



THE CENTER FOR FAMILY SERVICES  
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.

# Family Matters

Strengthening families through counseling, education and homeless intervention.

## A Journey Through Life's Obstacles

There are many obstacles which clients must overcome, but some seem to manage changing profound parts of their lives in very unique ways. I have had the pleasure of working with a single male parent and his two sons, ages 10 and 12 for approximately one year. Their struggles have been numerous and filled with many ups and downs.

Their journey began with the father's involvement in a new treatment component at CFS which works with individuals and their families that have substance abuse problems and mental health issues as well. This dual diagnosis program utilizes a client-directed, outcome informed (CDOI) approach to service delivery that places the client at the very center of the change process. The client works with a therapist and treatment team in The Center for Family Services' (CFS) Partners for Change program that places the emphasis on "what is right with you" for each client and helps them navigate their own change.

In June of 2008, Frank Kaub began this journey at the residential program of the Housing Partnership North in conjunction with outpatient therapy at CFS with me as his therapist. Over the course of

a year, he received both group and individual therapies that later also included family therapy with his two sons. At that time, the children and their father did not live together, and it was not until Frank completed various objectives as set forth by the Department of Children and Families in conjunction with his case manager from the Drug Abuse Foundation that they were eventually reunited. This also included the involvement of the CFS case manager regarding community resources and assistance.

An amazing part of this client's change process was leaving behind a lengthy history of drug abuse and family conflicts. By honoring his strengths and resiliencies in a manner that worked for him, the client was able to regain a belief in himself and his innate abilities. Step by painful step, Frank demonstrated that he could meet that challenge and worked very earnestly to regain full custody of his two sons. With assistance from an agency providing temporary family housing, Frank has finally found more stable and permanent housing for himself and his sons. His journey supports our belief that



(Left to Right) Mario Acosta, Elijah, Frank, and Orion Kaub

treatments that reinforce an individual's strengths make many things possible. This client exemplifies that the human spirit is full of amazing surprises given such supports as this project has provided to so many. Frank's story is about believing in one's unique gifts despite any unfortunate events in one's life. It transcends the outdated ideas about mental health/substance abuse recovery methods, and proves that by concentrating on an individual's strengths, instead of their weaknesses, important change is possible regardless of how many times an individual has stumbled in the past.

*Submitted by: Mario Acosta, PhD.  
on behalf of Partners for Change*

## Benjamin School Students Lend a Helping Hand at Pat Reeves Village

The Center for Family Services (CFS) and The Benjamin School in North Palm Beach have forged a partnership over the past year. Through the school's Community Service Program, the students have taken a great interest in CFS and what we are doing to help families and children in need in our community.

The Benjamin School held a very successful food drive, with over 350 lbs. of non-perishable food collected for Dorothy's Pantry at Pat Reeves Village, CFS' emergency shelter for homeless families with children. The students also recently conducted a "Necessities Drive" for the shelter collecting personal hygiene items, linens, baby items, clothing/shoes as well as food. The Village provides shelter, food, clothing, transportation passes, counseling, budgeting and case management in assisting fami-

lies to regain their self-sufficiency through permanent or transitional housing.

Benjamin's Community Service Program strives to teach children how to apply knowledge and interactive skills to address important school and community needs. By doing that, students discover new interests and abilities, they learn to work cooperatively and take leadership roles, and they learn the value of caring about and helping others.



(Left to Right) Benjamin School Students:  
Dalton Knecht, Haley Kolaczynski, Katie Domnick,  
Nicole Huhn and Casey Pearce stocking the food pantry  
at Pat Reeves Village homeless shelter

Photo credit: Meghan Mayo



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# Meet the Board

Pete Wellman is an audit partner in Ernst & Young's Florida practice and has more than twenty four years of client service experience, including serving a wide variety of clients in the real estate financial services, manufacturing and distribution industries. His client base has included numerous publicly-held and private clients; dealing with all types of registered and nonregistered securities offerings. Pete has extensive experience in current value accounting and reporting matters, lending activities, financial instruments and dealing with complex asset valuation considerations. Pete is a technical review partner for several large audit clients and is the audit resource leader for the South Florida Practice. He serves as Ernst & Young's South Florida Strategic Growth Markets Leader. Pete joined CFS' Board of Directors in 2006, now serves as Secretary of the Board, a member of the Audit Committee and was Co-Chairman for the 2009 Golf Classic.



Peter Wellman

**1. What is your motivation for serving on a non-profit board?**

*I have been blessed in many ways and have always had a strong desire to give back - not just financially, but also with my time and talents. Serving on the CFS Board affords me a great opportunity to do this in many ways for a terrific organization.*

**2. What does it mean to you to be involved with CFS?**

*CFS is a well-run, solid organization that has served the local community for many years. I am proud to be associated with CFS and thoroughly enjoy working with its staff and other board members to promote the well-being of the individuals, children and families that CFS serves.*

## Nova Southeastern University Family Therapy Internship

A partnership between Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and The Center for Family Services of Palm Beach County (CFS) has resulted in an internship site in Palm Beach County for Nova graduate student therapists. CFS is extremely proud to serve as a clinical practicum site since January 2009 for students in NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, West Palm Beach campus.

The program launched with one practicum for four to six graduate students from NSU's family therapy program during one night each week. The primary therapist leads a therapy session at CFS' main counseling facility while their classmates and a university professor observe in another room via video camera technology. The team observing the session is able to offer multiple perspectives and provide feedback for the CFS client and the therapist.

"This is a win-win-win situation for CFS, NSU and ultimately our clients," said Kaisha Thomas, Chief Clinical Officer at CFS. Thomas added, "Students at NSU's Palm Beach Gardens campus will not have to travel to the NSU clinic in Davie to get their practicum experience, and will receive invaluable experience working at a com-



(Left to right) Gail Stein, Mathew Jean, Kimberly Hines-Jean Baptiste, Jane Dye, PhD, Kaisha Thomas, Chief Clinical Officer at CFS

munity agency that offers counseling programs with various funding sources. They will be able to work with clients while also learning the requirements of a community mental health agency, which will better prepare them to practice once they graduate."

Clients will have the advantage of working under the guidance and expertise of a prestigious university as NSU and having a team of up to six therapists hear their story and offer solutions. Those clients who participate in the program may ultimately spend less time in therapy. They will receive affordable counseling under the direction of NSU Faculty and graduate students.

# Season in Review

## "It's a Small World"

The Center for Family Services (CFS) held their Annual HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) and Parenting Smart Babies' event, "It's a Small World" in June, hosted by Gaines Park and the Pleasant City Multi-Cultural Center.

More than 450 attendees enjoyed musical performances from around the world by three-to-five year olds, their parents and staff presented by HIPPY sites (Boca/Delray/Boynton; Belle Glade/South Bay/Pahokee; Lake Worth; Pleasant City/Riviera Beach; Roosevelt/Westgate) and enjoyed family entertainment, food and children's activities. For the past four years, Masud Temple #69 (currently led by Illustrious Potentate Alfonso Funderburk) has donated food and volunteered their time for this event. A ceremony was held for the first children in Palm Beach County to graduate from the Parenting Smart Babies Program. Nine three-year-olds "crossed over the bridge" from Parenting Smart Babies to HIPPY. Funders of the HIPPY program are: Children's Services Council, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the University of South Florida.



Mea Falduto and Toni Singhaus

## Golf Classic 2009

The Center for Family Services held their third annual Golf Classic in June at The Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter. More than 80 golfers participated in the event which raised \$70,000. The highlight of the day was Mallory Crossland landing a hole-in-one on Par 5!

The pre-event cocktail party and silent auction was sponsored by Ernst & Young LLP. The tournament was sponsored by The Baxter Foundation; Platinum Sponsor was Air Partner and other sponsors included Gloria Herman; 1st United Bank; The Himmel



(Left to right): Jon Colclasure, Carol Geaney, Jeff McDonald, Jean Meisenzahl, Allison Greenberg and Pete Wellman

Foundation; Addison Development; Centurion Partners, LLC; Jim and Becky Dockter; David Gray; Chris and Vicki Hunkler; Terry and Shep Kaufman and Richard Levine. Wachovia Wealth Management (A Wells Fargo Company) donated Titleist Pro V1 balls for the players. The hole-in-one prize was sponsored by Arrigo Dodge Chrysler Jeep.

Jean Meisenzahl and Pete Wellman served as co-chairs and the committee included Jon Colclasure, Carol Dixon, John Elder, Carol Geaney, Allison Greenberg, Scott Greenberg, Lauren Kesselman, Margo Kohlhoff, Jeff McDonald and Danielle Moerhle-Holvig.

## Eleventh Annual Old Bags Luncheon

The Eleventh Annual Old Bags Luncheon held at The Breakers in March was a spectacular success, chaired by Erin McGould and Amie Swan with Mary Freitas as honorary chairwoman. Saks Fifth Avenue was the Platinum Corporate Benefactor and Tony Duquette for Saks Fifth Avenue Palm Beach was the Gold Corporate Benefactor, donating a magnificent brooch for the raffle prize. Silent Auction Benefactors were Neiman Marcus and Harl Taylor BAG from Nassau, The Bahamas. Grand Benefactors were Erin and Sean McGould; Benefactors were Lisa and Peter Erdmann;



(Left to right) Amie Swan, George Hamilton, Erin McGould

Frances and Jeffrey Fisher; Sheryll and David Harkins; Platinum Patrons were Florence and Lawrence De George; Mary and Mark Freitas; Arlette and Robert Gordon; Suzy Minkoff; Kit and William Pannill; Amie and Jack Swan.

George Hamilton dazzled nearly 400 guests with his light-heartedness and charm, sharing humorous anecdotes about his life and career. Also featured was a former client, who shared how CFS helped her regain her self-worth and dignity after being in a domestically abusive relationship. "This great organization has saved my life by giving me the tools to move on...to learn to love myself and others, and to know that no one can take that away from me again." Proceeds benefit children and families in crisis who are victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence and/or homelessness.

## Dinner Dance Benefits Pat Reeves Village

Club Colette was again the intimate setting in January for the Fifth Annual Dinner Dance benefiting Pat Reeves Village shelter for homeless families with children. Nathalie Fernandez and Patrick Park served as chairmen of the evening, with Patty Myura as Honorary Chairwoman and Arlette and Robert Gordon as Co-Chairmen.

Tiffany & Co. was the Grand Corporate Benefactor. Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner, dancing, dramatic tango performances by special guest artists, as well as a live auction conducted by Dick Robinson.



(Left to right) Robert and Arlette Gordon, Nathalie Fernandez and Patrick Park

Pat Reeves Village and Program REACH provide prevention and intervention services to thousands of homeless and at-risk for homeless families with children each year.



Youth painting outdoor mural at Pat Reeves Village

## How Can You Help?

The Center for Family Services serves over 15,000 individuals annually and we are always grateful for new or gently used in-kind donations to help provide assistance to our neediest families and children. If you are interested in donating items from our "wish list," please call Meghan Mayo at 561-616-1232 for further information. Donations may be dropped off at our main facility at 4101 Parker Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33405.

**We hope you will consider making a cash donation to help fund programs where the need is greatest.**

*Did you know that: \$80 provides monthly materials and supplies for a child's pre-school education at home; \$200 provides one month of therapy for a child victim of abuse or violence; \$800 provides shelter for a family of four for one month.*

**Your generous support will help change lives of disadvantaged families in our community.**

## Your Gift Will Make A Real Difference In Children's Lives!

### Art Supplies For Children

Art Canvases; Acrylic Paint; Beads/Jewelry kits; Paintbrushes; Plaster of Paris; T-shirt paint; Paper-Tissue, construction foam; Frames; Crayons/Markers.

### Children's Items

Children's Shoes & Socks; Baby clothes - over 6 months; Cribs, strollers, car seats, playpens, chairs; Warm clothes for toddlers (3 T and up); Baby personal care items, diapers, Baby Tylenol, Baby Orajel; Formula, bottles, sippy cups; Diaper bags, bibs; School uniforms; School supplies; Backpacks; Books; Videos; Sports equipment; Toys and games.

### Family Household Needs

Bed linens, towels, blankets; Personal care items; clocks; Non-perishable food.

### Office Needs

Digital Camera; Desks; Copiers; Printers; Phones/faxes.

**[www.ctrfam.org](http://www.ctrfam.org)**

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