

VOICE



New Donation Center Opening This Spring!
See details on page 8.



Dearest Friends,

Happy New Year from all of us at the Children's Home Network!

As we enter 2023, I am so grateful for the incredible support provided throughout the holidays by our amazing community. Because of you, there was endless joy and laughter from boys and girls who received an abundance of gifts and experiences.

I am excited to share that our new Donation Center is opening this March! This on-campus center will allow boys and girls in our care to "shop" for their own clothing, shoes, and necessities, tailored to their size and style. It is such a gift to provide this space for boys and girls who often don't have personal items of their own. Read more about the Donation Center on page 8.

However, our work is not done. With every new year comes new challenges and obstacles for the children and families we serve. We couldn't do it without you, and I thank you so much.

Together, we will continue improving lives and changing life stories!

Frencklickus)

Irene K. Rickus, MS, LMHC President/CEO

New Legacy Giving Website Page

We have a recently updated our website to share with you ways to give that will maximize benefits to you while creating your legacy. We are grateful for all gifts—current and future—which help us advance our mission.

Visit www.childrenshomenetwork.org and select How You Can Help and then Legacy Gifts.

Support our mission—some available giving options:

- · Gifts in a will
- Charitable gift annuities and deferred charitable gift annuities
- Gifts of appreciated stock
- Retirement-plan gifts
- Life insurance gifts
- Charitable trusts

The new Legacy Giving pages feature:

- Ways to give
- Life stage gift planner™
- Gift comparison tool
- Blog
- Digital eBrochure library

For more information please contact Frank Massaro at (727) 992-9471 or by email at fmassaro@childrenshomenetwork.org.



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CAPTAIN MIKE ANDERSON'S SECOND ANNUAL

REEL ANIMALS CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT



Friday, April 21st, 2023



9:00 am | Depart from the Dock with Your Captain

2:00 pm | Awards Luncheon

Hula Bay Club

5210 W. Tyson Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611

Team Entry - \$3,000 | includes a guided boat for up to 4 anglers

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE!

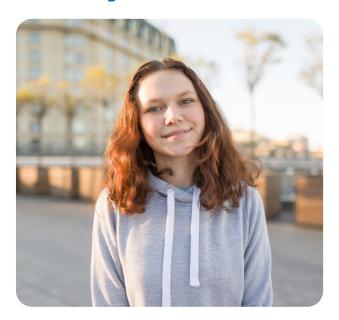
Calling all anglers! Captain Mike Anderson is hosting the Second Annual Reel Animals Classic Fishing Tournament **benefiting the Children's Home Network.** This inshore catch and release photo tournament features an online auction, breakfast, angler giveaways, and a delicious awards luncheon (non-cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners).

Your support will help heal the hearts of abused, neglected, and abandoned children in our care, and positively impact thousands of at-risk families who rely on our programs and services. For questions and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lauren Miller by email at Imiller@childrenshomenetwork.org.



childrenshomenetwork.org/fish

Abby and Josh's Second Chance



The Children's Home Network is dedicated to meeting the unmet needs of our community's most vulnerable and sometimes invisible youth. Children in foster care are often hiding in plain sight, but for criminals who prey on the weak, they are a highly visible and potentially profitable target. Children that have been victims of abuse – physical, emotional, and sexual – often lack a safe and trustworthy support system. Their boundaries are blurred and distorted by those who should have nurtured and kept them safe but who hurt them or put them in harms' way. Nationally, children in child welfare systems, runaway and homeless youth have significantly increased vulnerability to trafficking as they fall prey to the false promises of love, money, and a better life with their trafficker. In October 2019, Children's Home Network made a commitment to serve and protect these foster youth while helping them heal through education,

mental health, and behavioral interventions in our at-risk campus programs. While CHN has always cared for at-risk children, our programs now incorporate specific interventions and evidence-based services to help children that have been exposed to the crime of human trafficking.

Across the nation, there are geographical areas where human and sex trafficking of minors is prevalent, and Tampa has the unfortunate reputation as a hot spot for this criminal activity. Because of this, the need for services and programs to help foster children is high as there are many children that meet the at-risk criteria and who are in the bullseye unless someone stands in the gap for them. Abby, age 15, was one of these youth who came to live at the Kids Village's at-risk program in May 2022.

Abby and her younger brother Josh, age 11, moved to Florida with their family in 2020. Their mother and father were looking for a better life and to get away from their lifestyle of substance abuse, seasons of homelessness and mental health struggles. When the children were much younger, their father worked construction; however, a work-related injury resulted with him being prescribed pain medication to which he quickly became addicted. His wife, the children's mother, already had a history of substance and alcohol misuse and although she had been stable for close to a year, she quickly resumed using along with her husband. After a few brief and unsuccessful stays in rehab, the family packed up and moved to Florida hoping for a fresh start. It wasn't long before they learned that geography does not change addictive behaviors and they formed alliances with other users, continuing their downward spiral. The family remained homeless unless staying with other users, and although the children were enrolled in school, they did not attend regularly nor were they able to study due to their living situation.

Tragedy occurred in early 2022 when the father passed away from an overdose and their mother, who has a history of unmet mental health concerns as well as addictions, become completely overwhelmed, left the children with 'friends' and went back to her former hometown, abandoning them. By the time the children came to the attention of Child Protective Services and entered foster care, it was learned that they were exposed to significant trauma and substance abuse. Abby was sexually abused several times by the adults she was left with and there were concerns that she may have been trafficked during that time. Tragically,

when the children came into foster care, they were terrified but Abby was also very angry – believing she was managing her own safety and unwilling to see her traumatic experiences as victimization.



Before Abby came to the attention of the Children's Home Network, she was on the run while her

brother was already living on campus. It was also learned that Abby was assaulted while in the community and needed medical attention. CHN advocated for Abby to live at Kids Village once she was located so she could not only be with her brother but receive much needed at-risk services, support, and opportunities for healing.

Abby agreed to live at CHN and immediately the Kids Village caregivers and therapists worked to build trust while they consistently attended to her physical needs. During this time, Abby's health was restored and CHN's clinical team of Master's Degree Level and licensed clinicians, as well as CHN's psychiatrist, focused on stabilizing her mental health and behavior challenges. Like many traumatized children, Abby was stuck in the 'fight or flight' mode and her default behavior was to run. Even though Abby was beginning to feel safe, her anxiety and discomfort with such feelings would cause her to go into rages, destroy property and make every effort to prompt CHN to request her removal. That was never a consideration for CHN and her caregiver team. Everyone was committed to her care and well-being.

As an at-risk program, CHN's staff minimally receive 24 hours of annual training to prepare them for caring for at-risk victims. Additionally, every youth participates in an age appropriate and evidence-based education and prevention curriculum designed to increase their understanding of trafficking and the



behaviors of traffickers in order to keep themselves safe and make good decisions regarding their 'friends' and 'associates'. For Abby, this was critical to her ongoing recovery as it was learned that she was being targeted by a known trafficker that she considered a friend of a friend. Fortunately, with the support, services, interventions, and education she is receiving at Kids Village, Abby has chosen not to continue running and is finally beginning to thrive, heal and experience happiness.

Abby's journey continues and she is enrolled in school, learning safe social skills and boundaries while her mental and emotional health is also being restored. Her brother Josh is thriving, and he enjoys his many friends on campus and at school. The generosity of CHN's gracious donors make it possible to provide such a rich and meaningful array of intensive services, while

also ensuring our youth experience normal life experiences such as sporting events, theater and other enrichment activities.

On behalf of Abby, Josh and the 60+ children served at Kids Village, thank you for helping us stop the cycle of human trafficking and for helping us heal the children that come from such hard places in their short lives. If you have information regarding suspected Human Trafficking of a child in Florida please contact the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).



Thank You to Our **Presenting Sponsor**









Children's Home Network's 40th Annual

GOLF CLASSIC and Online Auction

It was a great day on the green at the 40th Annual Golf Classic and Online Auction sponsored by Advanced Drying Systems. The event took place on October 3rd, 2022 at Avila Golf & Country Club. Thank you to our auction sponsor, Absolutely Amazing Refinishing, Inc., and to the Golf Classic underwriters, Dealer First Automotive and Miller's Ale House. We are grateful to the auction bidders, golfers, Sunshine Health volunteers, and the incredible team at Avila for their hospitality and support. Congratulations to Fred Meyer, Webb Bond, Faxon Bissett, and Jon Gruden for taking first place in the golf tournament! A special thank you to our many participants, the committee and its co-chairs, Hope Dogali and Karol Bullard, and sponsors listed below.

Absolutely Amazing Refinishing Advanced Drying Systems Allied Universal Bascom's Chop House Bob and Lynn Donaldson CIBC Wealth Management Dealer First Automotive Dogali Law Group Ernst & Young Fred and Karol Bullard Fred and Kay Meyer **Gulf Coast Property Ventures Hooters** Jim Browne Automotive JJ Taylor **Karol Hotel**

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Sunshine Health
The Screaming Jalapeño
Think Construction
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Join us for the 29th Annual

Presented by





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CAPTAIN MIKE ANDERSON'S SECOND ANNUAL REEL ANIMALS CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT

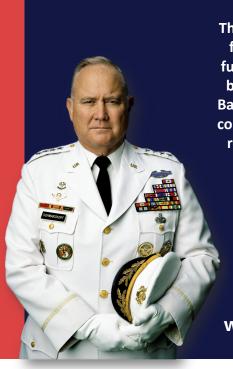


Saturday, March 11, 2023

(Rain Date - March 12th)
8:30 am | Breakfast & Registration
10:00 am | Start Time
Lunch and Award Ceremony to Follow

Team Entry - \$700 | Includes a Golf Cart for 4 Shooters Individual Entry - \$175 | Includes Shared Golf Cart

Tampa Bay Sporting Clays 10514 Ehren Cutoff, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639



The Annual Sporting Clays Classic has been conducted for the past twenty-eight years to raise friends and funds in support of the boys and girls in our care. Key business executives and sportsmen from the Tampa Bay area come together to enjoy a delicious breakfast, complimentary ammunition, a shooter shirt, and a full round of sporting clays, followed by an outstanding lunch and an awards ceremony.

For questions and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lauren Miller by email at Imiller@childrenshomenetwork.org.

www.childrenshomenetwork.org/clays

New Wardrobes and New Beginnings

The goal of Children's Home Network's services and promise to our boys and girls is to restore their childhoods and help prepare them for a positive future. To accomplish this, the whole child must be served and their natural developmental needs consistently met. For children in foster care, their life experiences have limited their ability to integrate socially and emotionally with their peers and they often feel unlovable, incapable, and not worthwhile due to the trauma and harm they experienced at the hands of the adults in their lives.

While placement into foster care will provide safety for many children, it also compounds their feelings of loneliness, disconnect and negative self-perception. Children entering foster care are asked to trust strangers to meet their needs, to adapt to unfamiliar environments and to understand and comply with rules and expectations that are unknown to them. These drastic changes come during a time in the children's lives when peer relationships and development are vital.

CHN recognizes that our children face many challenges and seeks to remove unnecessary barriers, burdens, negative messages and obstacles so the children can work through their trauma rather than worry they will be teased about the shoes they are wearing or refuse to attend school because they are embarrassed about their clothes. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, CHN is able to provide our children new and appropriate clothing and other items to help them feel secure, confident and integrated into Kids Village, their school and community.



Like most children that are removed from their families for safety reasons, Briana (12), Jason (16) and Kevin (14) did not have much time to pack their belongings or say goodbye to their friends and neighbors. Their mother was arrested in early November 2022 and there were no family members, friends or relatives that were able to care for them. Because of the circumstances, they were not able to bring many, if any, personal items, and were scared and in shock. When they arrived at the Children's Home, the few things they brought along were insufficient for middle and senior high school students and CHN staff quickly assessed their needs to be great. Within hours, each child was provided new personal garments, socks, shoes, and clothing as well as hygiene supplies, bed linens and comforters for their rooms. The children went to CHN's Donation Center to 'shop' and found a nice selection of clothes and other items

to choose from. Caregivers noted that they immediately began to relax as they unpacked and settled into their new but temporary home. It is because of our steadfast donors that we have the ability and capacity to provide a safe haven for traumatized children in need.

The Children's Home Network's Donation Center is our on-campus hub for receiving and organizing all donations of new items to be utilized by our children. The Center is arranged to look like a store where children can shop for their style, sizes, and preferences. Serving 60+ children on any day, ranging in age from newborn to 18+ requires an ongoing influx of new items that are not just limited to clothes, shoes,

jackets, socks, pajamas, and underwear. Similar to Briana, Jason and Kevin, the needs of the children are immediate upon their arrival and continual as they grow and their interests evolve. The state of Florida provides a once a year \$300 clothing allowance (including school uniforms). With costs steadily increasing, \$300 is simply not sufficient to meet the



need and ensure they are equipped to feel 'normal,' confident and accepted.

Additionally, CHN encourages our children to become involved in extracurricular activities such as sports and cheerleading. These activities help children thrive, but there are additional costs to purchase uniforms and shoes, and your donations also help meet these needs. This is why your support is so impactful to the young lives we serve.

CHN wants to thank our community of donors and invite others to partner with us to make sure our Donation Center shelves and racks remain stocked, organized and a meaningful resource for the children we are privileged to care for. We welcome and encourage donations of new clothing and other items that will meet the profound needs of youth entering and living at Kids Village. Helping our children feel normal and proud also helps them realize that they are truly lovable, capable and worthwhile. It is our mission to instill the boys and girls with safety, love and confidence. We hope you know how grateful we are to you for making that mission a reality.

For more information or to donate, check our website at childrenshomenetwork.org or contact Lauren Miller at Imiller@childrenshomenetwork.org

Check Out Our New Donation Center!









Children's Home



The PulteGroup continued to support the boys and girls in our care through their 8th Annual "Building to Make Lives Better" Charity Golf Tournament. This year, they presented a check to CHN for \$310,053 and we were blown away by their generosity! No words can express how appreciative we are to the PulteGroup, their caring and compassionate staff, and business partners. Thank you, PulteGroup!



Our sincerest gratitude to Wetherington Hamilton, P.A. for gifting the Children's Home Network over \$15,000 raised at their 8th Annual Cocktails for a Cause event! (Pictured from left to right: Ted Hamilton, Kalei McElroy Blair, and Irene K. Rickus)



Bobby Friss raised over \$35,000 for our kids and families through his annual holiday rock concert benefiting Children's Home Network! We are so grateful for Bobby's longtime support. (Pictured from left to right: Bobby Friss and Lauren Miller, CHN's Event & Community Engagement Manager)

Network Spotlight





Thank you to the Prime Timers of Tampa Bay for hosting their annual toy drive benefitting the children in our care.

We are so grateful!



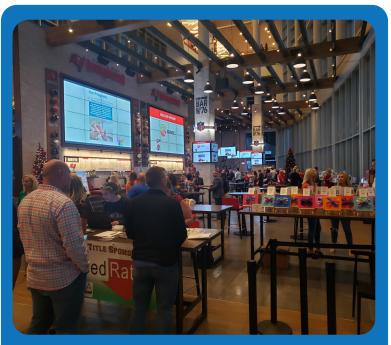
Local Wal-mart grants were awarded to CHN thanks to Mark Maseillo (manager for Wal-mart store 1203) out of the Wimauma location. We are so thankful!



We are so grateful to CHN's dedicated Board of Directors for providing a delicious Christmas dinner for the boys and girls living on campus. The kids especially enjoyed the hot chocolate bar!



Big thanks to Sunshine Health for volunteering to decorate our 5 residential cottages for Halloween!



We appreciate the continuous support of our friends at the Mortgage Bankers Association of Tampa Bay for hosting their 38th Annual event at Raymond James Stadium benefitting the children and families we serve.



Making the Holidays Merry and Bright

The boys and girls living on campus in the Kids Village and Adolescents in Motherhood programs had a wonderful Holiday Season, thanks to many of our amazing community partners and volunteers. A special thanks to the PulteGroup, Bay Area Apartment Association, Wetherington Hamilton P.A., JPMorgan Chase, CapTrust, Suncoast Credit Union, Sunshine Health, Tampa

Connection, Herbalife, and Bay Hope Church for decorating cottages for the holidays, fulfilling Christmas wish lists, wrapping gifts, stuffing stockings, staffing Santa's workshop, volunteering at the Holiday Open House, and much more. Shout out to **Epsilon Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Inc.** for hosting a Christmas Toy Drive for the children in our care. We are so grateful for everything our community does for our kids!



A HUGE thank you to Orlando's Toy Drive which raised over \$165,000 in cash (including \$17,000 from local Wal-mart stores), hundreds of bikes, and thousands of toys for the children in our care. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you Orlando, the crew at WILD 94.1, and the Tampa community for your continued support!



























THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

June 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE

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