

FLORIDA FOSTER  
CARE REVIEW



16TH ANNUAL  
CLAWS FOR KIDS  
FUNDRAISING EVENT



November 8, 2021

#ClawsforKids

# THANK YOU 2021 HOST COMMITTEE

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**Welcome to Florida Foster Care Review's 16th Annual Claws for Kids fundraising event!** We are thrilled to be back at Joe's Stone Crab, and we are humbled by the incredible generosity of the 52 Sponsors joining us @ Joe's and @ Home. We are also very excited to once again have NBC 6's Jackie Nespral emceeding the festivities. Thank you all for this record-breaking show of support!

The pandemic has made life challenging for everyone. However, the uncertainty and loss so many of us have experienced these past 20 months is a daily reality for many children and young adults in foster care. Florida Foster Care Review works to improve the well-being and life outcomes of these youth by connecting them to essential services, supportive relationships and forever families. To continue to pursue our mission, we have transitioned to a remote format while maintaining the integrity of our programs and implementing innovative approaches to address emerging needs.

The relationships we have established with our colleagues, community partners, volunteers and supporters have sustained us, individually and collectively, during this difficult time. As you will hear from today's speaker, Allen J. West, consistent, reliable relationships and supportive, caring communities are essential for building resilience and overcoming adversity.

Whether you contribute time, talent or treasure, you have the power to ensure that every child in foster care is connected to supportive, stable adults and a caring community. On behalf of all of us at Florida Foster Care Review, thank you for investing in our work and for your commitment to the children and young adults we are so privileged to serve.

With gratitude,

Candice L. Maze, JD  
Executive Director  
[CMaze@FosterCareReview.org](mailto:CMaze@FosterCareReview.org)



# THANK YOU

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# FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Florida Foster Care Review (FFCR) was founded in 1989 by community members who believed that volunteer-based citizen review panels were essential to ensuring the safety and welfare of the thousands of children in Miami's foster care system at the time. More than thirty years later, FFCR has matured into a full-fledged non-profit organization. Our **Citizen Review Panel Program's** trained volunteers, guided by our expert staff, conduct in-depth review hearings for each child referred by the court, identify unmet needs and recommend solutions. Our **Permanency Roundtable Program** convenes and facilitates action-oriented teams focused on securing forever families and lifelong, supportive adult relationships for youth in foster care.



# BY THE NUMBERS

**405**

CHILDREN & YOUNG  
ADULTS SERVED

**420**

CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL  
HEARINGS CONDUCTED

**2779**

UNMET NEEDS  
IDENTIFIED &  
ADDRESSED BY OUR  
CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

**75%**

OF THE CITIZEN REVIEW  
PANEL'S RECOMMENDED  
ORDERS WERE  
COMPLIED WITH

**2270**

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
CONTRIBUTED

**1250**

PERMANENCY  
ROUNDTABLES HELD

**81%**

OF YOUTH IN PERMANENCY  
ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM  
WERE CONNECTED TO A  
LIFELONG SUPPORTIVE  
ADULT OR A FOREVER  
FAMILY UPON LEAVING THE  
PROGRAM

# OUR IMPACT

**Our Permanency Roundtable (PRT) Program builds and activates a team of professionals and lay people who break through barriers in pursuit of lifelong adult connections and forever families.**

By the time 12 year-old Mike\* was referred to FFCR's PRT Program, he had already been in foster care 6 years. Mike was struggling with mental health, emotional and behavioral issues.

During his time in the system, he had bounced between foster homes and, at one point, he required residential psychiatric treatment. Mike's younger siblings had all been adopted, and, although a number of families had been interested in adopting him, each one had fallen through.



The PRT team embraced the challenge, and they were determined to find the right family for Mike. FFCR's experienced staff facilitated the team's creation and implementation of a permanency action plan specifically tailored to Mike's unique needs. Among the many efforts made, the team conducted an expansive search for family members and highlighted Mike on several new adoption recruitment websites. Eventually, through perseverance and persistence, the PRT team found a family with 3 adopted children who also had significant emotional and behavioral needs. After extensive discussions with the team and many visits, it was clear that this was the right family for Mike. With support and guidance from his therapist, the PRT team transitioned Mike to his new family.

After almost 10 years in foster care and a lifetime of disappointments, Mike finally had his forever family. The whole team participated in the adoption proceeding via zoom and watched through tears as Mike and his adoptive parents proudly wore matching t-shirts. Mike poignantly reflected that he thought he would never be adopted, and he couldn't believe it was actually happening.



## **Each child reviewed by our Citizen Review Panel (CRP) Program receives individualized attention and a set of recommendations tailored to address their specific needs.**

The 5 Smith\* children entered foster care in late 2019. After about a year, the juvenile court judge overseeing their case referred the children to the CRP Program. Prior to the scheduled review hearing, CRP staff and volunteers read the case manager's lengthy report and combed through stacks of documentation detailing the children's history, special needs and the services they had received. During the review, CRP members discovered that the 5 siblings had not consistently visited with each other for nearly a year. They also learned that the adoptions process had stalled and that each child had one or more unaddressed medical, developmental and/or educational need.

To ensure timely compliance with the many recommendations issued by the panel for each child, FFCR staff requested a special hearing before the judge who had referred the Smith siblings to the CRP. During the hearing, the judge asked the parties to provide an update regarding their compliance with the CRP's recommendations. Based on the CRP's findings, the judge ordered the agency to ensure that the children visited with each other in person at least once a month. He also required the agency to finalize the children's adoptions and decided to hold monthly hearings to monitor the provision of tutoring and educational accommodations for one of the children who was struggling in school.

Acknowledging how difficult it would have been for him to identify so many issues on his own, the judge thanked FFCR's representative for the objective, individualized attention of the Citizen Review Panel on behalf of the five Smith children.

*\*Names and identifying information have been changed to protect privacy*

# LEGACY CIRCLE

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW'S LEGACY CIRCLE IS AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF DEDICATED SUPPORTERS AND PASSIONATE ADVOCATES WHO HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN OUR WORK SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1989.



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# IMPORTANT DATES

The Miami Foundation  
**GiveMiamiDay**  
ANNIVERSARY

10<sup>TH</sup>

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

17TH ANNUAL  
CLAWS FOR KIDS  
FUNDRAISING EVENT

*Joe's*  
STONE CRAB

NOVEMBER 14, 2022

We Are Proud  
to Support

Florida Foster Care Review

and  
The 16th Annual  
**Claws for Kids Luncheon**



**Thank you  
for all you do!**

Lisa & John Chidsey

*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*



PHOTO BY TIMON STUDLER ON UNSPASH

# **Florida Foster Care Review** **helping youth rise to their potential**

**MaryAnne Lukacs and Maria Bures**

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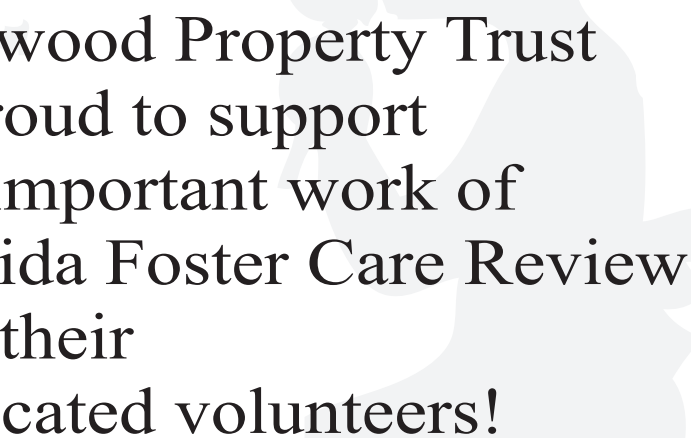


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the important work of  
Florida Foster Care Review  
and their  
dedicated volunteers!



# Thank You



FLORIDA FOSTER  
CARE REVIEW



We are **proud** to  
**support** you  
& the 16th annual  
Claws For Kids  
Luncheon!

*Ruth & Adam Behlman*

*Congratulations*  
ON YOUR  
*16<sup>th</sup>* ANNUAL  
CLAW/S FOR KIDS



Thank you and the volunteers of  
Florida Foster Care Review  
for all that you do  
for our community's youth!



THANK YOU!

Kate Callahan & Peter Benjamin | The Huntington Consulting Group



*Congratulations!*  
*to*

***Florida Foster Care Review  
On Their 16th Annual  
Claws for Kids Luncheon.***

**SANTINI**LAW

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*Miami-Dade County Commissioner*

***Sally A. Heyman***

*congratulates*

FLORIDA FOSTER  
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***16th Annual Claws for Kids Luncheon***

***November 8, 2021***

***Continue to do great things!***





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on a successful

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Claws for Kids

and for more than 32 years of engaging  
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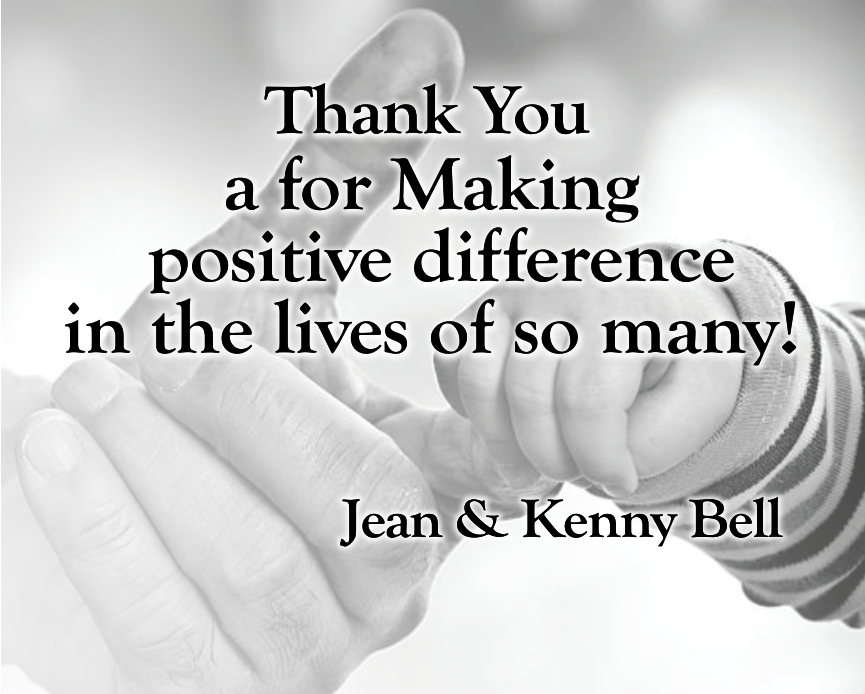




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empowering our  
communities.

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Thank You  
a for Making  
positive difference  
in the lives of so many!

Jean & Kenny Bell



*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*

“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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ON ANOTHER YEAR OF  
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WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CLAWS FOR KIDS  
DIANE & MARK PERLBERG



*Thank you  
for taking care*

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

**Contact Us:**

Greg Muzii

[gmuzii@kaufmanrossin.com](mailto:gmuzii@kaufmanrossin.com)

305-858-5600

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*We Wholeheartedly  
Thank the FFCR  
Volunteers & Staff  
for the  
Important Work  
They Do!*

*Lynne & Carl Kafka*





**THANK YOU SO MUCH  
TO THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF  
FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW.**

*You All Rock!*

---

Christopher Hutchins, CPA LLC

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305.282.8163



*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, Suhel & Natalie Skaf*





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