MISSION
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.

VISION
Our vision is 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.

When we change the life trajectory of just one child, we make a difference for generations to come.
Two years ago, Linda Martinez was in dire need of help. She was emerging from an abusive relationship, raising two teens and now a toddler and in need of housing. A year ago, she spoke before almost 400 people at our Children’s Day Awards Luncheon regarding the life-changing help she received from our Healthy Families program – with parenting, with housing, with child care and other services. Hers was a talk of hope for the future, about never giving up, and about the value of reaching out for a hand up when needed.

Fast forward to 2016; Linda has a happy, healthy toddler, a son in college, a daughter excelling in high school, and is returning to school for a degree in elementary education thanks to receiving a scholarship. While recounting her story publicly earlier this year, a school district official was in the audience and offered her a teaching job when she completes her degree.

This is just one of thousands of successes we could report from the 1,200 families and children we serve each year, and it perfectly describes why our talented, skilled staff, our dedicated boards, and our leadership take such pride in our work. We see the difference our programs and services are making. It makes our investment in terms of dollars, effort, and time all worth it. Daily, we see the results of our work – families that felt powerless and hopeless now self-sufficient and thriving. We witness small miracles and big ones and we see the difference today’s hard work is making on generations to come – ending cycles of abuse, helping families become contributing members of their communities able to raise their children in safe, loving homes. And by investing in prevention and early intervention, we are saving our community millions in later needed services such as criminal justice, foster care, school failure, and life-long dependence on public dollars.

It is why we believe... *When we change the life trajectory of just one child, we are making a difference for generations to come.*

*Stronger Families – Stronger Communities*
Building a skyscraper that will be sturdy and able to weather the elements for many years requires first and foremost a solid foundation. For 26 years, Families First of Palm Beach County has been thriving – creating futures for more than 37,000 families and children.

Four years ago, those who wanted to see these successes continue began putting a plan in place – forming the Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc. to support that solid, sturdy building. The focus of our Foundation is on the future – ensuring the sustainability of an organization that has proven its value and worth over and over again. We see it in the dedicated, professional staff and leadership; in the resilient spirit of the thousands of men, women and children helped, and in the passionate volunteers and community members who are so willing to give of their time and talent.

Contributing to the Foundation is an investment in our county’s future. It helps ensure that families and children can continue to benefit from services that lead them to self-sufficient, contributing members of our community.
Without Our Committed Boards, We Could Not Do This Work...

FAMILIES FIRST OF PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD

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A national evidence-based program aimed at the prevention of child abuse.

In 2016, Families First served 382 families including 864 children and 391 adults. 100% of the children were free from abuse and neglect one year post service; 99% of the children were free from abuse and neglect during service.

Cost Savings: Up to $102,960 for every child remaining with their family and out of the child welfare system.

“I was so, so alone...,” Annetta Serrano remembers.

She just moved back to the U.S. from Italy by herself with no job, eight months pregnant and a baby she knew had Turner Syndrome, a disorder in which a female is born with only one X chromosome, leading to a series of serious complications and a shortened lifespan.

After having her little girl, Lydia, a month early, Serrano’s doctor recommended she seek help. At the time, Serrano had become very depressed. Her daughter would never sleep; she didn’t like to be touched; she barely responded to her name. “It was so hard for me to accept. I never felt any love reciprocated,” said Serrano. She found the Healthy Families program run by Families First.

Families First arranged counseling for Serrano, and taught her about child development. The caseworker also noticed early on that Lydia failed to reach milestones. Suspecting she also suffered from autism, she was set up with a behavioral specialist and several intervention programs by the time she turned six months.

“I can’t tell you how much Families First has helped, especially for a single parent with a kid with a genetic condition and autism. It’s been such a huge support. A really wonderful experience,” said Serrano.

Two and a half years later, Serrano is a project manager at an online marketing company. She’s buying a house in Boca Raton, FL, and Lydia is thriving and interactive – high functioning on the autism spectrum.

“It really seems like a fairytale,” said Serrano, “if it weren’t for Families First, I don’t know where I’d be.”
A national evidence-based program aimed at reducing the negative, long-term developmental impact of stress and trauma on young children.

In 2016, Families First served 50 families, 9 of which received services prenatally.

Alexa is a beautiful, bouncy 4-year-old who, to the untrained eye, appears to be a typical toddler. But there’s a dullness to her eyes that tells of an unspeakable tragedy. At the age of two she saw her parents killed by a drunk driver as they walked with her. Her mother’s sister had to almost instantly put aside her own grief to embrace and raise her niece, Alexa, who was already exhibiting effects of trauma – she wouldn’t make eye contact, barely talked and, when she did, it was in a whisper. She feared every stranger, she relived the tragic day every time she heard raised voices.

Enter Child First – an intensive, in-home program that couples a developmental and mental health clinician with a care coordinator to work with high-risk young children and their families. Without such help, children face lapses in early brain development that can affect them for the remainder of their lives and in all aspects of their lives – emotional, physical and intellectual development.

Through parent-child psychotherapy, the healing process began for Alexa. She found her own voice when she was allowed to tell her own story through play acting out the events and details of the day her parents died. The death of a family pet was turned into a lesson about loss in terms a young child could understand. And the loving aunt, so concerned about her niece that she put her own grief on a shelf, suddenly had the help she needed, too. She agreed to therapy to deal with the loss of her sister, and, her husband, who lost his job, was helped in finding a new one. And, the financial strain of providing for their niece was eased with a scholarship for child care, and clothing donations for the fast-growing little girl.

Alexa is bright and exhibits strength and empathy beyond her few years; her vocabulary has grown, she’s learned to be playful and laugh, and just be a little girl the best way she can. She has a long road ahead of her, but the transformation has begun. Her aunt and uncle are receiving help they need in the monumental task of raising a little girl who has already faced so much violence, trauma and loss.
A national accredited program through the Council on Accreditation (COA) guides relatives raising a loved one’s children in finding and accessing legal and other needed services.

In 2016, Families First served 50 families including 111 children and 62 adults. 106 children remained with relative caregivers and out of the foster care system, a 95% success rate.

Savings: Up to $102,960 for every child remaining with families and out of the child welfare system.

Carol Miller was looking forward to the next stage in her life – the last of her four children was leaving the house and the 54-year-old licensed practical nurse planned to go back to school to become a registered nurse. That changed two years ago when she took custody of her then-5-year-old grandson, Michael. Her daughter, Michael’s mother, had struggled for years with bipolar disorder and she and her two sons were displaced from their home. Carol took action when she realized the children were being abused. Already, Michael was exhibiting behavioral problems and was also diagnosed with ADHD. He was well behind in school.

Carol was also dealing with the medical issues of another of her daughters who suffered a stroke after giving birth to her third child. “It’s been a very hard time,” said Carol. “My life changed greatly, I had been working full time and had to cut back to part time,” she said of her work at a local hospital. “Now I have less income and it’s a struggle.”

Then things brightened in June – while working with the Legal Aid Society on the custody issue, she was referred to Families First’s Kin Support Project. “They’ve done great things for me.” The Kin Support worker listened and found out what Carol needed – basic needs such as a bed and school uniforms for Michael. The worker helped her apply for Medicaid and cash assistance and went with her to Michael’s school meeting to discuss his academic needs and arrange a low-cost tutor to help him catch up academically and Legal Aid helped her get a scholarship for his after-school care.

Attending the Kin Support Project’s group gatherings has given her peace and a new perspective. “I felt so isolated and like I was the only one doing this at my age. Then I met others, even a woman in her 70s raising a great-granddaughter. I thought, OK, this isn’t easy, but it’s doable.”

The driving force behind it all is Michael’s future. “I want him to have a good future, I want him stabilized and happy,” she said. And she has seen some very positive changes from a withdrawn little boy to a happy, affectionate child. There’s a long road ahead, Carol says, but the Kin Support program has been a godsend. “It’s a wonderful resource with warm, caring people. I’m so grateful.”
A street outreach program aimed at finding high-risk women and getting them services to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS to their babies.

In 2016, Families First engaged 215 pregnant, high-risk women; 100% of the six babies born to HIV+ and TOPWA mothers tested negative for HIV at six months.

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

It was the love of her children that made Lydia want to fight the demons of substance abuse and reunite her family. The drug abuse had caused her to lose custody of an infant born to her previously and she was determined to keep all of her children with her, including the one she was carrying.

So, when she was referred to the TOPWA program because of a high-risk pregnancy, she accepted the help. Through the Healthy Beginnings System, Lydia was linked to prenatal care and substance abuse treatment services. In addition, to ensure that she had proper nutrition during and after her pregnancy, she received help in obtaining WIC, was given a food voucher, and directed to services to help her with employment, educational scholarships and childcare.

She diligently made every prenatal appointment and completed a drug abuse treatment program. It was the hand up that Lydia needed to improve life for herself and her family. Thanks to the help she received, she has maintained a sober and healthy lifestyle and she and her children are now living in a stable and healthy home in the southern part of the county. Her outreach worker has remained in the picture to help her with needed emotional support as Lydia seeks a job and dreams about her long-term goal of becoming a Certified Community Health worker.
In partnership with Genesis Community Health Center, the goal of the Oasis Project is to increase access to health care for women of child-bearing age to improve birth outcomes.

In 2016, the Oasis Project assisted 71 women of childbearing age through increased access to health care and 101 women accessed benefits.

Savings: For each $1 spent on prenatal care, $2.57 in medical care costs is saved.

Marcella and her husband were struggling to provide the basics for themselves and their three children – food and medical care. When she turned to Genesis Community Health Center to determine if she qualified for Medicaid, she was greeted by an outreach specialist from Families First’s Oasis Project and got the help she needed.

The 39-year-old mother of three explained that her husband, the family’s sole provider, works in a painting company while she cares for their children. She admitted that her family was struggling to make ends meet and went some nights without sufficient food.

The Oasis outreach specialist quickly explained Marcella’s options and offered to help apply for both Medicaid and food assistance. Marcella said her husband, despite their struggles, had not wanted to seek public assistance, but she would speak with him.

Later that week, Marcella contacted the outreach specialist, set an appointment, and received immediate assistance in completing applications for food assistance and Medicaid. A week later, Marcella happily reported that she and her family were enjoying proper meals and were on their way to getting help with medical care, thanks to the Oasis Project and a caring outreach specialist.
Coordinates services for those facing homelessness who have other chronic issues impacting their ability to maintain stability and self-sufficiency.

In 2016, Families First worked with 25 families that included 62 children and 38 adults who are now self-sufficient.

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

Those who face homelessness often face other life-altering issues – abuse, food insecurity, finances, emotional or physical disabilities, drug abuse, legal issues, etc. In order to give them the best shot at gaining or maintaining stability and self-sufficiency, Families First helps those families find the services they need. Families are referred to affordable housing, temporary cash assistance, help in accessing medical care, employment training, and many other services.
A national accredited program through the Council on Accreditation (COA) provides permanent, supportive housing for families in the western communities, including the Glades area, facing health and mental health challenges that impair their ability to be self-sufficient.

In 2016, Families First provided 10 families that included 15 children and 13 adults with safe and stable homes.

Savings: Homeless services cost $31,000; permanent supportive housing $10,000 per year; saving $21,000 for each family.

When Anita and her two children received housing help she was delighted, but quickly realized she knew little about how to turn her house into an organized, safe home. As a renter, she had little understanding of what her lease required of her or her rights. So, Anita constantly contacted her caseworker, making demands for even the smallest repairs and made little effort to keep her house neat and clean. It’s not that she didn’t want to; she just didn’t have appropriate problem-solving skills to take command of the situation.

Then Bridges To Success stepped in to help her understand her lease, that said she was responsible for any repairs under $100 and that general upkeep was up to her. She was provided with the landlord’s contact information and learned when it was appropriate to contact him. Slowly, her confidence in troubleshooting home issues grew and one by one housing issues were resolved, many by her without outside help.

Anita set about making minor repairs herself, only contacting the landlord for things she now knew he was responsible for and kept him and program staff informed of work she had done. As her confidence grew, so did her determination to ensure that she and her children had the best home possible. She painted dirty walls and replaced broken blinds while teaching her children to take pride in their home and not damage it.

Visit Anita now and one would never know that this neat, tidy, well-kept home was just a few months before a battleground of frustration, disorganization and chaos. According to Bridges to Success staff, “It has been a tremendous shift for the client who had always depended on staff to troubleshoot issues for her.“
A national accredited program through the Council on Accreditation (COA) provides individualized, comprehensive, family-driven mental health services for at-risk and high-risk children and their families across Palm Beach County.

In 2016, Families First served 33 families that included 86 children and 62 adults.

Savings: $2,776.85 per child, based on reduced days of hospitalization.

A year ago, Kristee Sacoulas’ world came crashing down on her and her six children. First, her relationship with her fiancé, the father of her two youngest children, got rocky and her children reacted by acting out.

Then, in September, 2015, Kristee’s beloved older sister, who had struggled for years with depression, committed suicide, leaving a 10-year-old son motherless. “We are a very close family and it seemed that everything was wonderful and then the unthinkable happened. In one minute our lives were changed forever,” said Kristee of her sister’s death.

Then, just four months later, in January of this year, her relationship completely fell apart and she and her children were displaced from their home and “any sense of normalcy.” They moved in with Kristee’s parents.

A teacher at the children’s school noticed the children were struggling and referred Kristee to Boys Town, which oversees the Children’s Behavioral Health Collaborative. She, her children and her fiancé got much-needed services.

“A counselor from Families First, came into our lives. At first the kids went kicking and screaming to their therapy sessions, but it didn’t take long before we all realized just how important the therapy was to our healing process. I’m happy to say that with the help of Families First we are back home living as a family again. The kids are doing amazingly well and I am so grateful that one counselor who noticed a family in need reached out and pointed us in the right direction so that we could begin to heal.”

Kristee’s parents “were not so quick to jump on board” in seeking grief counseling for themselves and their grandson who they are now raising. But when they saw how much progress Kristee and her children were making, “it opened their hearts and minds to the possibility of hope for my nephew,” Kristee explained.
Clockwise from top left: 2016 Smash Bash table tennis challenge; Harriet Goldstein Award recipient Suzanne Holmes with last year’s recipient Michelle Diffenderfer; Kin Support Picnic; TOPWA baby shower group; Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches presents Families First with the award for Best Non-Profit of the Year; Great Charity Challenge group photo.
Clockwise from top left: Children’s Day Emcee Kelley Dunn with Keynote Speaker, Chadwick Sapenter; Healthy Families graduates; Superhero scavenger hunt; BDO Community Denim Day; Scavenger Hunt Pre-Party, from left Julie Swindler; Jon Maples and Daniel Lustig, board members; Julie Swindler with Heroes in Medicine award.
FUNDERS & DONORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 10/1/15 – 9/30/16

GOVERNMENT & AGENCY
Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County
Department of Housing & Urban Development
Florida Department of Health
Health Care District of Palm Beach County
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
Celia L. & Victor W. Farris Foundation
Libra Foundation
Mary Alice Fortin Foundation
Quantum Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation
The Jim Moran Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
Bank of America Foundation
Itto Willits Charitable Foundation
Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Greater Palm Beaches, Inc.
Scaife Family Foundation
The Lost Tree Village Charitable Foundation
Walter & Adi Blum Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
A Friend in Palm Beach Gardens
AmWINS Access Group, Inc.
BMO Private Bank
Dara & Daniel Lustig
Downtown Development Authority
H. E. Hill Foundation
IBERIABANK
Law Enforcement Trust Fund
Little Moir’s
NCCI Holdings, Inc.
Ofelia Utset & Tom Kodadek
One Parking
Pike & Lustig, LLP
Two Men and a Truck, Palm Beach & Treasure Coast

$2,000 to $4,999
Castle Group
CBIZ Insurance Services
Children’s Healthcare Charity, Inc.
Cindy & Jim Nau
Connie & Pedro Zamora
Digital Media Arts College
Florida Power & Light, Co.
Hermé de Wyman Miro – The International Society of Palm Beach
JoAnn L. Wagner, LKD Certified Public Accountants & Consultants
JoAnn & Rick Wagner
Jo Ann & Edward Sears
Michele & Rodney Poole
Mildred Hoit, Inc.
Publix Super Markets Charities
Risk Management Association of South Florida
Sandra & Michael Fleming
Slaton Risk Services
TD Bank, N.A.
Wycliffe Charities Foundation, Inc.
$500 to $1,999
Bank of America/Merrill Lynch
Bank United
Charity Services PA
Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Palm Beach/Treasure Coast
Deborah & Christian Searcy
Eileen Minnick
Florida Sugar Cane League
FordHarrison LLP
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Julie & Ted Swindler
Kaufman Rossin & Co.
Key Management & Alice Hodach Keller Williams
Lansing & Hutcheon – UBS Financial Services
Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith, PLLC
Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
McLaughlin & Stern, LLP
Merin Hunter Codman, Inc.
Michelle & Michael Borenstein
Oasis Outsourcing
Palm Beach Community Bank
Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office
Patricia Bowman Family Trust
Robin Kiberney
Roger Dean Stadium
Roxanna Childs
Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.
Sherry Borchert
Susan Hutcheon
Templeton & Company
Toshiba Business Solutions, Inc.

$250 to $499
Ackerman, Link & Sartory P.A.
Alice & Gary Hodach
Ascension Council of Catholic Women
Barbara LeBrun
Bari Goldstein
Beacon Group
Dena & Bill Foman
Eddie Stephens
Francis X. J. Lynch, Esq.
Fred Schrempt
Gardens Dermatology
HotelPlanner.com
Jodie & Jeff Petrone
Laura & Jim Springer
Lisa & Jim Mahlbacher
Mary & Rey Aguilar
Megan Johnson
Palm Beach Kennel Club
Phyllis & Michael Gauger
Rose Proskauer, LLP
Score at the Top
Shirley A. Schwartz
U.S. Bank
## SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>1,709,578</td>
<td>1,655,832</td>
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|                      |            |            |
| **Liabilities and Fund Balance** |            |            |
| Accounts Payable     | 121,690    | 74,317     |
| Deferred Revenue     | 46,261     |            |
| Net Assets           | 1,541,627  | 1,581,515  |
| **Total**            | 1,709,578  | 1,655,832  |

## SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Community</td>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<td>4,215,392</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>(39,888)</td>
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Families First is audited by the independent CPA firm of Templeton & Company, LLP which conducted its examination in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. Templeton & Company, LLP rendered an unqualified opinion (typically called a “clean opinion”) on Families First’s financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016. Highlights of Families First’s financial position and results of operations are presented here.
## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Service</th>
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<td>Bridges to Success</td>
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<td>Child First</td>
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<td>Pregnant Women (TOPWA)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,311,372</strong></td>
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**FINANCIALS 10/1/15 – 9/30/16**

![Chart]
Forever Families First

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.

Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc. offers many ways to make it a beneficiary of a bequest, trust, retirement plan or insurance policy. You can designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or residual remains of estate. You can also restrict the funds for a designated purpose or make the donation unrestricted so that it benefits the agency’s area of greatest need at the time of the bequest. See our website for a list of possibilities and benefits to you. http://www.familiesfirstpbc.org

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

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties will match up to $10,000 in donations made to Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc.’s Endowment Fund. To help us reach the match, make donations payable to Families First of Palm Beach County Foundation, Inc. and designate “endowment.”

Families First of Palm Beach County’s foundation was developed four years ago to help ensure that the organization is sustainable for many years to come. Despite our success with so many of the 37,000 families and children we’ve served in 26 years, we know that there will always be families that need a hand up in reaching

For more information on the Foundation, the organization and planned giving opportunities, please contact Samantha Whiteman, Director of Development, at 561.318.4219.
Providing social services is no longer the only mission of solid nonprofits. More and more, potential donors, foundations, and the public demand that nonprofits exhibit strong business practices, as well.

Families First of Palm Beach County has done just that. The organization, which is in its 26th year of operation, voluntarily submitted to the rigorous evaluation of the Council On Accreditation. The Council is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization. Accreditation signifies that an organization or program is effectively managing its resources and providing the best possible services to all of its stakeholders. Through a grueling months-long process of self-examination and on-site inspection by a group of national experts, organizations are reviewed for business practices, standards, ethics, accountability and a host of other best practices. Families First just received its second accreditation from this organization that has evaluated more than 2,200 agencies nationally serving more than seven million individuals and families.

This year, Families First moved up to the highest rating with GuideStar which bases its ratings on a variety of indicators of sound business and financial practices. This national organization looks at how well nonprofits document and collect data, among other indicators of organizational well-being.

Additionally, Families First was the second organization in Palm Beach County to receive accreditation in 2007 through Nonprofits First, a local evaluation organization that examines the business and financial practices of local nonprofits. This accreditation has been required by major local funders of organizations seeking their financial backing. Families First has continued to receive this accreditation each year.
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