

Winter 2024



**Children's
Home Network**

IMPROVING LIVES AND CHANGING LIFE STORIES®

VOICE

**Together we are Improving Lives and Changing Life Stories!
Please see Page 8 for our Annual Impact Report**



In Remembrance

Last November we lost a beloved friend of the Children’s Home Network, Liben Amedie.

Liben served as a Board member from 2011 through 2023. He also served as Board Chair from 2018 to 2020.

Liben was one of a kind - a highly intelligent, driven, passionate and compassionate human being. Those of us close to him enjoyed his humor, generosity and kindness.

Liben’s Legacy - Liben and his beautiful wife Rose established the Annual Board Christmas Dinner-an event where Board members and Leadership served a special holiday dinner, replete with a visit from Santa, to honor the residential staff and children. Liben and Rose solicited donations to cover the cost of the event and any unspent funds were devoted to a fun holiday activity for the children. The Children’s Home Network will continue this beautiful tradition in honor of our dear friend Liben.



Dearest Friends,

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

If you are familiar with CHN, then you know our mission is supporting and helping children and their caregivers/families by providing quality services.

It brings us great joy to make a positive impact in the life of a child and increase their chance for success in the future. I am happy to report that last year we had the honor of serving hundreds more children and families in the Tampa Bay area and across Central Florida.

We are very grateful to our business partners and friends that make it possible for us to fulfill our mission and expand the impact of CHN.

Because of you, we are building a stronger community where children grow up healthy and happy. Together, we will continue improving lives and changing life stories!

Irene K. Rickus, MS, LMHC
President/CEO

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CAPTAIN MIKE ANDERSON’S THIRD ANNUAL REEL ANIMALS CLASSIC FISHING TOURNAMENT



Friday, April 19th, 2024

7:30 am | Breakfast & Registration

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 Third 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. 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 email Devon Anderson at: danderson@childrenshomenetwork.org.



childrenshomenetwork.org/fish

CHN's Developmental Support Program



According to the CDC, one in 36 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups and according to a recent article posted on Adoption.com, "children with autism are 2.4 times more likely to enter foster care" than children without the ASD diagnosis. As a leader in child welfare and residential services, CHN saw firsthand the increasing number of children with autism spectrum disorder entering foster care along with a significant lack of resources to assist the children and their foster families. Due to the understandable challenge for foster parents, the child may struggle with the adjustment to foster care. This struggle can lead to a child with ASD coming into our care.

Growing to meet the community's changing needs, CHN implemented an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program in 2015 - a notable treatment for people with ASD which works to increase acquisition of skills in a variety of areas and to decrease behaviors that may be unsafe or harmful. Having the capacity to expand to meet the needs of those we serve is all thanks to our supporters like you. Furthermore, because of our generous donors, in September of 2022, CHN's Kids Village Developmental Support Program was opened. This new initiative, located on our main campus in Tampa, serves youth with developmental needs or ASD who reside in a healing cottage.

One story about a child living on our campus that shows the importance and impact of the Developmental Support Program Cottage since its opening is Rosie's. Rosie is a 13-year-old girl who came into foster care when her mother was hospitalized due to mental health issues. Rosie is a delightful child with a beautiful smile and engaging laugh. She is also non-verbal, struggled to manage sensory experiences in her new foster home, needed help using the bathroom and was unable to express her fears or the fact that she missed her mother. It was soon learned that caring for a child with profound autism created significant stress for Rosie's mother and as a result, she neglected her own mental health needs. It would be a long road for Rosie's mom to become stable and be ready to parent her daughter again.

CHN's Developmental Support Program is designed to ensure that the boys and girls have the necessary sensory tools readily accessible to help them regulate, reduce their anxiety, and communicate. This created a soothing environment for Rosie, and she immediately found a favorite blanket and a special toy that she always kept with her. This behavior is common for children and teens with ASD, as they can be very intense and focused on their favorite toys and activities. More recently, another common behavior for individuals with ASD surfaced for Rosie as she began removing her clothing in public areas. Children with ASD struggle with tactile stimulation and the confinement of regular clothing. Unlike non-ASD children, Rosie was unaware of expectations and social cues and norms.

Immediate attention and redirection were needed to help Rosie understand safety and social expectations. CHN's ABA and dedicated caregiver team developed a plan for Rosie that modified her wardrobe to loose fitting, more comfortable clothing, reinforced that her room was her safe, private space, and lined her windows to protect her privacy so children outside the cottage could not see in her room. CHN is grateful

to be able to provide this heightened attention to detail and to have the ability to hire and train specialized staff, which is exactly what sweet Rosie needed.

Rosie quickly responded to the team's care, prompts, encouragement, and reinforcements. She learned that if she wanted to take her clothes off, she could do so alone in her room with the door closed. Additionally, although Rosie is non-verbal, she is bright and learned to communicate her needs with staff and participate in outings and social events, including finding a best buddy in the cottage. CHN's staff are committed to thinking outside the box when meeting a need and they have done an amazing job with Rosie on her journey. These life improving services are all thanks to our generous supporters.

During the time that she has been living in the Developmental Support Cottage at CHN, Rosie regularly visited her mother and there was much hope and anticipation that they would be reunified before school started. CHN worked closely with her mother, teaching her techniques and skills to better manage Rosie at home. Unfortunately, mental health is a fragile thing, and one week before reunification was to take place, Rosie's mom, through no fault of her own, had to be hospitalized again. CHN will continue to support Rosie and her mom and is committed to the family unit. We will stay the course with them until Rosie gets to go home or to another permanent and nurturing living situation and we will continue to provide her with the safety, care and support she deserves.

CHN is proud to provide the specialized interventions, tools and programming that are necessary to effectively support and serve boys and girls with ASD. Your generosity ensures that the home has appropriate furnishings, sensory items, medical and adaptive equipment, and technology tools to assist our children as they learn, grow, and succeed. At CHN, we believe that every child should feel lovable, capable, and worthwhile and thanks to you, we are able to help children like Rosie realize the beauty about themselves each day.



Thank You to Our Presenting Sponsors



Children's Home Network's 41st Annual GOLF CLASSIC and Online Auction

It was a great day on the green at the 41st Annual Golf Classic and Online Auction. The event took place on October 16th, 2023 at Carrollwood Golf & Country Club. Thank you to our Presenting sponsors, **Advanced Drying Systems** and **Robinson Roofing** and our auction sponsor, **Absolutely Amazing Refinishing, Inc.** We are grateful to the auction bidders, golfers, Sunshine Health volunteers, the event committee and its co-chairs, Hope Dogali and Karol Bullard, and all the sponsors listed below

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Think Construction Services



Join us for the 30th Annual



Hosted by
CAPTAIN MIKE ANDERSON
REEL ANIMALS



Saturday, March 23rd, 2024

(Rain Date - March 24th)

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-nine 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 Devon Anderson by email at danderson@childrenshomenetwork.org.

To Register Online Please Visit:
www.childrenshomenetwork.org/clays



Children's Home Network

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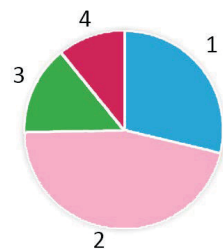
Persons Served 2022-2023



HOME BASED
Services Supporting Families

5,036

children & adults served



1. Kinship
2. Foster and Finding Families
3. Healthy Families
4. Caregiver Support/Emotional Support/Pinellas Support Team

EDUCATIONAL
Early Intervention and School Readiness

1,814

children served

The Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS) Program primary goal is to ensure children are ready for kindergarten, promoted at the end of the school year, and are reading on level by third grade.

Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere (RAISE) provides a full spectrum of support services to help children to overcome physical, mental and emotional barriers so that they can heal, learn and thrive.

RESIDENTIAL
Support Services

160

children served

A tradition of love sparked more than 130 years ago. Our residential treatment and healing program, Kids Village supports and cares for children who are victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment.



7,010

Children and Caregivers Served this Year.

We unlock the potential of children and families by providing compassionate and effective services that create opportunities for success.



What we do

Children's Home Network is dedicated to improving lives and changing life stories. We unlock the potential of at-risk children and families by providing compassionate and effective services that create opportunities for success.

Who we serve

Over 7,000 at-risk children and families in Tampa Bay and Central and South Florida

How we ignite change

Kid's Village

The Children's Home Network main campus in Tampa, FL is the site of our residential treatment and healing program for children ages 6-17 supporting children healing from abuse, neglect and abandonment.

RAISE

(Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere) Intervention program that works collaboratively with families and the community to ensure children from birth through 3rd grade and their families receive services to meet their needs and promote positive educational outcomes

Kinship

Provides support to relative caregivers by helping families connect to necessary services, expanding family support systems, and reducing stress to promote family stability.

Supporting & Empowering Educational & Developmental Services (SEEDS)

Intervention program that works collaboratively with schools, families, and the community to ensure children are ready for kindergarten, promoted at the end of the school year, and reading on grade level by third grade.

Fostering Families

Our program is exclusively committed to recruiting, preparing, and supporting foster families to nurture children and mentor the families as a whole. We strive to keep siblings together, while providing safety and permanency through reunification and family restoration.

Pinellas Support Team

Behavioral health and tutoring program providing services to families residing in Pinellas County with children in pre-kindergarten through high school.

Caregiver Support Services

The program serves children between the ages of 0-13 who have physical disabilities, social-emotional challenges, or developmental delays/disabilities and caregivers who are experiencing acute situational stressors leading to a strained family system. The program works to reduce household stress through "respite" or short-term childcare services.

Healthy Families Hillsborough (HFH)

Nationally accredited home visiting program for expectant parents and parents of newborns experiencing stressful life situations. HFH improves childhood outcomes and increases family self-sufficiency by empowering parents through education and support.

Children's Home



The PulteGroup held their 8th Annual "Building to Make Lives Better" Charity Golf Tournament. This year, they presented a check to CHN for \$358,770 in support of our mission! No words can express how appreciative we are to the PulteGroup, their caring and compassionate staff, and business partners. Thank you, PulteGroup!

Network Spotlight



Thank you to Sunshine Health and their team of "elves" who wrapped hundreds of presents for the children. We are so grateful!



Big thanks to the staff of Bloomin' Brands for volunteering to prepare and decorate our campus for our Holiday Open House. You guys ROCK!!



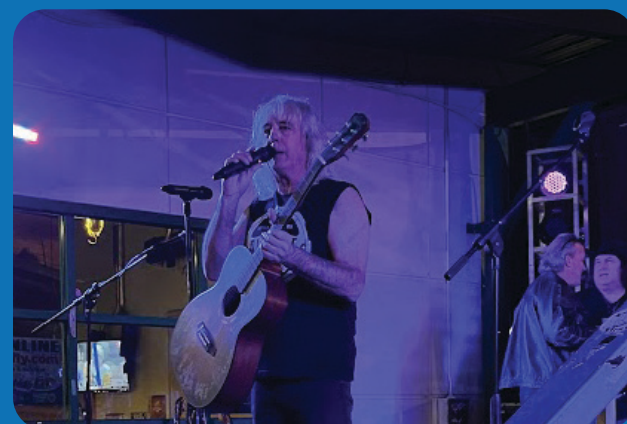
The PulteGroup decorated a cottage again this year ensuring the children had a warm and festive Christmas. We are so thankful!



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 Santa's visit!



Our sincerest gratitude to Wetherington Hamilton, P.A. for gifting the Children's Home Network over \$26,000 raised at their 9th Annual Cocktails for a Cause event and also for decorating a children's cottage for the Hoildays!



Bobby Friss raised over \$38,000 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.



Through the month of December, the Local Brands of Cicio Restaurant Group offered diners the opportunity to donate when dining or when ordering one of the "12 Tastes of Christmas." The generosity of the CRG family and their patrons resulted in a donation of \$20,150 to help our children and families.



Making the Holidays Merry and Bright

The boys and girls living on campus in the Kids Village had a wonderful Holiday Season, thanks to our amazing community partners and volunteers. A special thanks to **Orlando Davis and Wild 94.1, PulteGroup, Bay Area Apartment Association, Wetherington Hamilton P.A., JPMorgan Chase, CapTrust, Suncoast Credit Union, TECO, Herbalife, Hillsborough**

Transit Authority, PwC and Sunshine Health for decorating cottages for the holidays, fulfilling Christmas wish lists, wrapping gifts, stuffing stockings, staffing Santa's workshop and volunteering at the Holiday Open House.

Hillsborough Transit Authority



PricewaterhouseCoopers



CapTrust



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2023 Holiday Open House



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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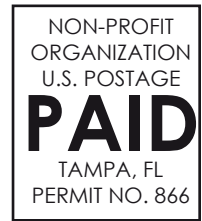
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