



FAMILY MATTERS

STRONGER FAMILIES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

FAMILIES FIRST NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5, NO. 1

WINTER, 2019

REFLECTING ON THE PAST; PLANNING FOR A LONG FUTURE

Legacy Planning – The Key To Our Future

Marking our 28th anniversary in 2018 provided time and opportunities to reflect with pride on our accomplishments and to look to the future. Part of looking forward includes realizing that there will always be families in our community as elsewhere that need help to realize their goals for themselves and their children. We want to ensure that we are here to offer that hand up for many years to come.

For that reason, our foundation was created and is making strides in finding and securing new avenues to ensure our financial security for the future. Since the early years of Families First – beginning with Betty Bell, one of our founding board members – we have been in awe of those members of our community who have made the future success of Families First part of their legacy – through planned giving. While to many people that means naming Families First in your wills, our experts pointed out that there are so many additional means of planned giving, some with tax breaks, others that have no effect on your current financial needs.

We encourage everyone considering this to turn to your own financial planners, tax experts, and attorneys to learn what's best for you.

I discovered in this process, as will you, that you don't have to be wealthy and you don't have to change your current financial status or lifestyle in order to leave a legacy. I have personally made changes that will someday benefit Families First.

We are so proud that our services have affected so many families and children - since 1990, Families First has served more than 15,000 families – which includes more than 40,000 children and adults. And, we want that number to grow each year for decades to come. Why? Because we know the effect of helping just one child or one family that seeks help in becoming productive and self-sufficient. It has a resounding effect on not just that one child, or that one family, but on the community and our future.

Julie Swindler, CEO



**Our 2018 Harriet Goldstein
Award winner Julie Cummings
with our Foundation Board
President Domenick Macri**



**Our Foundation Board
Member Monte Resnick
chaired the 2018 Children's
Day Luncheon**

Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today

A young mother overcomes addiction and creates a secure, loving home for her son through our Bridges To Success program; a teen learns new ways to deal with her anxiety and depression and graduates from high school at valedictorian with help from our Behavioral Health services; babies seemingly doomed to be born HIV positive are instead born healthy because their moms got medical care through our TOPWA program; grandparents suddenly returned to the role of parent to their grandchildren get needed services through our Kin Support Project, young children exposed to high degrees of stress and trauma that can impact their development receive early help through our Child First program, and families facing life circumstances that interfere with their ability to provide their children with safe and nurturing homes, graduate from our Healthy Families ready to raise our next generation successfully.

It's what we do, and do well – for hundreds of families each year. The goal of all is to keep families together, give them a hand up in gaining independence and raising a generation of children who are ready physically, mentally and emotionally to be productive members of our community. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

You may not recognize the names of our programs: Child First, Healthy Families, Kin Support Project, Children's Behavioral Health Services, Bridges To Success, or TOPWA, but you and our entire community are impacted by their outstanding results.

- Healthy Families - **Savings: Up to \$105,131** for every child remaining with their family and out of the child welfare system.
- Kin Support Project - **Savings: Up to \$105,131** for every child remaining with their family and out of the child welfare system.
- TOPWA – **Savings: \$21,768** per year for every child born free of HIV
- Bridges to Success - **Savings: \$21,000** per year for every family in our permanent supportive housing program.
- Children's Behavioral Health Services – **Savings: Average \$2,776.85** based on reduced in-hospital care per child.

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Our Mission

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



Community Denim Day A Big Success

Families First launched the Community Denim Project in 2017 to draw attention to National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Businesses throughout the county participated, asking employees to contribute \$5 or more to be able to wear jeans to work. More than 60 local businesses participated in our 2018 event.



All-In For Families First

Poker enthusiasts and casino game fans joined us at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium for an evening that involved much more – music, entertainment, food, and, oh so much fun.

A Banner Year for Our Children's Day Awards Luncheon

2018 brought our 12th Annual Children's Day Awards Luncheon to the Kravis Center in October. It was our largest yet with some 400 attendees to hear an emotion-charged talk by Heather Cox-Rosenberg, a foster and adoptive parent and ombudsman for the Florida Department of Children & Families, our keynote speaker, celebrate the accomplishments of Julie Cummings, a local philanthropist who received our Harriet Goldstein Humanitarian Award, and our highly-popular silent auction that included more than 100 items.



Julie Cummings received the Harriet Goldstein Humanitarian Award



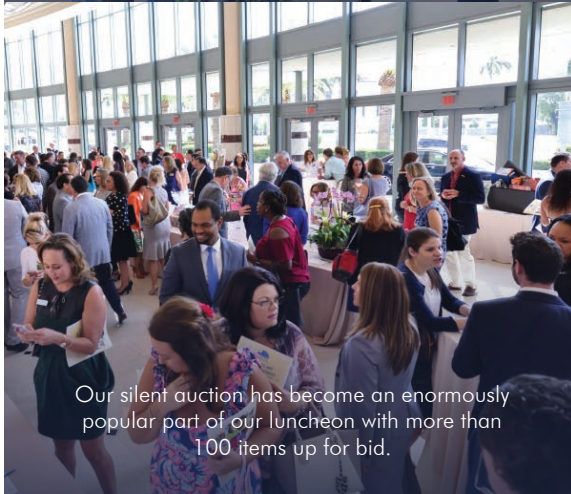
Heather Cox-Rosenberg delivered an emotion-packed keynote presentation



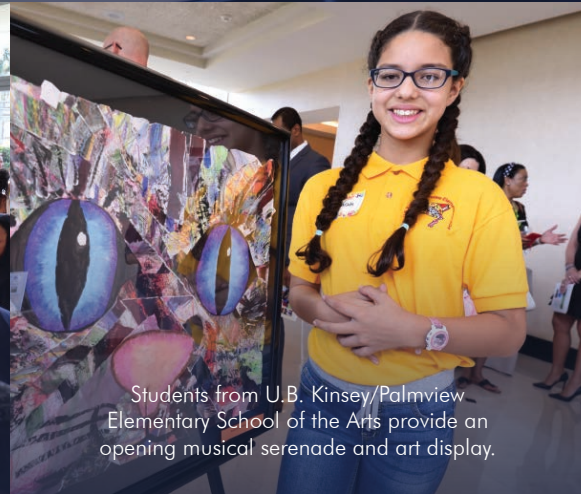
Happy silent auction winners didn't leave empty-handed.



Television personality Emily Pantelides served as our Emcee for this year's luncheon.



Our silent auction has become an enormously popular part of our luncheon with more than 100 items up for bid.



Students from U.B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts provide an opening musical serenade and art display.

2018 Highlights



Children's Day Luncheon



Neighborhood Builders Leadership Program®
November 2018 - Charlotte, NC



Denim Day



Gift Gathering



Back To School Bash



Holiday Luncheon



Healthy Families Graduation



Poker Tournament



TOPWA Baby Shower



Honda Classic Cares



Great Charity Challenge



Holiday Gift Gathering



Children's Day Luncheon



Donor Appreciation Breakfast



Welcome New Board Members

Operations Board

Byrnes Guillaume, Esq.

Ronny Nuñez

Kristina Pantelides

Foundation Board

Marie Ignace G. Morel, M.D.

Thank You to Our 2018 Annual Sponsors



Unparalleled Property Services



Thank You To Our Funding Partners



Visit us at www.familiesfirstpbc.org



Farewell To A Friend

Families First joins Abbie Rosemeyer's family and all those who she touched in our community in mourning her loss. Abbie served on our board and several of our committees with the same passion she showed for all causes involving children and families.

She touched many lives and will be sorely missed.