

NOVEMBER 4, 2019



CLAWSFORKIDS











Welcome to Florida Foster Care Review's

14th Annual Claws for Rids fundraising luncheon!

This year, Florida Foster Care Review celebrates 30 years of partnership with our dedicated volunteers to advance the safety, stability and success of children in foster care. Our work is rooted in three decades of collaboration with Miami's court system and continues to rely on strong relationships with a network of child welfare stakeholders and local community-based organizations. Florida Foster Care Review's longevity is buoyed by the vision and support of countless individuals and corporations along with an expanding core of private and public funders. We are especially grateful to the generous Sponsors and attendees of today's record-breaking event!

As our 30th year comes to a close, we are happy to be able to reflect on many significant milestones and accomplishments. However, despite the many success stories we have helped shape, there are still hundreds of foster children in Miami who do not have a family of their own. Many believe that no one cares about them and that the chaos and dysfunction in their lives implies that they are incapable of achievement and unworthy of unconditional love.

Florida Foster Care Review is working to change this. We are focused on ensuring that children in foster care have the same things that all children need to thrive - a nurturing family, a safe place to call home, and the opportunity to pursue their dreams. Please help us show Miami's foster children that our community does care about them. Work with us to educate others about the needs of youth in foster care. Share their inspirational stories of struggle and success. Mentor, foster, or adopt a child in foster care or get involved with one of Florida Foster Care Review's programs as a volunteer or donor – or both! Each of us has the power to MAKE A DIFFERENCE for children in foster care – so please do!



Once again, thank you for being here and for generously supporting our work on behalf of children in foster care. Enjoy the event!

With gratitude,

Candice L. Maze, JD Executive Director

CITIZEN REVIEW

The Citizen Review Panel Program harnesses the power of volunteers to advance the safety, stability and success of children and young adults in foster care.

FY 2018-19

4,000 UNMET NEEDS IDENTIFIED

658 REVIEWS HEARD



423 CHILDREN, YOUTH & TIT

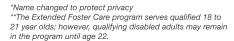


PANEL PROGRAM

From the time he was a very young child, Frankie* had a number of emotional and cognitive delays. His parents were unable to properly care for him, and Frankie was placed into specialized foster care, where he remained throughout his childhood. Three weeks before his 18th birthday, the judge referred Frankie to Florida Foster Care Review's Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Program. After reviewing reams of paperwork and questioning those involved with his care, the volunteer panel members learned that the agency had not even started the lengthy process for establishing a plenary guardianship, to oversee his care and finances once he turned 18. Also, no one had proof of Frankie's citizenship status, which would be critical for obtaining services for him in the future.

With Frankie's 18th birthday around the corner, the CRP issued its recommendations and findings and alerted the court to his critical, time sensitive needs. In response, the case management agency sprang into action. Lawyers got to work obtaining proof of Frankie's citizenship status and ensured that the required evaluations were conducted so he could qualify for a plenary guardianship. Also, the agency enrolled Frankie in the Extended Foster Care program, which enabled him to continue in his specialized foster home and to receive appropriate care after he turned 18.**

Thanks in large part to the CRP's thorough review, the specific solutions they identified, and the urgency with which they took action, Frankie is now receiving services to help him reach his full potential. The Citizen Review Panel will continue to review his case every 5-6 months in order to monitor his needs and to ensure that Frankie has the care and support he will need in the future.





DERMANENCY

The Permanency Roundtable Program uses an inclusive, structured, collaborative process to connect children in foster care with forever families and stable adults committed to a lifelong, supportive relationship.

FY 2018-19

866 ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS



YOUTH SERVED



TRAININGS PROVIDED TO TRAININGS PROVIDED TO

of youth who have exited the program have achieved legal permanency or lifelong permanent connection

ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

Joyce* was removed from her parents when she was two years old. During the following 3 years, she bounced around to a number of different foster families. Even though she was legally free for adoption, no adoptive family had been found for Joyce. Her case manager referred her to Florida Foster Care Review's Permanency Roundtable (PRT) Program for help. At the time of her first PRT session, she had been having visits with a paternal uncle who was interested in adopting her. After further exploring the uncle's background, the PRT team learned that his criminal record would prohibit him from ever being able to adopt Joyce.

In the process of exploring all avenues for identifying and connecting to potential adoptive families, the PRT team discovered that one of Joyce's service providers had previously expressed an interest in adopting her. The PRT team got to work immediately and assisted her with completing adoption paperwork and helped to fast track the process. Happily, just before school started in the fall, Joyce went to live with her pre-adoptive family. Her adoption was made official a few months later.

But the story doesn't end there. Because her new adoptive mother was familiar with her uncle, Joyce was able to continue to have safe and supervised visits with him. Thus, not only did Joyce gain an adoptive family, she also is able to benefit from an important connection to her family through her uncle. None of this would have been possible without the diligent work and creative problem solving of the PRT team.

*Name changed to protect privacy



THANK YOU TO



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our Training & Engagement Manager, Marissa Leichter, at 305.679.2740 or mleichter@fostercarereview.org

OUR YOLUNTEERS

Florida Foster Care Review would like to thank our volunteers for their dedication and commitment to children and youth in foster care.

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Marissa Rios Meyling Wong Michael Milton Michael Samway Michelle Shindell Nadine Johnson Norma Schwartz Pamela Chamberlin Rebecca Manning Robert Maland Robert Rosen Rosemary Irene Sullivan Ruth Behlman Sara Rytteke Shari Lombardi Stephanie Rosen Susan Birriel Susan Bloom Susan Davila Susan Shapiro Suzanne Meltzer Tamara Schwartz Vanessa Jerome Yolanda Sanchez

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Norman Braman Philanthropic Fund









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Florida Foster Care Review's Legacy Circle is an exclusive group of our most dedicated supporters and passionate advocates. As engaged stewards of our mission, Legacy Circle members sustain Florida Foster Care Review's work by committing to financial giving over a period of three years.



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Protector: \$20,000 - \$29,999

Suzanne & Brad Meltzer

Sustainer: \$10,000 - \$19,999

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Lisa & John Chidsey

Commissioner Sally Heyman

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Lynne & Carl Kafka Kaisa & Doug Levine Mitchell & Lourdes Marenus David & Laurie McWilliams Stephanie & Michael Rosen

Please contact Candice Maze at 305.679.2735 or visit www.fostercarereview.org/legacycircle/ to learn more about making an impactful investment in the future of foster youth.

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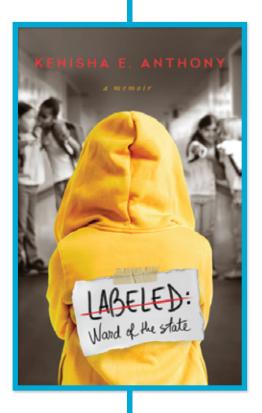






enisha E. Anthony is a first-generation college graduate, award-winning foster care advocate, and author. Known for being resilient and bold, she's an outspoken activist utilizing her experiences to empower others. As a foster care visionary, she starred in the documentary, Foster Shock and has been featured on NPR and in the Miami Herald. Her eye-opening memoir, Labeled, will be released December 2019. Pre-order your copy of Kenisha's book at

KenishaAnthony.com



Emmy Award-winning journalist Jackie Nespral became the first Hispanic ever to anchor a network news program when she was tapped for NBC's Weekend Today show in 1992.

After commuting between Miami and New York for three years, she chose to continue her career in South Florida with NBC6. She currently anchors "NBC6 News" at 5pm, 6pm and 11pm alongside NBC6 anchor Jawan Strader and chief meteorologist John Morales. Jackie is also the host of Impact, a locally produced half-hour show dedicated to politics and current events, which airs Sundays at 9:30am.

While with NBC news, Nespral became known for her interviews with prominent figures, ranging from national and international leaders to celebrities. She



has extensive experience covering stories such as the first US presidential visit in Havana, Papal visits to Cuba, presidential inaugurations, presidential debates, hurricanes, and the World Series and NBA championships among others. Her work has been recognized with six Emmy® awards and a Silver Circle Award for her work of over 25 years in the industry.

Prior to Joining NBC news, Nespral was the anchor of the one-hour live national newscast of "Noticias y Más" at the Univision network in 1991. She also worked as a reporter and weekend anchor for "Televisión Marti" and Dynamic Cablevision, a CNN affiliate in Miami.

A South Florida native, Nespral has remained a familiar face throughout the community. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Miami where she also served as the first Hispanic woman past president of the University of Miami Alumni Association. She is on the board and actively involved in Amigos For Kids. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the March of Dimes, the Columbia Women's Center, South Miami Hospital's Child Development Center and the School of Communications at The University of Miami. In addition, she gained a unique perspective of the community by serving as the Orange Bowl Queen in 1985-86. She was also tapped for the highest honor achieved at the University of Miami, the Iron Arrow.

Nespral received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology with a minor in Communications from the University of Miami. She also completed two years of post-graduate studies in print and broadcast journalism at Florida International University.

Nespral and husband Armando are proud parents of daughters Carolina, Frances, Isabella and son Armando Jr.

Email Jackie: jackie.nespral@nbcuni.com or send her a tweet on Twitter @JackieNBC6



Florida Foster Care Review Salutes United Way of Miami-Dade on its 95th Anniversary







In 1924, the United Way of Miami-Dade was created to be an enduring force for improving lives in our community. In 1988, they were instrumental in laying the groundwork for Citizen Review Panels and the incorporation of Florida Foster Care Review a year later. As we both celebrate important milestones in 2019, we are more committed than ever to working alongside the United Way to build a stronger Miami.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Bilzin Sumberg is proud to support the Florida Foster Care Review in their mission to promote the safety, well-being and long-term success of abused and neglected children and youth.



PROUD TO BE JUDGED
BY THE COMPANY WE KEEP



Thank you for all that you do!

MaryAnne Lukacs, Esquire MAL@lukacsmediation.com 305•790•3782

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To the STAFF & VOLUNTEERS of

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW





Thank You

for your hard work, dedication and countless hours to help foster youth in our area. We know how much you all care. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference.

> Kaisa & Doug Levine Stephanie & Michael Rosen



14th Annual **Claws for Kids** Luncheon

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT



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Florida Foster Care Review for all that you do for children in foster care!



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on 30 years of help and support to children in foster care and acknowledge our dear friend

Jackie Skaf

for her tremendous contributions to the organization



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Sally A. Heyman

congratulates



on their

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Continue to do great things!





A Heartfelt Thank You
to the volunteers of the
Citizen Review Panel
for your dedication
and advocacy on behalf of
foster youth in
Miami-Dade County.

Jackie and Suhel Skaf

"LOVE IS WHAT MAKES A FAMILY."

DEANNA KAHLER

Many of us in the Jones Lowry family have benefited from the love of adoptive parents. We are honored to support Florida Foster Care Review.





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We all need to find a way to invest in our children.

Change a life by becoming a foster parent, mentor, advocate or volunteer.

-Edith Hudson



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Congratulations

and thank you for serving & protecting thousands of children in Miami-Dade County!

-Jean and Kenny Bell

Thank you for all that you do

Kaufman Rossin salutes Florida Foster Care Review for its work to build a brighter future for children.



We wholeheartedly support the Florida Foster Care Review family!

-Lynne & Carl Kafka

Thank You

Florida Foster Care Review for all the wonderful work you do!



Christopher Hutchins, CPA (305) 282-8163

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Thank You Florida Foster Care Review for Helping Children in Their Time of Need.





Florida Foster Care Review
On their 14th Annual Claws
for Kids Luncheon.

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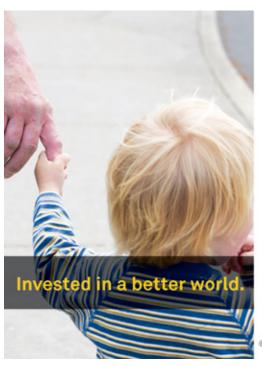
In Loving Memory

Thomas F. Keating

November, 1932 – July 25, 2019

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warmth upon your face,
and the rain fall gently upon your field,
and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Brian Misiunas



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It is our great pleasure to support Florida Foster Care Review.



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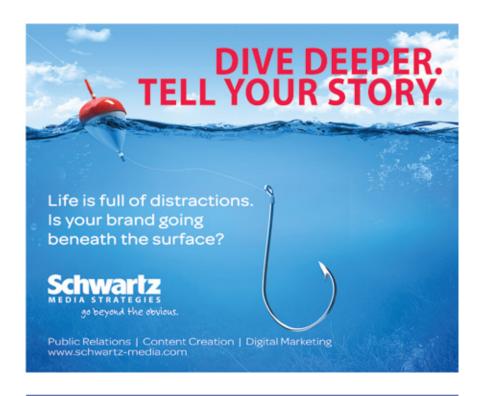
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There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

- Nelson Mandela

Thank you to the volunteers, staff and supporters of Florida Foster Care Review.

Ruth & Adam Behlman



Did you know that there are 3,700 innocent children in foster care with only 1,400 foster homes available?

Did you know that of these 3,700 children their average length of stay in foster care will be 19.2 months and for those children over 13 years old it will be more than 3 years.

Did you know that the leading cause of removal of children from their family home is drug abuse by a parent.

We are proud to support

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW

which makes a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children through its hard work and advocacy.

Susan and Jay Shapiro and Family

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Congratulations to the 2019 Claws for Kids Host Committee on a record-breaking event!

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