



FAMILIES FIRST
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020
FAMILIESFIRSTPBC.ORG

FAMILY MATTERS

STRONGER FAMILIES
STRONGER COMMUNITIES



Join us for the **14th Annual Virtual Children's Day Luncheon**

Known as Families First's signature event, the Annual Luncheon continues to grow each year. With fantastic speakers, truly deserving award recipients, musical performances by local 5th graders, the Annual Luncheon has something for everyone. This year we are going VIRTUAL! Keep an eye out for our mobile auction and other fun additions. Registration will be free this year, so grab your lunch and enjoy our virtual event wherever you choose!

Visit FamiliesFirstPBC.org for more information.



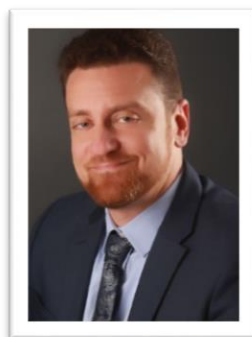
THIS YEAR'S LINE UP



Commissioner Mack Bernard
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Eric Kelly
AWARD RECIPIENT



Jordan Goldman
CO-CHAIR



Ronny Nuñez
CO-CHAIR

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Ward Damon, Attorneys at Law

List incomplete due to printing deadline

COVID-19 UPDATE

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the team at Families First has been working endlessly. Although the work load continues to rise, the team has acclimated to working remotely to ensure service to our clients are not interrupted. Pandemic fatigue and the issues our families face has contributed to their stress. Staff reported an increase in domestic violence and child abuse in their clients. To help combat this issue, the team has established code words for women who are experiencing violence that lets them know that there is a problem and need for safety planning to remove them from the situation. The federal child abuse numbers reported have decreased by 60%, but we do not believe those are accurate because most cases are reported by school personnel, childcare centers, etc. who currently don't have their eyes on the children. Social isolation for our families is a concern as well as insufficient food, loss of jobs, and contracting COVID-19. This is especially true in Belle Glade where our Supervisors work with our team to ensure home visits with families, delivery of food, diapers, clothes, PPE supplies, and other essential items are conducted safely. When available, staff have the ability to purchase food online and have it delivered which allows a resolution to meeting our clients' needs.

Here is what Miguel, a father said about Families First:



During a food delivery, the infant's father, who seldom attends our sessions due to his work schedule, called and said, "Thanks so much for providing the supplies to our family" (canned goods, water, toilet paper, etc.). Miguel went on to thank us for taking the time out to meet with his wife (Lena) weekly. Miguel explained that Lena is a stressed mom caring for two girls, and he believes that she is doing great now because of the support from our program. He said that when he gets home from work at night, Lena will tell him about the meetings we have and the different techniques she is learning. He also said how they were so touched that even with the pandemic we find the time outside of caring for our own families to help them. Miguel said that he is grateful for the program, and he is happy to have us in their lives.

To donate to Families First and support families just like this one, kindly fill out and return the donation envelope included.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Families First Hosts District Update



Healthy Families Graduation



Families First is Awarded a Grant from CFPBMC



Miami Diaper Bank, Old Nay and Baby2Baby Donations



West Palm 100 hosts a Happy Hour for us!



Honda Classic Cares supports our TOPWA Program

Interested in getting involved? Email Samantha at SWhiteman@FamiliesFirstPBC.org.