

# VOICE



Welcome to our newest little one in the Adolescents in Motherhood Program!

See details on page 2



I have exciting news to share!

We are growing to deliver our mission and expansion of our role as catalysts for community transformation. This includes continuously improving and expanding our broad portfolio of programs and services for children and families in need, while maintaining an active role as an advocate role for children and families as a vital community partner.

Three initiatives that we are currently implementing are RAISE (Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere), Caregivers Support Services, and a Developmental Support Program.

Read more about these exciting programs on pages 5, 10, and 11.

Thank you for being a part of our journey of improving lives and changing life stories.

Frenk Rickus)

Irene K. Rickus, MS, LMHC President/CEO

# On the Cover



It is with great pleasure that we introduce the newest addition to the Adolescents in Motherhood (AIM) program, baby Isiah (pronounced Isaiah). Isiah Anthony was born on May 19th at 2:37pm and weighed 6lbs 7oz. Welcome to the world, little one, and congratulations to our newest mom, Samantha!

Adolescents in Motherhood (AIM) is a specialized residential program for teenage girls in foster care who are pregnant and/or raising their own children. AIM provides therapeutic, educational, recreational and vocational services care for young expecting women and

moms living at our residential campus. For more information on AIM, visit **childrenshomenetwork.org/adolescents-in-motherhood.** 

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# Small Effort. Big Difference.

When you take the small step of naming the Children's Home Network as the Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) beneficiary of your investment, checking or savings account, you help us continue our important work of improving lives and changing life stories. A gift like this won't affect your lifestyle and it will make a tremendous impact on the boys and girls we serve.

To learn more about how you can make a difference today, please contact Frank Massaro at (813) 864-1535 or <a href="massaro@childrenshomenetwork.org">fmassaro@childrenshomenetwork.org</a>









### Monday, October 3rd, 2022 (Rain or Shine)

8:00 am Breakfast/Registration 9:30 am Shotgun Start Awards Luncheon to Follow

### Avila Golf & Country Club 943 Guisando De Avila | Tampa, FL, 33613

Join us for our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic benefitting the children and families we serve. This fun and festive event is one of the longest-running golf tournaments in the Tampa Bay area and has raised nearly \$4 million since its inception. Golfers are provided complimentary range balls, golfer gifts, gourmet food, on-course beverages, and an awards ceremony. All are welcome to participate in an online auction that will lead up to the event.

Visit the link below for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

childrenshomenetwork.org/golf



# **SEEDS of Support**



At the Children's Home Network, we know the importance of extending educational support beyond the 60 boys and girls residing on campus in Kids Village. Programs such as SEEDS (Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services) and the Pinellas Support Team provide academic tutoring, and the necessary assessments of developmental, emotional, behavioral, and social needs of school-aged children and families.

7-year-old Ali was a struggling young student before joining the SEEDS program. When she first began receiving services, she was only able to recognize few letters of the alphabet. She couldn't read, struggled with writing her own name, and could not count well. Simple tasks such as holding pencils and crayons were challenging, causing frustration, anger, and many tears.

SEEDS hosted a Family Team Conference and worked collaboratively to develop a plan for Ali's success. Ali received an extensive series of tutoring sessions to address her academic concerns, and her mother learned strategies for working with Ali at home through educational activities and establishing a learning space. Ali also received ABA therapy to reduce negative behavior and replace with positive behavior. After consistent support from the SEEDS team, Ali's mother and teacher reports she has made tremendous progress. Ali now recognizes letters, letter sounds, and sight words. She can now write her name and count and recognize numbers 1-20. Her academic improvements have also improved her social skills. Ali communicates more effectively and is often found singing songs in her free time. Her family is extremely grateful for the SEEDS program and the academic strides Ali continues to make in and out of the classroom.

# **Innovator of the Year Award**



Congratulations to our very own CEO, Irene K. Rickus! Irene received the Innovator of the Year Award by the Florida Coalition for Children at their 2022 Annual Conference on July 13th in Orlando.

This award is given to the individual or organization who invests in elevating innovation within Florida's child welfare-family well-being space to improve the lives of children, youth, and families. There is tangible evidence and impact resulting from the new and creative ideas and pratices attributed to Innovator of the Year that lift up children, youth, and families by improving their well-being long term.

# Reaching and Inspiring Students Everywhere



#### REACHING AND INSPIRING STUDENTS EVERYWHERE (RAISE) is one of the newest programs at CHN.

RAISE works with families of children with a diagnosed disability, children with possible developmental delays, and children displaying disruptive or concerning behavior. RAISE services include collaboration with schools and the community to ensure children from birth through 3rd grade and their families receive the individualized services designed to meet their needs, and promote positive behavioral, developmental, and educational outcomes. CHN team members utilize evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, including Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Informed Care, and Infant Mental Health practices.

This newly funded program by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County helps with the following:

- Children displaying disruptive or seriously concerning behavior, which is often attributable to adverse childhood experiences of trauma for children who have experienced the loss of a parent/caregiver or relative, homelessness, being bullied, or other traumatic events.
- Children with possible developmental delays that may affect a child's readiness for school/academic performance. Children who are already diagnosed with a disability or impairment and struggling in areas affecting educational progress are also included in this category.

Visit childrenshomenetwork.org/raise to submit an online application or call (813) 605-2354 for more program information.



# **WHAT A CATCH!**



Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants, and supporters of Captain Mike Anderson's First Annual Reel Animals Classic Fishing Tournament on April 29th. It was a wonderful day on the water supporting the children and families we serve. A HUGE thank you to our presenting sponsor, **Absolutely Amazing Refinishing, Inc.**, and to the sponsors listed below for making this another incredible event.

### **THANK YOU EVENT SPONSORS**



The Frederick Family





**SKANSKA** 













# **THANK YOU**



Thank you to our sponsors, participants, vendors, and volunteers for making the 28th Annual General Schwarzkopf Memorial Sporting Clays Classic a success! Despite a last-minute date change due to bad weather and an extremely chilly morning, over 200 attendees enjoyed a great day on the course! Congratulations to the team of Al Sedita, Scott Boise, Dick Hermes, and Mitch Lockler on winning the Schwarzkopf Cup! Mrs. Brenda Schwarzkopf was on hand to present the trophy to the winners (as pictured). Our special thanks to the Schwarzkopf family, the dedicated volunteers from Aetna, Wharton High School's ROTC color guard, and our friends at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays & Archery for their continued support. We are also grateful to the event committee for all their hard work behind the scenes: Rick Hampton (Chair), John Mungenast, Sandy Sebes, Jay Ellison, and Andy Gerth.



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# Children's Home



Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of St. Petersburg for their generous donation of \$1,200 to our Kids Village program. This gift will help us restock important everyday items such as shower curtains, cooking utensils, and dishes used in our residential cottages. We are so grateful!



The kindergartners at Primrose School of Carrollwood gifted the Children's Home Network \$1,000 from their Spring Fling Fundraiser,. The students painted pictures that were sold to raise funds. Thank you, Primrose School for continuously supporting the children and families we serve!



We would like to thank CapTrust for sponsoring the Murphey Games this summer. Also, a special thank you to Pro Masters Ceramic & More Inc. for the car parade and to Adver-T Screen Printing & Embroidery for the awesome event t-shirts!



Representatives from the Campaign Against Human Trafficking generously provided care packages for the teen moms in our maternity cottage. Thank you, so much for your support.

# **Network Spotlight**





Our friends at Kimball Electronics provided a large donation of school supplies for our campus youth, as well as several houseware items for the residential cottages.

We appreciate your support!



Our thoughtful friends at Nationwide Title Clearing, A Covius Solution, donated 75 decorated duffel bags! Each bag includes a teddy bear, blanket, toiletries, and coloring book with crayons. We are grateful for their continued support and the smiles they placed on so many kids' faces!



As part of CitiFinance's annual Global Community Day on June 8th, a group of hardworking Citi volunteers spent the day organizing our donation center. We are so grateful!



A BIG thank you to our friends at Southwest Airlines for making a splash this summer through their donation of pool toys, swimsuits, and more.

# **Caregiver Support Services**



The Children's Home Network is excited to offer a new program in Pinellas County, Caregiver Support Services (CSS) that will offer comprehensive support to help prevent child abuse and neglect to at-risk families. This new service will help reduce household stress and provide respite care services. This will provide caregivers a much needed break and added support to meet their needs for community resources and improve their health and mental health. The program's target population centers on children ages 0-13 with physical disabilities, socioemotional challenges or developmental delays and their families. Services will be provided countywide beginning in October of 2022. More details coming soon!

# Thank you, friends!



Bay Area Apartment Association presented the Children's Home Network with the proceeds raised from their 9th Annual Spikes for Tykes beach volleyball tournament. We are so grateful for their support! Pictured with BAAA members are Irene Rickus, CHN's CEO, and Mark Barrett, President of the CHN Board of Directors.



Special thanks and happy birthday to Gigi and Mimi Zaccagnino, who once again asked their friends and family for donations to the Children's Home Network instead of birthday gifts for themselves. It is inspiring to witness their passion and generosity. We are very grateful to these young philanthropists and their parents, Katherine and Ben, who matched the girls' donations with their own.

# **Developmental Support Program**



We are excited to share that the Children's Home Network is continuing to answer the unmet needs of children in foster care! Opening soon, CHN's developmental program (located on our Memorial Highway campus) will serve youth with developmental needs or ASD who will reside in a designated cottage with a nurturing and safe environment.

CHN recognizes the dramatic increase in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) among children. These include autism, blindness, and cerebral palsy, among others. ASD and other developmental needs must be properly and formally diagnosed to access effective services and interventions.

Families often struggle not knowing where to go or how to access these life changing resources. Many times, children go years without the formal diagnosis and without the proper services, their families become increasingly overwhelmed, hopeless and frustrated. Studies reveal that unfortunately, many parents are simply not prepared for the unique

challenges of raising a child with autism spectrum or developmental disorders, which requires significant patience, education, and training. This has the potential to lead to abuse and could result in the children being removed from the home and placed in foster care. Children with autism are 2.4 times more likely to enter foster care than their peers.

Every youth in the Developmental Support Program will receive trauma informed clinical and behavioral interventions to assist them with managing their developmental needs, traumatic experiences, and mental health needs while also teaching them positive and safe social, resiliency and communication skills. Also, children in foster care are at risk of sexual exploitation and harm, and youth with developmental needs are also vulnerable to harm and need protection and skills to keep them safe.

CHN's developmental program offers a robust clinical and social environment for children with developmental, sensory, social and other special needs to thrive and heal, promoting positive daily living and positive social skills within a supportive program. Our team works closely with the child's family, case managers, and child welfare partners to support the overarching case goals and to help the child maintain significant connections in their lives until they transition to a permanent living arrangement.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Children's Home Network's Board of Directors is a group of dedicated and passionate individuals who volunteer their time and talents to ensure the success of our mission. We are proud to have an incredible team of leaders serving as ambassadors and advocates for children, families, and ultimately the entire community. See the entire Board of Directors on the back cover.



# **Sharon Docherty Danco**

Thank you for serving as Chair on the Board of Directors over the last two years. We appreciate your leadership, vision, and passion, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Mark Barrett**

Welcome, Mark! We are excited to have you as the new Chair on the Board of Directors, and look forward to working with you. Your leadership and advocacy for the children we serve inspires us all.





Karl M. Schmitz, III

Thank you for your continued service as the Chair of The Children's Home Foundation, Inc. We are grateful for your continued dedication and commitment to improving lives and changing life stories.

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10909 Memorial Highway, Tampa, FL 33615 Phone (813) 855-4435 | Fax (813) 855-8640

#### **SEEDS**

3450 Buschwood Park Dr. Suite 195, Tampa, FL 33618 Phone: (813) 901-3401 | Fax (813) 882-3689

#### **Caregiver Support Services**

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2921 South Orlando Drive, Suite 150, Sanford FL 32733

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#### **Pinellas Support Team**

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