



voices for children foundation, inc.

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NEWS

August, 2010 - N2.

EVENTS



Foster Kids in need of School Supplies

Back to school season is often an exciting time, where parents and children purchase new clothing and school supplies and plan for after-school activities. Yet for 2,600 children in the Miami-Dade County Foster Care system, obtaining these basic school necessities is out of reach.

While parents do not want to send their kids to school in clothes or shoes that do not fit, sometimes they have no choice.

Help these families have a choice by being their voice. Through your donation of **\$50.00, \$100.00, or \$150.00**, Voices For Children Foundation can help buy school supplies, shoes, or school uniforms for a foster child in need. These essential items, as well as after-school activities, tutoring, and enrichment programs, **make the difference in the life of a child who often walks the fine line between failure and success.**

At the individual and community level, we can be a part of the solution. Thank you for taking this opportunity to **BE A VOICE** and we wish you a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Nelson F. Hincapie President and Chief Executive Officer

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Summer Artistic Expression Workshops Provide Respite for Kids in Foster Care

On Thursday, August 12, 2010 Voices For Children hosted the first of their summer series of Artistic Expressions Workshops for children in the dependency system who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.



The workshop represented a collaborative effort between Voices For Children and The Children's Home Society to provide a painting workshop led by local artist Carlos Rodriguez. Rodriguez, whose work has won many local distinctions including a 2004 Silver Knight nomination, has been a committed mentor to Miami's children for over four years. "The workshops held by Voices allow reflection on both the creative process and the art itself. I feel it helps the children gain control or deeper understanding of their own emotions," Rodriguez said.

Nelson Hincapie, President and CEO of Voices For Children added, "These workshops add recreation to the lives of children who desperately need to be just children. They allow these kids to escape the worries of sexual abuse or other maltreatments and provide a healthy opportunity for positive child development."

This first 2010 Artistic Workshop featuring painting is proudly supported and sponsored by the [Rotary Club of Miami](#). [More...](#)

Fashion's Night Out

September 10, 2010
7:00pm -11:30pm
Pomellato - Bal Harbour
Tickets: By invitation only, please contact [Voices For Children](#) for more information

Strike Out Child Abuse, Bowling Event

September 15, 2010
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Splitsville - South Miami
Tickets: Individual \$50 - Team of 8 \$400 [More...](#)

The Ball's in Your Court, Tennis Tournament

October 16 & 17, 2010
Crandon Park Key Biscayne
Tickets: Men's/Women's/Mixed Doubles, One Day \$50 - Two Days \$75

16th Annual Be A Voice Awards Luncheon

Friday, October 29, 2010
11:30pm - 1:00pm
Jungle Island - Miami
Tickets: Individual \$125
Table \$1,250 [More...](#)

[See more events...](#)

BEING A VOICE



"This story, this boy, will forever be a part of my mind, my heart, and my soul."

~Ana,

August GAL Volunteer of the Month

Dedicated GAL and Protective Father Make a Difference

Being a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is oftentimes not easy. Exposure to the neediest citizens of our community – abused, abandoned and neglected children – can take an emotional and spiritual toll. Ana, a GAL Volunteer since 1994, can attest to these facts, but also speak to the emotional and spiritual rewards. She has volunteered on over 25 cases in her time as a volunteer and her compassion for the vulnerable children of Miami-Dade is unwavering.

Over the course of her time as a volunteer Ana recalls one particular case that is a cherished memory. "The child," Ana says, "was born to a

hard working father and a drug addicted mother." It was a unique case where Ana found that the father actually desired to be a part of the child's life.

"While living with his mother, the boy lived a chaotic life. His mother was entrenched in bad habits and the situation developed into incidents of domestic violence," recalls Ana. Culminating on a dark evening at midnight, a good-Samaritan neighbor found the mother and boy together, the mother heavily intoxicated, and called the police.

Visiting regularly with the child, Ana found that the father was protective and loving of his son, and although his mother's demons eventually brought an end to her life when the boy was just 14, "the boy persevered and lives a good life today," she smiles.

"I give credit to the strong foundation he had due to his father's dedication...but I also feel that my monthly visits made it a little easier for the boy to have a steady person in his life whom he could rely on during that difficult time. The story, this boy, will forever be a part of my mind, my heart and my soul."

Ana is an exceptional GAL Volunteer and is extra vigilant for the younger children she represents, as they are not yet able to speak or voice their own opinion. Ana, thank you for 16 terrific and dedicated years as a Guardian ad Litem and congratulations for being selected as the August GAL Volunteer of the Month.

SHORTCUTS

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