



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

With art:

1. **Child Painting World**
2. **Youth Turned Artist**
3. **Foster Kid Painting Jet**

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SUMMER ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WORKSHOPS PROVIDE RESPITE FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

August 16, 2010, – Miami, FL – On Thursday, August 12, 2010 Voices For Children Foundation, the fundraising arm of the 11th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program, hosted the first of their summer series of Artistic Expressions Workshops for children in the dependency system who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.

This summer Voices For Children partnered with 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 For Children 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.

The Artistic Expressions Workshops, now in their eighth year, is a part of the Children's Needs Program run by Voices For Children. The Program provides enrichment experiences essential to a child's social, emotional, physical and academic development, and endeavors to provide children with the things that all children deserve – and often cannot or do not experience - such as field trips, summer camp, sports, and cultural/artistic experiences.

"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," added Nelson Hincapie, President and CEO of Voices For Children.

"Our children enjoyed the experience enormously and we are so very grateful to Voices and Carlos Rodriguez for this wonderful opportunity. It is precisely this kind of activity that all children should be exposed to, in order to expand their horizons," said Jackie Gonzalez, Executive Director of Children's Home Society of Florida.

This first 2010 Artistic Workshop featuring painting is proudly supported and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Miami.

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About Voices For Children Foundation, Inc.

Voices For Children Foundation is a not for profit organization that raises funds to ensure that every abused, abandoned, and neglected child in Miami-Dade County has a court appointed Guardian ad Litem and that financial assistance and other resources are available for their accompanying health, educational, and social needs. Guardians ad Litem are trained, court-appointed adults who serve as the representative voice for abused, abandoned, and neglected children involved in dependency court proceedings. For more information please visit www.BeAVoice.org.

About Children's Home Society of Florida

Created in 1902, Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) is the second-largest private not-for-profit in the United States and Canada accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is the oldest statewide provider of services to children and families in Florida. CHS services include foster care, adoption, child abuse prevention, emergency shelters, residential group homes, independent and transitional living for teens, parent education, counseling, mentoring, and treatment for developmentally disabled children. CHS, which served more than 97,000 children and families in 2008-2009, is headquartered in Winter Park, Fla., and offers services in more than 100 locations by more than 1,900 staff members dedicated to providing child-focused, family-centered care.

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