



FAMILIES FIRST
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

***Stronger Families -
Stronger Communities***

2014 Impact Report



Our mission is to advance the well-being of children and families through high-quality programs in prevention, early intervention, child development, behavioral health, education and advocacy.



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Bringing a Vision to Life



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Families First has a lofty vision: To be a leader in providing outstanding programs and services for families so children grow up in safe and loving homes that lead to stronger families and stronger communities. In 2014, thanks to a caring community, outstanding boards and unrelenting staff, we continued to achieve our vision and planned for a sustainable future.

We grew from six programs to seven – adding the Children’s Behavioral Health Collaborative in partnership with other community resources. This allowed us to come full circle in providing services to enable families to thrive physically, emotionally, and financially so they can provide the best possible outcomes for their children.

Our newly created Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc. went full throttle in developing an active, involved and eager board and bringing in funding to ensure a bright future for our organization. Their work will allow families for many years to come to benefit from the services and opportunities that have already made a difference to thousands in our community.

Special events, generous donors, volunteers, and a caring community reached new limits in 2014. We hope you will take time to learn more about us, what it has meant and continues to mean to our most vulnerable populations and get involved.



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Investing In Our Future



Jo Ann L. Sears, MSW
Foundation Board President

Just two years ago, a long-time dream of Families First and its board of directors became a reality. Knowing what a difference our programs have made and continue to make for so many of our county's most vulnerable families and children, we sought a way to ensure the future sustainability of those critical services. We are happy to report the successful start of the Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc.

Our purpose is to ensure that this organization will be around to help for generations to come. We believe strongly in our mission because we believe wholeheartedly in the spirit of Palm Beach County's families who just need a bit of support to achieve their dreams. Families First of Palm Beach County has been successful in helping thousands achieve those dreams over the past 24 years and we want to make sure that holds true long into the future.

All of us want to make good investments by investing in prevention, instead of financing long-term repair of damage caused by abuse and neglect. It does, after all, cost millions less to prevent abuse and neglect than to pay for the consequences of it, including incarceration, school failure, and more generations of abusers. We are and want to continue to break that cycle.

Contributing to the Foundation is an investment in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for families and their children.

Healthy Families

Healthy Families is a nationally recognized child abuse prevention program. In 2014, 410 families were served: 100% of their children were free of abuse and neglect when they completed the program.



Healthy Families is a statewide, nationally accredited home visiting program that is proven to prevent child abuse and neglect. Services begin before or shortly after birth of a child and can continue for up to five years, providing parents with parenting and child development skills training. It also helps parents who are facing life challenges that interfere with their parenting abilities find services they need.

Alicia

During the time that many of us consider the best years of our lives - early childhood and young adulthood - Alicia had already faced abuse, removal from her family, family violence, isolation, failed marriage, and pregnancy. While pregnant with her second child and abandoned by her husband, Alicia connected with Healthy Families and her world turned around. Healthy Families helped her become a better parent, gave her confidence, and helped her see a brighter future for herself and her son and daughter. She returned to school and is now giving back – she has become a family support worker in the Healthy Families Program with Families First.

✓ ***Cost Savings: Up to \$72,709 for every child remaining with their parent and out of the child welfare system.***

TOPWA

Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women is a street outreach program aimed at finding high-risk women and getting them into services to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS to their babies. TOPWA served 229 pregnant women in 2014. Eight babies (100%) born to HIV-positive mothers tested negative and were born healthy.

Samantha

Samantha is a single mother who came to TOPWA through outreach efforts in Belle Glade. Due to her at-risk pregnancy, Samantha was linked to prenatal care, case management, nutritional support, education, employment and child care.

Samantha is now enrolled at Palm Beach State College studying childcare. Her long-term goal is receiving a bachelor's degree in supervision and management. She currently works in the cafeteria at a local school.



Savings: \$21,768 per year for every child born free from HIV.



Kin Support Project

Kin Support Project assists caregivers who are raising a loved-one's children in receiving legal and other needed services. Its goal is to keep children out of the child welfare system.

During 2014, 58 Kin Support Project families were comprised of a total of 75 adults and 135 children; 56 of the 58 families served (96.6%) remained stable without placement in foster care.

Barbara and Jim Macaluso

Barbara and Jim Macaluso of Lake Worth felt very much alone until they discovered Families First's Kin Support Project. Now they know they are not the only ones who had to put their retirement dreams on hold to begin the role of parents all over again.

They can joke about being the oldest "parents" at their grandson's kindergarten roundup. They can even be philosophical about having to cancel their planned month-long cruise because of their parental responsibilities.

The greatest surprise and hidden treasure they found recently was Families First's Kin Support Project. "We couldn't believe it. Until then, we had no idea that we are entitled to funding and legal services. And we're meeting other people who are going through the same things we are. It's wonderful!" said Barbara.



Cost Savings: Up to \$72,709 for every child remaining with a relative caregiver and out of the child welfare system.



Oasis Project

The Oasis Project is a new collaborative between Families First and Genesis Community Health to increase access to healthcare for all women.

In 2014, 274 women of child-bearing age were assisted in applying for and accessing health and social services.



Health Fair

The Oasis Project, Genesis Community Health and Achievement Centers for Children & Families held a community health and wellness fair on July 26, 2014. The event was a success with 320 participants in attendance. In addition, 30 women of child-bearing age were able to receive health or dental screenings.



Project Connect

This collaborative between Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches and Families First of Palm Beach County provides care coordination for families referred to Adopt-A-Family who have multiple issues and needs that impact their ability to maintain stability and self-sufficiency.

In 2014, 78 families, including 145 children and 81 adults were served.



Patrick

Patrick and his three children ages, 7, 10 and 13 came to the U.S. from Jamaica in 2010 leaving his wife behind. The four initially lived with his sister in a two-bedroom apartment and had to move to a shelter due to overcrowding and Patrick's lack of finances. They were then placed in temporary housing and Patrick found a minimum-wage job as a cook working hard to save for better housing and a visa to bring his wife here.

The single father also took on a part-time job in addition to his full-time one to supplement his income. After three years, Patrick's hard work paid off. He was able to maintain the household, care for his children and bring his wife to the U.S. in time for Christmas. Additionally, Patrick became a naturalized U.S. citizen on December 10th.



Cost Savings: Up to \$8,796 per year for every family prevented from entering an emergency shelter.

Bridges to Success

Bridges To Success provides permanent, supportive housing for families in the Glades and Royal Palm Beach areas of Palm Beach County who have been diagnosed with a medical or psychological disability that impairs their ability to be self-sufficient.



***In 2014, 13 families,
including 18 adults
and 25 children
received
housing.***

Tequesta

In 2012, Tequesta lost her home and also became the single mother of her three children. Medical issues also forced her to retire from her job with the school district. With no financial support from her former husband and no job, the family plunged into dire financial straits. Things worsened when her medical condition was diagnosed as terminal and she was also diagnosed with a heart condition that made daily functioning difficult.

Despite all the negatives, Tequesta has learned to take each day as it comes, appreciating every moment that she has. With the help of Bridges To Success, she went back to school to prove to her children that “despite any obstacles, one can achieve their goals.” She obtained her MBA in July 2014. She is now looking for work that allows her to do so from home.

Tequesta attributes her success to the motivation and help from her Bridges To Success worker, her doctor’s persistence to find a way to improve her quality of life, and the support of her mother who stands by her every step of the way.



Cost Savings: It costs approximately \$31,000 a year for homeless services; permanent supportive housing costs \$10,000 a year. Savings \$21,000 for each family.

Summary Balance Sheet

	2014 Total	2013 Total
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	918,993	1,159,644
Investments	195,632	50,000
Other Current Assets	433,913	466,574
Non-Current Assets	45,868	43,681
Total	1,594,406	1,719,899
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Accounts Payable	73,212	82,399
Net Assets	1,521,194	1,637,500
Total	1,594,406	1,719,899

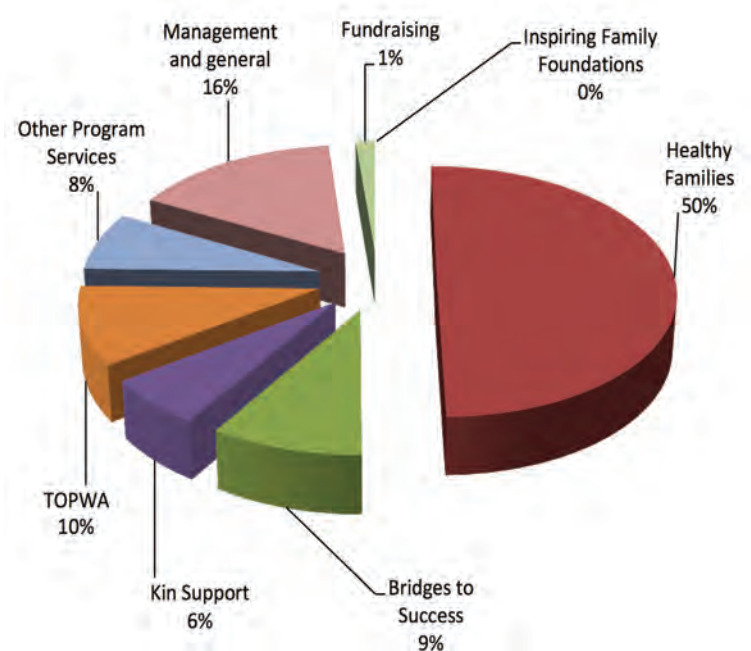
Summary Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support		
Government	2,606,845	2,966,579
Community	567,549	611,850
Other	86,856	124,320
Fundraising	135,316	88,394
Investments	12,015	4,962
	3,408,581	3,796,105
Expenses		
Program Services	2,920,298	3,208,919
Supporting Services	604,589	414,186
	3,524,887	3,623,105
Change in Net Assets	-116,306	173,000

Families First is audited by the independent CPA firm Cocuy, Burns & Co., P.A. which conducted its examination in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. Cocuy, Burns rendered an unqualified opinion (typically called a “clean opinion”) on Families First’s financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2014. Highlights of Families First’s financial position and results of operations are presented here.

Expenses by Program

	2014 Total	2013 Total
Program Services		
Inspiring Family Foundations	0	383,113
Healthy Families	1,755,852	1,834,567
Bridges to Success	323,484	258,817
Kin Support	220,295	180,777
Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women	356,124	264,808
Other Program Services	264,543	286,837
Management and General	553,777	342,942
Fundraising	50,812	71,244
Total	3,524,887	3,623,105



Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative

The Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative consists of five agencies, including Families First, to provide individualized care, comprehensive family-driven services, flexible treatment strategies for at-risk and high-risk children and their families across Palm Beach County.



Families First feels that our services have come full circle with the addition of the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative in October, 2014. This allows our families to get the mental health services their children need. The Collaborative, led by Father Flannigan's Boys Town, includes Families First, the Center for Child Counseling, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Palm Beach County, Inc., and The Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, takes behavioral and mental health services to a new level in Palm Beach County by:

Providing services and supports to help children succeed in school, at home and in the community

Ensuring children and their families have access to an array of services to meet their individual needs

Giving families voices and choices in setting goals, creating their support team, and the best courses of action to help them be successful

Improving communication and cooperation between parents, children and other family members

This program is just getting underway, so stay tuned for what we believe will be outstanding services and results for families.

Season To Share Update



In December, 2013, the Francisco Family was selected by the Palm Beach Post as one of its Season to Share families. Maria Francisco was provided services through the Healthy Families program. She was living in a dilapidated trailer with her own two young sons and had custody of her three sisters, all under the age of 15.

She had come to the Healthy Families program as a 24-year-old facing homelessness, unemployment and an abusive relationship while pregnant with her second child. This was after a tumultuous, violent and unhappy childhood during which she was passed around from relative to relative.

Maria, with the help of Healthy Families, was well on her way to becoming an independent and confident mother to her children and sisters, but still needed housing help. Her home was unsafe and repairs were no longer the answer.

The Season to Share campaign, the community, her work family where she is a bank teller, and Families First rallied to help her. She and her family are now living in a newer mobile home purchased for her in a family-friendly community. She reported that her now-thriving family had its first-ever Christmas tree this year and have graduated from the Healthy Families program.

Families First:



Children's Day Harriet Goldstein
Award winner Gary Lesser
and proud daughter, Josie



Children's Day Co-Chairs
Raul Mercader and Dena Foman



Habana Nights Gift Gathering



Second Annual Smash Bash
Table Tennis Challenge



Holiday Gathering with
Bridges to Success



Superhero Scavenger Hunt

Year In Review



Healthy Families –
the Pineda family and Family
Support Worker Gloria Perez, left



Healthy Families Graduation



Kin Support Picnic



TOPWA Baby Shower



Families First staff
holiday celebration



Planned Giving

Leave A Legacy Of Love

Families First of Palm Beach County created a foundation in 2012 to ensure that Families First can continue to invest in the future of children for generations to come. We will always have new parents who face barriers and need guidance to provide the best for their children; we will remain determined to keep families together and children out of the child welfare system.

You can help us continue our work by giving a planned gift. Planned gifts allow you to meet both your philanthropic giving goals and meet your own financial needs. Consider planned giving – there are many ways to do so – or contribute to our endowment.

For more information on the Foundation, the organization and planned giving opportunities, please contact Samantha Whiteman, Director of Development, at 561.318.4219.



Planned Giving

Ways To Make A Bequest



Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc. offers many ways to make us beneficiaries of a bequest, trust, retirement plan or insurance policy.



Specific Dollar Amount

Percentage of Estate

Residual Remains of Estate

You can also decide how your bequest will be used:



Restricted – select from among our many opportunities:

- Child abuse prevention
- Client basic needs
- Women's healthcare
- Caregiving services
- Healthy Families
- Mental health services
- HIV/AIDS prevention in newborns
- Housing programs
- Operating costs
- Families First endowment



Unrestricted - These will benefit the areas of greatest need at the time of the bequest.

We are grateful for all of your support:

Government & Agency

Children's Services Council
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Florida Department of Health
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
Town of Palm Beach United Way
United Way of Palm Beach County

\$25,000 plus

Community Foundation for Palm Beach & Martin Counties
Libra Foundation
Mary Alice Fortin Foundation
Quantum Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Bank of America Foundation
Conrad Hilton Foundation
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PBC Sheriff's Office State Law Enforcement Trust Fund
PNC Foundation
Scaife Family Foundation
The Lost Tree Village Charitable Foundation

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

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Two Men and a Truck, Palm Beach & Treasure Coast

\$2,000 to \$4,999

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Thank you for your generous contributions

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Ward, Damon, Posner, Pheterson & Bleau
Wes Wiggins



2015 – A Year of Opportunities, Celebrations, Events

We hope you will join us in celebrating as we head into what we know will be an outstanding 25th year!



This will be a special year, marking a quarter of a century of outstanding services to ensure ***Stronger Families - Stronger Communities.***



Superhero Scavenger Hunt
Downtown WPB April 18, 2015



***Smash Bash Table
Tennis Challenge***
Boca Raton August, 2015

***9th Annual
Children's
Day Luncheon***
***Kravis Center
October 2, 2015***





Our Funding Partners



Our Annual Partners:

Families First of Palm Beach County loves to partner with local businesses. We have a variety of opportunities for your business to do so. Please contact Samantha Whiteman at 561.318.4219 to learn more about our upcoming events and other partnership opportunities.





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OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Stronger Communities***



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