Samway
Visiting Scholar – NYU's Stern School of Business
Adjunct Faculty Member – Georgetown University

Michael served on the Florida Foster Care Review Board of Directors from 1998-2010, including as Board President. During this time, he was also the vice president and deputy general counsel at Yahoo and had previously practiced law at White & Case in the Latin America Practice Group. During his tenure on the Board, Michael provided legal and policy expertise and was a strong advocate for Florida Foster Care Review in the community. He also recruited his father, Mike, to become a Citizen Review Panel volunteer.



Nadine Johnson
Director of External Operations for Women's Basketball
– Florida International University

Nadine has been a volunteer with Florida Foster Care Review for 14 years. She has served for most of this time as a panel chair, never missing an opportunity to grow her knowledge about changes in the child welfare system and the law. Nadine, who has extensive leadership experience in the non-profit and community service sectors, continues to serve as a panel member because not only does it offer her the opportunity to use her professional facilitation skills and knowledge of community resources, but it also is an honor to work with well-trained volunteers. She knows that she and her panel make a real difference in the lives of the children they review.



Octavio Verdeja AKA Coach Verdeja*
Coach, CPA and Businessman
Verdeja & De Armas, CPA LLP

Octavio "Coach" Verdeja was the volunteer VP in charge of allocations with the United Way during the formation of the pilot program that eventually became Florida Foster Care Review. At the time Florida Foster Care Review started, he was coaching basketball, something he's done for 45 years, for children of very poor families. Tired of sitting on boards and looking for an opportunity to help "real people," Coach became a volunteer on Florida Foster Care Review's Citizen Review Panel Program. His firm also helped set up an accounting system and served as the organization's auditors for many years.



Michael B Milton
Chartered Financial Consultant
– Michael B Milton P.A.
Citizen Review Panel Volunteer

Michael first learned about Florida Foster Care Review in 1991 from a public service announcement on the radio seeking volunteers for citizen review panels. Excited about the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, he signed up to serve on a Citizen Review Panel. A natural leader, Michael transitioned into the role of panel chair and has served hundreds of children in that capacity ever since. For Michael, it's all about the kids. He strongly believes that the amount of time and detail that go into each review to ensure that services are being provided make a real difference in the lives of each child reviewed. In Michael's words, serving the community's most vulnerable children through the Citizen Review Panel "makes me feel like I am doing something good as a human being."



Peggy Hudson
Community Volunteer and Advocate for Healthy Families

Peggy started with Florida Foster Care Review as a volunteer and soon after joined the Board of Directors. Recognizing the need to sustain and advocate for the organization, she eventually concentrated solely on board work and served in various leadership positions. Peggy was elected to the Florida Foster Care Review Legacy Board in January 2014. She believes that the organization's ability to impact positive changes in the lives of the children and families it serves is unsurpassed, and that the volunteers, staff and Board work tirelessly to make this happen.

25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW

Peter Forrest **Citizen Review Panel Volunteer**

Peter has been a Citizen Review Panel Volunteer with Florida Foster Care Review since 1980. He's been a consistent and active participant in many, if not most, of our trainings and events. We deeply appreciate Peter's dedication and commitment to Florida Foster Care Review and the children and youth we serve.



Sally A. Heyman **County Commissioner**

The well-being of children has been a lifetime concern and priority for the Honorable Sally Heyman. Serving in her third elected role, Commissioner Heyman is known for her support of human issues legislation, especially in the areas of funding social services; the protection and care of women, children and vulnerable adults; protecting personal freedoms; affordable health care; animal protection and green-sustainability initiatives. For over 20 years, Commissioner Heyman has been a staunch advocate for Florida Foster Care Review, an organization that has been her "go to organization" in addressing the needs of children in foster care through policy and legislation.



Walter F. Lambert, MD* **Medical Director - University of Miami Child Protection Team**

Walter F. Lambert, M.D., is an associate professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the medical director of the University of Miami Child Protection Team. Along with his teammates, he investigates more than 2,000 reported cases of child maltreatment each year, and his expert testimony has helped bring justice to some of Florida's youngest victims. Dr. Lambert was a member of the United Way committee that led to the formation of Foster Care Review and has contributed countless hours to training volunteer panel members since 1989. A tireless advocate for a high quality, well funded child welfare system, Dr. Lambert strongly believes that the Citizen Review Panels have the ability to influence the outcome of case plans, and, most importantly, advocate for appropriate services for individual foster children.



Robert Rosen **Professor - University of Miami School of Law**

More than 20 years ago, a General Master suggested that Professor Robert Rosen learn more about Florida Foster Care Review and the Citizen Review Panel Program in order to litigate the unconstitutionality of such panels. Ever since then, Robert has been a volunteer panel member, believing that a much better result for children is reached when the Citizen Review Panel works in combination with the court and the case management agencies. He says it has been an honor and even sometimes a pleasure to help make the dependency system work better through his efforts as a panel member for Florida Foster Care Review.



Reverend H. William Walker, Jr. **Associate Rector - St. Thomas Episcopal Parish** **Of Counsel - Alvarez Arrieta & Diaz-Silveira, LLP**

Attorney and Reverend William "Bill" Walker, Jr. has been with Florida Foster Care Review from the beginning as the Chair of the United Way committee that created the organization. He served as our Founding Board President and, through his numerous leadership positions in the community, has advanced the cause of vulnerable and at-risk children since 1975 in his various roles with the United Way of Miami-Dade. He has been the Chair of the Board of United Way of Florida and Easter Seal Society of Miami-Dade County. He was a Founding Director of Kristi House and a Trustee of CHARLEE and Our Kids of Miami-Dade Monroe. In addition to his extraordinary community service, Bill was an attorney at White & Case for 20 years and is now Of Counsel at Alvarez Arrieta & Diaz-Silveira, LLP. He is also the Associate Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish.

2014 JUDICIAL CHAMPION AWARD

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE



On the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, Florida Foster Care Review has the distinct privilege of honoring the Honorable William E. Gladstone as our Judicial Champion. A graduate of Yale Law School, Judge Gladstone spent almost four decades as a judge serving children and families. First elected to the juvenile circuit court bench in 1980, he served as the Administrative Judge in the Family and Juvenile Divisions and as a Senior Judge before retiring in 2011. He has dedicated his life's work to assisting in the placement, motivation, treatment and education of the thousands of abused, neglected and delinquent children and youth who appeared before him.

Judge Gladstone exemplifies a rare sort of leadership that emerges not only from the courage of one's convictions, but also from a pioneering spirit determined to find solutions. During the past 40 years, he has been central to the development of many, if not most, of the programs in Miami and statewide that serve abused, neglected and delinquent children and youth. Throughout his career, Judge Gladstone also took the time to mentor local and national juvenile court judges, and he motivated his colleagues to take a leadership role in the courts and in the community. He served as Special Advisor to Florida's Governor and Secretaries of Health Rehabilitative Services and Corrections on matters of Juvenile Justice and Youthful Offenders. Judge Gladstone increased the breadth of his positive impact through his involvement on a variety of boards and committees related to juvenile and family law, human relations, mental health and child/adolescent care. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, the newly constructed Miami Children's Courthouse has been named in his honor along with his long-time colleague, Judge Seymour Gelber.

Judge Gladstone was a founding board member of Foster Care Review and has been a strong supporter of our Citizen Review Panel Program. Thus, on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Judge Gladstone for all he has done to protect and improve the lives of children and youth in our community. To paraphrase Sir Isaac Newton, if we see further, it is on the shoulder of giants –the Honorable William E. Gladstone is certainly a giant among us.



2014 DOUGLAS M. HALSEY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE JONI GOODMAN

In 2000, Florida Foster Care Review created the Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service in tribute to Doug Halsey, a founding Board member, former Board president and now Legacy Board chair. Doug has dedicated more than 25 years to improving the systems that serve abused, neglected and vulnerable children. The Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service is awarded to a child advocate who exemplifies Doug's Legacy of leadership, dedication, generosity and commitment.

Florida Foster Care Review is proud to present the 2014 Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service to Joni Goodman. Joni's unwavering and passionate advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected children is a worthy example of the leadership exemplified by Mr. Halsey and a hallmark of her continued dedication to our mission.

For 30 years, Joni has worked tirelessly on behalf of children in our community and throughout our state. As the former Executive Director of the Guardian Ad Litem Program of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court and a Regional Director with the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program, Joni has served on numerous local and statewide task forces and work groups addressing children's needs and the public policies that affect them. As Director of the Florida Bar Commission for Children, Joni engaged in a year-long effort to enhance legislation and attorney participation in children's issues. Her expertise led to her appointment by Governor Jeb Bush to a gubernatorial advisory body designed to make recommendations regarding the State of Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program. In 2009, she was named Director of the Year by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (National CASA).

Given her life's work, it is no surprise that Joni was among the small group of community members instrumental in the development of Foster Care Review. Joni served as a member of the United Way committee that formed our organization and was a founding Board member. She also served a second term on the Board from 2011-2013, during which she chaired the Program Committee. Joni now serves on our Legacy Board.

Joni has a Masters Degree in Social Work from Barry University, a Masters Degree from Florida International University in Public Administration and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She often speaks to groups about the plight of abused and neglected children and the opportunities for citizen volunteers to get involved. Our community, and especially our community's children, have benefited tremendously from her steadfast presence and strong voice. We salute her!



helping — humanity

Bank of America Merrill Lynch commends Foster Care
Review and all that you do to help others.

Visit baml.com

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch



Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

The power of global connections™

"Bank of America Merrill Lynch" is the marketing name for the global banking and global markets businesses of Bank of America Corporation. Lending, derivatives, and other commercial banking activities are performed globally by banking affiliates of Bank of America Corporation, including Bank of America, N.A., member FDIC. Securities, strategic advisory, and other investment banking activities are performed globally by investment banking affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("Investment Banking Affiliates"), including, in the United States, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp., both of which are registered broker-dealers and members of SIPC, and, in other jurisdictions, by locally registered entities. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp. are registered as futures commission merchants with the CFTC and are members of the NFA. Investment products offered by Investment Banking Affiliates: Are Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • Are Not Bank Guaranteed. THE POWER OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS is a trademark of Bank of America Corporation, registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. ©2014 Bank of America Corporation | GCB-146-AD | AR7CT9TE

2014 CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD

WHITE & CASE

White & Case's connection to Florida Foster Care Review dates back to our founding. As White & Case Environmental Law Partner Douglas M. Halsey explained, in 1988 no one set out to create citizen review panels, but the United Way of Miami-Dade realized that the foster care system was in trouble. To address the problem, the United Way created a 140-member citizen work group called the Foster Care Action Project. White & Case Real Estate Partner William "Bill" Walker, Jr. agreed to chair the committee.

Since that time, White & Case has supported, volunteered and led significant efforts on behalf of Foster Care Review. Douglas M. Halsey, White & Case Environmental Law Partner, served on the Foster Care Review Board of Directors for many years, was the Board President and is now a Legacy Board member. In fact, the Douglas M. Halsey Award for Community Service was created in October 2000 to honor Doug's own volunteer contributions and his commitment to children in Miami-Dade and throughout Florida.

White & Case is a leading global law firm with lawyers in 39 offices across 26 countries. They believe that their global presence provides not only an opportunity but also a responsibility to provide legal counsel and assistance to the communities in which they do business. Through their social responsibility initiative, White & Case looks for ways to apply their experience to the challenges faced by the global community and their attorneys are encouraged to give back.

Florida Foster Care Review has benefitted tremendously from White & Case's expert advice and their generous financial support. The firm's ongoing commitment to social responsibility has had a meaningful and long-lasting impact on the vulnerable children of our community and will continue to do so long into the future. Florida Foster Care Review is grateful for our enduring partnership with White & Case and we are pleased to honor their contribution with this award.





We salute the lawyers of White & Case who helped establish Foster Care Review in 1989 and served as Board Members and Presidents: **Bill Walker, Michael Samway and Doug Halsey.**

Worldwide. For Our Clients.

whitecase.com

C
hildren
are the
living
messages
we send to
a time we
will not see.

John W. Whitehead





Maxine Thurston-Fischer, PhD

In Memoriam

This year, as Florida Foster Care Review celebrates its 25th Anniversary, we also pay tribute to the life and legacy of Maxine Thurston-Fischer. The unique, dynamic and always fashionable Maxine was a member of Foster Care Review's Board of Directors from 2011 until 2014 and served on the United Way of Miami's Board of Directors during the time that a United Way Committee created our organization 25 years ago.

Born in 1939 in Jacksonville, Florida, Maxine began blazing a trail early in life. As one of the first African-American students at Indiana University, she earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare in 1960. She returned to Florida to work at the Department of Public Welfare and soon after became one of the first African Americans admitted to Florida State University (FSU). Maxine entered FSU's Master of Social Work program and in 1964 became the first African American to graduate from FSU with a master's degree in social work. Later, she again made history by joining the inaugural class of the doctoral program at FSU's College of Social Work. Maxine earned her PhD in 1987.

In her work as in her life, Maxine focused steadfastly on social justice. As principal investigator for The Thurston Group's research and evaluation projects, she helped develop, evaluate and provide support to social service organizations and programs locally and nationwide. Prior to starting her own business, she held management and executive positions in a variety of organizations and fields of practice including youth development, adolescent services, health planning, civil rights and public welfare. Some of her primary concerns included caring for marginalized youth, supporting the family system and preventing violence, neglect, and abuse towards children. In short, Maxine invested her all in creating healthier communities, particularly for the most vulnerable and underserved.

Maxine was not only a great activist, but also a mentor and an inspiration. Able to share both practical advice and substantive expertise, her intelligence and wisdom enriched the work of Florida Foster Care Review and made us more effective in our mission. It is our honor to pay tribute to Maxine at this important moment in Florida Foster Care Review's history. The community for which she cared so deeply will continue to benefit from the incredible legacy she left behind.

**THANK YOU TO ALL
THE FOLLOWING
INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR
VOLUNTEER WORK AND
COMMITMENT TO OUR
PROGRAM!**

20 YEARS PLUS

MICHAEL MILTON
PETER FORREST
ROBERT ROSEN

15-19 YEARS

ANN SWANER
EDITH HUDSON
FRANCES MOORE
GLENDA WHATLEY
JUDY WEBB
ROBERTA EHRENREICH

10-14 YEARS

AMY HALSEY
CLAIRE JORDI
DIANNE PETERSON
INES NEUHAUS
NADINE JOHNSON
NANCY KATZOFF
OSCAR RESEK
RENEE JONES

5- 9 YEARS

ANA MARIA LICHTER
ANTOINETTE MCBURNEY
BARBARA ERONCIG
BEATRIZ BALDAN
BELINDA MUÑIZ
BONNIE WEBMAN
CAROLE BERNSTEIN
CINDY KIMBROUGH
DANIELLE SELEM
DOROTHEE RUBIN
EDA VALERO
GAIL NANSEN
J. MICHAEL SAMWAY
LINDA BURTON
LISA PITTMAN
LOIS DANIS
LUCIA ESTRELLA
LUIS LALAMA
MARGARET KUNITZ
MICHAEL SCHER
MIKE KUTELL
MINDY FINKELMAN
MONICA FERRARI
NANCY SPENCER
SUSAN DAVILA
ZOILA PEREZ-CHANQUET



0-4 YEARS

ALYSSA DRAGNICH

ANNE BACALL

ANNIE BENSUASKI

ANTONIA MYSOREWALA

AUDREY TATE

CHRISTOPHER BAROVICH

DORIS MAYA

ELLEN HELMAN

GODDY CRUZ

JAMIE JONES

JANE MOSCOWITZ

JANICE BAREFOOT

JENNIFER GROSS

JODI HESSEL

JOSSETTE HAGEL

KAISA LEVINE

KATE CALLAHAN

KATHLEEN REDMOND

LAUREN KAHN-UZAREK

LINDA LENTZ-ENGLISH

LYNNE KAFKA

MARSHA GERMAN

MICHELE KABAT

MITCHELL MARENUS

NATALIE SIMS

NEVIA BELLAMY

PEARLIE PARAMORE

RACHEL MEADORS

STANLEY ZAMOR

STEPHANIE ROSEN

SUSAN BIRRIEL

TRACEY MULHOLLAND

VANESSA JIMENEZ-PAGES



CONGRATULATIONS EDITH!

YOU ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE OUR HERO!

WE LOVE YOU,

PETER & KATE



PodhurstOrseck

TRIAL & APPELLATE LAWYERS

Congratulates our Partner
Katherine W. Ezell

Aaron S. Podhurst
Robert C. Josefsberg
Joel D. Eaton
Steven C. Marks
Peter Prieto
Katherine W. Ezell

Karen Podhurst Dern
Of Counsel



Stephen F. Rosenthal
Ricardo M. Martínez-Cid
Ramon A. Rasco
John Gravante
Lea P. Valdivia
Matthew Wienshall

Robert Orseck (1934 - 1978)
Walter H. Beckham, Jr. (1920 - 2011)

and Foster Care Review
for their outstanding contributions to our community

City National Bank Building - 8th Floor - 25 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130 • Miami 305.358.2800 • www.podhurst.com



The Early Childhood
Initiative Foundation



Teach More/Love More
www.teachmorelovemore.org



The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
and The Children's Movement of Florida
proudly congratulate

DAVID LAWRENCE JR.

President, The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
Chair, The Children's Movement of Florida

For his outstanding contributions on
behalf of Florida's children.



Congratulations to
my dear friend, Edith!
You have inspired me
and shown me
another wonderful
part of you.

Bobbi

**Congratulations to all twenty-five of those special people
recognized tonight as influential to Foster Care Review!**

We would like to especially recognize our
great friend, Peggy Hudson, for her
unwavering support of and passion for
this great organization; and, on a personal
level, thank her for being such a
special friend to us for a period of time
measured in terms of trips shared with
The Hudsons that include all seven
continents. Included is a keep sake of a
recent anniversary dinner in Rio.

Love ya,
Jim & Peggy Miller





You are wonderful
and I am so proud of all you do!
Congratulations Peggy!

I love you, Doug



Thank you

Foster Care Review

for promoting the safety and well-being
of Miami-Dade children for 25 years.

From your friends at



GREATER MIAMI
CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

The Torricella Family
and all of us at Torricella**Pastor**
extend our heartfelt congratulations,
thanks and warmest wishes to

MaryAnne Lukacs

For your years of dedicated service
to Foster Care Review

For your heart filled with caring,
charity and love for those in need

For your efforts in helping the
less fortunate here at home and abroad

And for just being all-around awesome
Thank you, MaryAnne

We also thank and congratulate
all of the honorees for their caring
and service to our community.
We are grateful.

TorricellaPastor****
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1428 Brickell Avenue • Suite 100 • Miami, Florida 33131
Main: (305) 677-7644 • Fax: (786) 245-2681
www.TorricellaPastor.com



**Thank you for your
tireless & loving work
MaryAnne Lukacs!**

YOU ARE A SUPERSTAR!!!

Love you,
Karen Brown, Nicole Waters
&
Jennifer Duce

*Congratulations to
Maryanne Lukacs
on this well deserved honor*



Our community
is enriched by
your devotion to
Foster Care Review's
mission.
Your hard work
and dedication
over the past 25 years
has greatly benefited
many children
and families.
May you be blessed
with a life of
health, success and
happiness.

With love,

Robin, Adriana, Marite, Sabrina and Anett

Congratulations
& thank you to all the
volunteers, staff, and all
those involved in the
hearings at the Citizen
Review Panel!

Judy Webb

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO

FLORIDA FOSTER
CARE REVIEW



Facilitate | Advocate | Innovate | Evaluate

NAN MARKOWITZ

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
PANEL CHAIRS,
EDITH HUDSON
&
ANN SWANER!

LOVE,
ANNE BACALL, BARBARA ERONCIG,
CLAIRE JORDI,
DORIS MAYA,
& MITCHELL MARENUS,

Congratulations Kathy!
From your family and
your ever-loving
husband!
David

JUDY WEBB!



WE ARE PROUD OF ALL YOU DO!

We love you,
Tom, Tommy, Dione, Douglas, Giuliana
&
Baby Miliana



**Congratulations
Commissioner Sally Heyman**

**Your staff salutes you for your
compassion & service to
Foster Care Review, Inc.**

Bonnie
Mary
Margie
Vivian



Alfrieda
Norma
Alexis



Make it Happen

*Cherry Bekaert Congratulates
Chris Hutchins on His Contributions
to Foster Care Review.*

*Find out how we can be your
guide forward*

Coral Gables Fort Lauderdale
786.693.6300 954.556.1720



Cherry Bekaert^{LLP}

CFA's & Advisors

cbht.com

CONGRATULATIONS

NADINE!

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

***Help Anytime.
Always.***

Call us for free 24/7, confidential
telephone counseling, crisis
intervention, suicide prevention,
and information and referral
services.

305-358-HELP

305-358-4357/2-1-1



Switchboard

Help Anytime. Always.

www.switchboardmiami.org



Building Relationships • Providing Protection • Ensuring Solutions

CRA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

**FLORIDA FOSTER
CARE REVIEW** 

Facilitate | Advocate | Innovate | Evaluate

**Business Insurance • Risk Management
Private Client • Employee Benefits**

**To learn more, please visit
www.centuryriskadvisors.com**

561.409.2420 | info@centuryra.com | 2600 North Military Trail, Suite 240, Boca Raton, FL 33431



Congratulations Edith!

We are so proud of you. Your dedicated, selfless, and gracious contributions to the Foster Care Review are positively inspiring... Not only are you an amazing wife, mother, and grandmother; you are a truly phenomenal person. Thank you very much.

We love you dearly,

*Your Family... Bob Hudson,
Patrick, Kate & Ava Hudson, and
Daniel Hudson & Alyssa Ruotolo.*



"Then, said a rich man, Speak to us of Giving.

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and their coffer is never empty.

Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and

from behind their eyes

He smiles upon the earth."

Kahlil Gibran The Prophet

Dearest Nadine:

You are a true giver of service and love, as evidenced by your 14 years as a Panelist and child advocate with Florida Foster Care Review.

Your rewards are many: respect of the community, knowledge that you have given your best, and satisfaction in knowing you've lightened the burden and protected the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable children.

Bravo, dear friend

Bunchy

CONGRATULATIONS TO FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW FOR
25 YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY!

I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF SUCH AN
INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATION.

MaryAnne Lukacs



Strengthen local communities by guiding both
non-profit and for-profit businesses to achieve
organizational excellence for the benefit of the
common good.

Helping organizations become more sustainable, more
profitable, and more efficient by providing your CFO
level talent for less than the cost of a Bookkeeper.

Visit us at: www.quartercompany.com



FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW
IS GRATEFUL TO THE
HONORABLE BERTILA SOTO
CHIEF JUDGE
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR HER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP!

9825 NW 17th St.
Miami, FL 33172

305.591.0024

We at Arrowmail Corporate Services would like to extend our gratitude for the services provided to the children by Foster Care Review, Inc.



Established in 1991

SERVICES

Addressing | Consulting | Designing | Metering
Sorting | Folding | Mailing | Pick Ups | Packaging
Letter Shop | Full Service IMB | Data Processing
Business Continuity Plan | Expanded Printing Services
Business Cards | Postcards | Flyers | Envelopes
& MANY MORE!!

INDUSTRIES

Printers | Universities | Real Estate | Private Businesses
Automotive Corporations | Government Agencies
International Businesses | Non-Profit Organizations
Advertising Firms | Design Industries | Law Firms
Insurance Companies | Mortgage Companies
Banking Institutions | Credit Card Companies
& MANY MORE!!

Continue your success with Arrowmail Corporate Services, where we are committed to providing quality service, security, and value at the highest possible level. Our state of the art technology and professional staffing add up to saving you time and money. Everything here is treated with the upmost importance, because everything counts. That is how Arrowmail has become one of the largest and most technically advanced mailing and printing service providers in South Florida - **by keeping our promises!**

Call us today and we will solve your printing and mailing needs.

CONTACT INFO

sales@arrowmailservice.com

www.arrowmailservice.com

[@ArrowmailServ](https://www.facebook.com/ArrowmailServ)

[Arrowmail Corporate Services](https://www.youtube.com/ArrowmailCorporateServices)

305.591.0024

[@ArrowmailServ](https://www.facebook.com/ArrowmailServ)

[@ArrowmailServ](https://www.facebook.com/ArrowmailServ)





CORAL GABLES

Whole Foods Market is passionate about pure and delicious food, and we are dedicated to seek out the best products both locally and from around the world.

We provide healthy cooking classes, beer and wine tastings, kids club events, and more!

6701 Red Road
Coral Gables, Florida 33143
305-421-9421

FOR UPCOMING SALES AND EVENTS, GET SOCIAL WITH US!



facebook.com/wfmcoralgables



[@WFMCoralGables](https://twitter.com/WFMCoralGables)

www.wholefoods.com/coralgables

TITLE SPONSOR

WHITE & CASE

CORPORATE SPONSOR

**Bank of America
Merrill Lynch**



INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

JEAN & KENNETH BELL
DR. KENNETH C. FISCHER
PEGGY & DOUG HUDSON

WINE SPONSOR



CORAL GABLES

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS



KiTPhotos

joanna's
marketplace
EST. 1992

ARROWMAIL
CORPORATE SERVICES



PROGRAM

WELCOME

CANDICE L. MAZE, JD - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 STARS OF FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW AWARDS

THE HONORABLE BERTILA SOTO
CHIEF JUDGE - 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JUDICIAL CHAMPION AWARD - THE HONORABLE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE
THE HONORABLE CINDY S. LEDERMAN
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - JUVENILE DIVISION

DOUGLAS M. HALSEY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE - JONI GOODMAN
DOUGLAS M. HALSEY, ESQ.
WHITE & CASE LLP - PARTNER

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD - WHITE & CASE LLP
JEAN BELL
BANK OF AMERICA MERRILL LYNCH - SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE THURSTON-FISCHER, PHD
JEAN BELL

CLOSING REMARKS
CANDICE MAZE

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

ANGEL FERNANDEZ-VARELA, BERTA BLECKE, CHRISTINA ZAWISZA, ESQ.
DOUGLAS M. HALSEY, ESQ., DR. ELIZABETH METCALF, JAMES MOONEY, JOHN FARIE
JONI GOODMAN, LCSW, MAXINE THURSTON, PH.D, ROGER F. LOWE
HONORABLE WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE, REVEREND H. WILLIAM WALKER, ESQ.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JEAN M. BELL, PRESIDENT

DANIELE LOMORIELLO, VICE PRESIDENT

NORBERT FERNANDEZ, TREASURER

JACKYE RUSSELL, SECRETARY

BEATRIZ BALDAN, BRETT BARFIELD, ESQ., BROOKE L. PALLOT, DAVE ROBERTS, CPA
EMME PEDINIELLI, JERMAINE A. LEE. ESQ., JULIE A. WOOD, KELLY PENTON CHACON
MARYANNE LUKACS, ESQ., NAN A. MARKOWITZ, OCTAVIO HERNANDEZ

LEGACY BOARD

BARBARA ROSTOV, BERTA BLECKE, BRIAN MISIUNAS, CHRISTOPHER M. HUTCHINS
DOUGLAS M. HALSEY, JONI GOODMAN, KATHERINE EZELL, PEGGY HUDSON
REVEREND H. WILLIAM WALKER, ESQ.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW STAFF

CHARLET POUCHIE, CRISTINA VARGA, DILMA MONTEIRO
KENDRA COPELAND, KRISTINE INYANG, MONICA MOSER
TWILA GONZALES, VANESSA MUÑOZ, YANI SANCHEZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CANDICE L. MAZE, JD

Florida Foster Care Review is funded in part by
The United Way of Miami-Dade



FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Facilitate | Advocate | Innovate | Evaluate

4500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 100, Miami, FL 33137

PHONE 305.573.6665

FOSTERCAREREVIEW.ORG