

2008 ANNUAL REPORT  
FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, INC.



*Whatever their past has been, with your help their tomorrow can be filled with hope.*

# TOMORROW



# POSSIBILITIES

*“Raise your sights and see the possibilities – always see them, for they’re always there.”*

— Norman Vincent Peale

*Help us encourage children and families to see beyond their situation.*

## MEMBERSHIPS

Florida Network of Youth and Family Services | Southeastern Network of Youth and Family | National Network of Youth



## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to give special thanks to photographer Michelle Young. The photographs poignantly show the hopes and dreams of the children and youth we serve.

## LETTER FROM CEO & BOARD CHAIR

*This extraordinary year of stretching, growing, imagining and achieving was possible because of all those who believe in us, invest in our work, and want the best outcomes for children and families who have already suffered far too much.*



Kathy Tuell  
President/CEO



Kurt Rockenbach  
Board Chair

**{Safe Kids, Strong Families  
and a Healthy Community}**

## Transformational Thinking

This was the year of the HGTV Dream Home in Islamorada and our participation as the home tour organizer and beneficiary. Not only was this a tremendous gift and opportunity for our organization to be a part of what is, quite literally, a national annual ritual, it required us to look at ourselves (organizationally) as an outsider would. We had to think about communicating on a grand scale—a national scale.

As organizational leaders, it is hard to overstate the impact this process had on us. Thinking BIG changes our point of view. It makes us talk about what is possible, instead of focusing on our limitations. It isn't about the size of our organization, the territory we cover or the thickness of our Disaster Plan. It is about our capacity to BELIEVE and ACHIEVE on behalf of the children, youth and families we serve.

We've re-designed and launched a new website, initiated an e-newsletter, re-invented our board structure and re-tooled our print materials. We continued our policy advocacy at the state, regional and national level. We are reaching out to new regional and national partners in creative and innovative ways to strengthen the organization and improve our ability to provide quality, cutting-edge, programmatic support for highly at-risk children and youth.

In January, we received notification from Charity Navigator, a national charitable organization evaluator that informed us of the following rating:

“We are proud to announce your organization has earned our 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Approximately a quarter of the charities we evaluate have received our highest rating, indicating that Florida Keys Children’s Shelter outperforms the majority of nonprofits in America with respect to fiscal responsibility. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Florida Keys Children’s Shelter from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”

This extraordinary year of stretching, growing, imagining and achieving was possible because of all those who believe in us, invest in our work, and want the best outcomes for children and families who have already suffered far too much.

There is so much more to do. Together, we can achieve more.



The Florida Keys Children Shelter invites you to stay informed all year long about our current news stories, recent events and upcoming events. It is as easy as subscribing to our quarterly E-newsletter at [fkcs.org](http://fkcs.org) under the News section of our website. You may also join our mailing list by emailing your request to [newsletter@fkcs.org](mailto:newsletter@fkcs.org).

At our website, [fkcs.org](http://fkcs.org), you can learn more about our programs, success stories, recent news and even how to make online donations. We invite you to check back with us on a regular basis!

## FKCS PROGRAMS

### Community-Based Counseling

Teenagers have to deal with hormonal changes, peer pressure and the increasing responsibilities of becoming an adult. It's no wonder that conflicts arise during this period. We have 3 masters-level counselors with offices in 4 schools. We have served kids from eight different schools over the last year and FKCS will serve any youth in the county regardless of what school they attend. Our counselors are there to help. They provide crisis intervention services, individual, group and family counseling, as well as parenting and anger management classes.

### Emergency Shelter

We offer emergency shelter for children and youth at our 18-bed shelter on Plantation Key and our six-bed emergency home in Key West. These are for children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, abandonment, neglect and other situations, or for children awaiting foster placement or adoption. Older children, 10 through 17, stay in our Plantation Key shelter, and children from a few days old to age 10 stay in our Key West emergency home.

This emergency shelter may be for short- or long-term stays, depending on the needs of the child or as determined by the court.

### Group Home Care

At our six-bed residential group home in Key West, we care for children 11 through 17 who, for a variety of reasons, have not had successful placements in traditional foster care. (They may be part of a sibling group, for example, when most foster homes will not take multiple children.) We provide a safe, nurturing place for these children to grow up and as they approach their 18th birthday, when the state considers them an adult, we concentrate on teaching them skills they will need to live on their own.

### Project Lighthouse

Runaway and homeless youth are often hard to help. They are usually very suspicious of programs that try to "rescue" or "save" them, fearing that someone will start preaching to them or try to force them to return to homes where they were either abused or unhappy. Project Lighthouse, our street outreach program in Key West, uses a very different approach, which emphasizes the travel aspect of the youth's experience. Clients are called "travelers" and they are invited to drop in to Project Lighthouse headquarters to work on art and sculpture projects or to play music. If they want to go home, we help them get there. If they choose to stay in Key West, we give them referrals to local social service agencies, or we help them get off the streets and get work so that they can support themselves.

If they choose to move on, we help them make realistic plans, enabling them to arrive at their next destination safely.

## THE DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN FOR 2007–2008

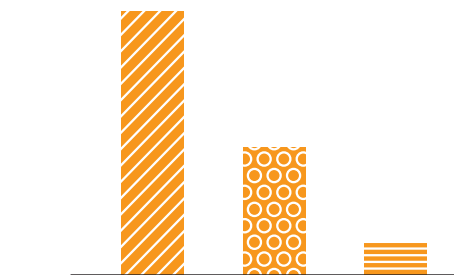
In total, our residential programs provided 7,331 total care days. The average length of stay was 59 days with stay periods ranging from 1 day to 365 days.

- Project Lighthouse served 369 travelers
- The residential and non-residential programs served 270 clients
- 95% of the youth served were from Monroe County.

### 2007–2008 % of Male vs. Female Clients



### Number of Clients Served by Our Shelters during 2007–2008



**Jelsema Tavernier Temporary Shelter**  
Youth 11 through 17 years of age  
Served 78 clients

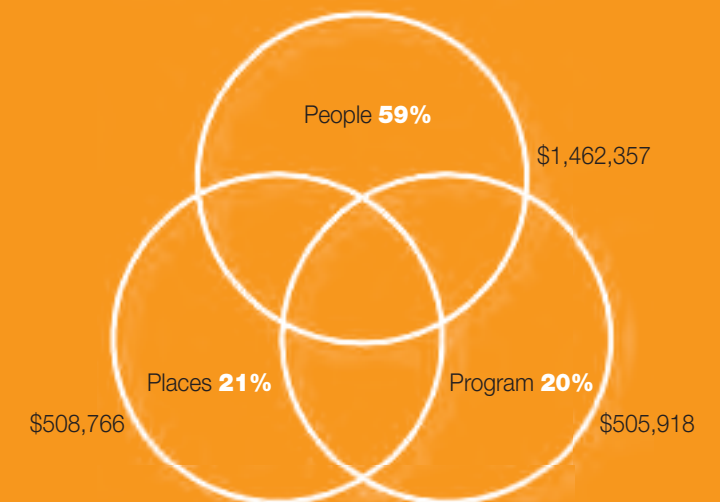
**Poinciana 1 Emergency Shelter**  
Newborns through 10 years of age  
Served 36 clients

**Poinciana 2 Group Home**  
Youth 11 through 17 years of age  
Served 10 clients



People, programs and places—an inter-related set of circumstances that are the heart and soul of our organization. Each is important. None makes any sense without the other.

## People | Programs | Places

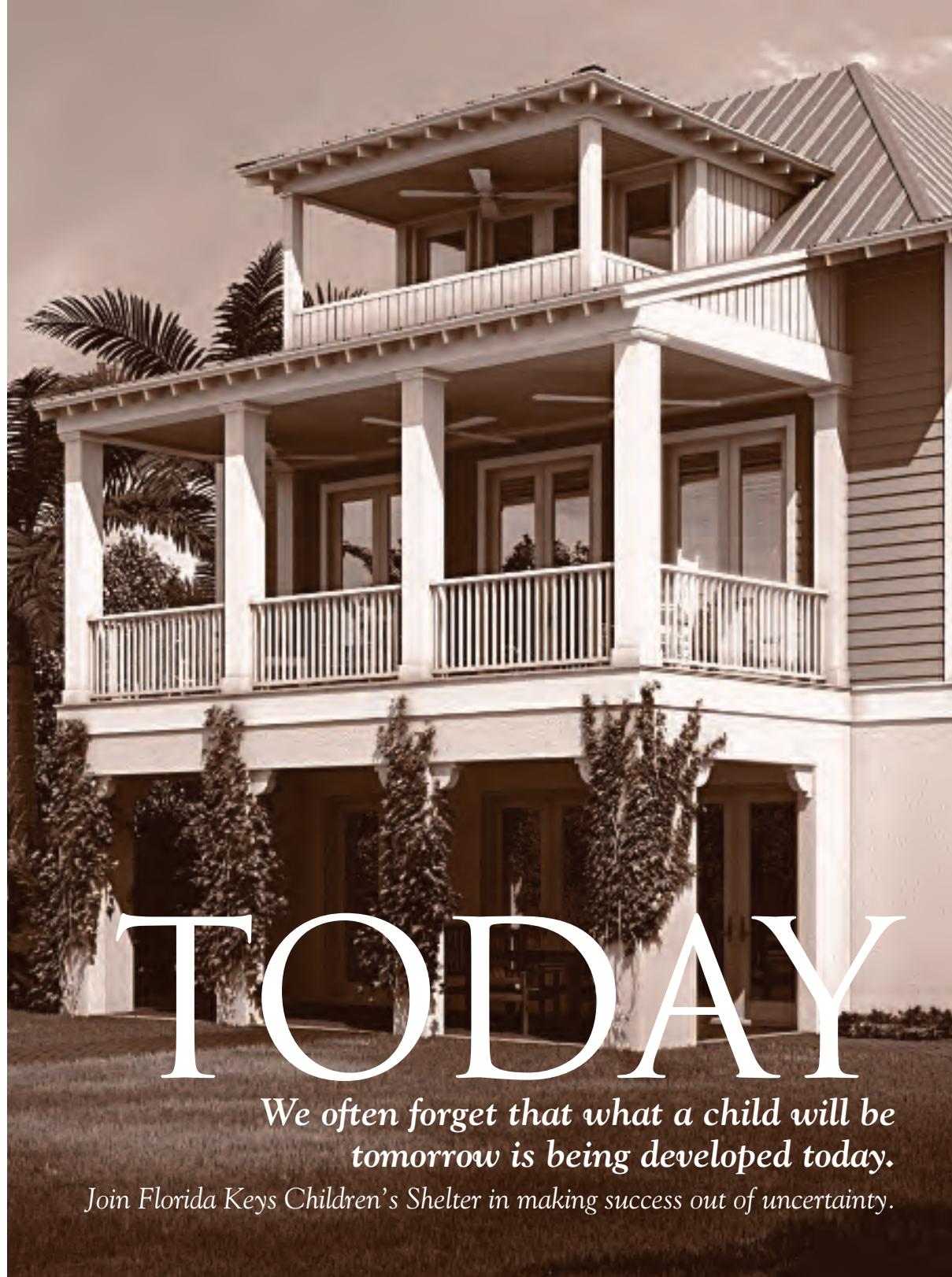


Every year, a non-profit organization is selected to partner with HGTV to conduct tours of the HGTV Dream Home to benefit a local charity. For the 2008 HGTV Dream Home, developer Ned Johnson of The Shore Partners, Inc., chose the Florida Keys Children's Shelter as the beneficiary. We are so thankful to have been a part of this exciting project! Each ticket purchased, for the home tour, went directly to benefit the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. At FKCS, we're dedicated to providing the best possible short- and long-term care through our programs for at-risk children. This was truly a once-in-a-life-time opportunity!

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Florida Keys Children's Shelter and the HGTV Dream Home as this was a great event and fundraiser. The HGTV Dream Home was a huge success and raised \$110,000.00. The 62 days the tours were open took countless volunteer hours. We had many volunteers who faithfully showed up week after week to help the agency staff the HGTV Dream Home. We would like to thank all of the volunteers. We would particularly like to thank Ned Johnson and Jimmy Pruett of the Shore at Islamorada for making this a possibility. Also, a huge thank you goes to Kathy Rogers of the Shore Development and Kym Collins of TIB Bank. Without both of them, this event would not have happened. We could not have been successful without the help of the Village of Islamorada staff and City Manager, the support from the Village Council, Captain Fanelli and Chief Wagner.

## THE HGTV DREAM HOME WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND RAISED \$110,000.00.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those folks at HGTV that selected Islamorada as the site for the 2008 HGTV Dream Home. We would like to thank Jack Thomasson, Donna Thomasson, Terri Corcoran, Shannon Driver and Stephanie Barchi. Finally, a thank you to the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce and the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce. Both Judy Hull and Jackie Harder did an absolute wonderful job in assisting visitors and truly showing just why Islamorada and the Florida Keys are a dream location for a dream home. The dream home had more than 11,000 visitors, and we would like to thank each and every one of them!



# TODAY

*We often forget that what a child will be  
tomorrow is being developed today.*

*Join Florida Keys Children's Shelter in making success out of uncertainty.*

## FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

Federal awards	\$ 256,870
State financial assistance	754,831
Other grants and contracts	845,997
Special events	402,855
In-kind contributions	109,150
Contributions	61,074
Interest and dividends	13,485
Unrealized gain on investments	(29,933)

### Total Revenue and Support

\$2,414,329

### EXPENSES

Program Services	
Children/Families	\$ 437,717
CINS/FINS Shelter	532,738
Poinciana Emergency Shelter	221,961
Poinciana Group Home	240,899
School Board Counselors	234,106
Jeleva Counselors	81,922
Project Outreach	135,550
Runaway and Homeless	138,306

### Total Program Services

\$2,023,199

### Support Services

Management and general	\$ 182,172
Fund raising	271,670

### Total Support Services

\$ 453,842

### Total Expenses

\$2,477,041

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS (\$ 62,712)

NET ASSETS, beginning of year \$ 1,251,855

NET ASSETS, end of year \$ 1,189,143

## Board of Directors

### Executive Council

#### Chair

Kurt Rockenbach

Owner, All Things Industrial

#### Vice Chair

William T. Le Dent

Pastor, Photographer

#### Treasurer

Hon. Kym Collins

Vice President, TIB Bank of the Keys

#### Secretary

Capt. Don Fanelli

District Commander, Islamorada Sheriff's Office

#### Board Development Chair

Andy Griffiths, Jr.

School Board Member, Charter Boat Captain

#### Fundraising Chair

Karen Goodwin

Vice President/Branch Manager, Orion Bank, Marathon

#### Government & Community Relations Chair

Joe Roth

Insurance Agent, Regan Insurance

#### Youth Representative

Marcy Brandjes

Marathon High School

## Board of Trustees

Steven Pribramsky

Partner, Pribramsky & Zuelch Accounting Firm

Hon. Mike Puto

Board of Directors, Member of the Florida Keys

Electric Cooperative, Marathon

Hon. Richard Roth

Sheriff, Monroe County

Hon. Joanne Wills

Juvenile Judge (Retired)

## Management Team

*Our management team at the Florida Keys Children's Shelter has many years of combined experience dealing with at-risk children and their problems. Their wealth of experience is joined with a commitment to provide excellent service*

*to our clients and the creativity to try new approaches if the conventional ones are not working. Our clients directly*

*benefit from our team members' enthusiasm for what they do and their deep conviction that every child is important.*

### Kathy Tuell, President/CEO

Kathy Tuell came to FKCS in September of 1995 after two years in senior management at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Her previous experience includes development, strategic planning and communication positions at two hospitals and a reporter position at an Oklahoma newspaper. She is also past president of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, which distributes Department of Juvenile Justice funds to 22 child-serving agencies in the State of Florida, including FKCS. As President/CEO, Tuell oversees all FKCS programs and, as the only employee of the Board of Directors, she is accountable for achieving the Board's objectives for the agency.

### David Bley, Chief Financial Officer

David Bley came to FKCS with 18 years of financial experience at the University of Delaware, most recently as senior accountant in Facilities Administration. His extensive knowledge of budgets and contract management was excellent preparation for assuming the duties of chief financial officer of FKCS in June 2004. He is responsible for making sure that the financial records of the organization are kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices for not-for-profit organizations. Dave also oversees Information Technology and Human Resources.

### Bill Mann, Chief Operating Officer

Bill Mann first came to FKCS in May 2000, when he was hired as a youth advocate. Soon afterward, he was promoted to team leader, then to operations manager. In July 2004, he became staff development director. In September 2007, he was promoted to chief operating officer. As COO, Mann plans for, implements and monitors the effectiveness of the shelter's residential and non-residential programs. He also develops new programs and services as community needs evolve.

### Ron McMahon, Quality Improvement Manager

Ron McMahon moved to the Keys from Pennsylvania, where he held a variety of social service positions, most recently administrator of Columbia County Children and Youth Services. He was hired as FKCS quality improvement manager in February 2006. McMahon is the expert on the quality assurance requirements of our funding agencies and accrediting body. It is his job to prepare FKCS for the numerous visits of these organizations each year as they check our compliance with contract and accreditation standards.

### Janey Miller, Chief Development Officer

Janey R. Miller, chief development officer, joined the senior management staff of the Florida Keys Children's Shelter in August 2007. She came to FKCS from a career in higher education, most recently as the vice president for institutional advancement at a private liberal arts college in Nebraska. There Janey was responsible for the creation and management of all programs related to public and external relations, fundraising and student recruitment. As stated by the president of York College upon her departure, "Janey has done an outstanding job of breaking fundraising records of our institution for many years, and an incredible job of surpassing her goals, and increasing the donor base of our college far beyond any time in our history." Janey hopes to continue building on this successful track record for FKCS.

### Kelli Brower, Director of Community Relations

Kelli Brower came to FKCS in August 2007 as the project director of the HGTV Dream Home Tours. She then accepted a full-time position as the director of community relations. She now handles special events and produces the agency's publications and press releases.

### Angie Kemmer, Counseling Services Director

The Kemmer family has lived in the Islamorada area since 2000. Her husband Ben also works for FKCS and together they are raising four young children. Angie graduated from the University of Illinois, with a Masters in Social Work, in 1999. She obtained her Clinical Licensure in 2008. Angie has worked in local agencies since 2000, providing social services and mental health treatment to children and families of the Upper Keys. Angie's vision for the Community Based Counseling program is to build upon existing resources while strengthening the basis of the CINS/FINS services through evidence-based assessment and counseling.

### Ben Kemmer, Staff Development Director

Ben Kemmer was an advocate for runaways and a health educator with a youth advocacy program in Bloomington, IL, before he accepted the position of youth advocate at FKCS in March 2001. He also served as team leader and operations manager at FKCS before assuming his current position. In September 2007, he became staff development director. In this position at FKCS, Kemmer runs our multi-faceted staff development program. The program begins with a two-week orientation on basic shelter procedures and continues with CPR, first aid and a nationally recognized curriculum of classes which staff members must pass to be certified as residential child and youth care professionals.

### Jeffrey Mitchell, Residential Program Coordinator

Jeffrey Mitchell was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. After volunteering four years at a New York City 24-hour suicide hotline, he decided to pursue a career in counseling. In August 2007, Jeff accepted the position as residential program coordinator. As program coordinator, Jeff manages all aspects of the residential program at our Plantation Key shelter, with the exception of therapeutic activities.

### Jai Somers, Street Outreach Coordinator

Jai graduated from the University of South Florida with a master's degree in Women's Studies with a minor in Fine Arts. Born in Canada and raised in Hollywood, FL, she moved to Key West six years ago. Her interests in art therapy and social work led her to begin working for the Florida Keys Children's Shelter in November 2007 as a community-based counselor and part-time outreach worker at Project Lighthouse. In April 2008, she began directing the street outreach program.

## FKCS Employee List

David Bley

Lorriann Blowers

Kelli Brower

Shirley Brown

Marquiva Bryant

Diann Butler

Silvia Capuano

Loriann Colleparidi

Peter Conde

Teresa Conrads

Brian Corley

Dora Corley

Douglas Gifford

Mercedes Guevara

Clifford Hartman

Wendy Holifield

Angela Kemmer

Benjamin Kemmer

William Mann

Jennifer McGill

Richard McGill

Ronald McMahon

Janey Miller

Jeffrey Mitchell

Lachina Morley

Patricia Owens

Anays Perez

Anthony Pica

Rachell Reid

Maria Sardinias

Jaime Jo Somers

Alexandrea Sorrentino

Rose Spratt

Stacey Swain

Kathleen Tuell

Ana Zambrana

# LETTER TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

We would like to express our deep appreciation to our major funding agencies: Wesley House Family Services, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, Department of Children & Families, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The work we do would not be possible without their crucial support.

These agencies provide basic funding, anticipating our local communities to support the programs they fund. In fact, almost \$525,000—about 25% of our total budget—must be raised each year from other sources to cover program costs. We are very fortunate at the Florida Keys Children's Shelter to have a community that supports us so generously. Monroe County government also provides significant support each year. There are also hundreds of donors who support us on a regular basis. We are very grateful to all of them. And we can't forget the local residents and businesses that give us in-kind donations for the children at our shelters—things like free movies, restaurant meals, clothes and toys.

We are also grateful for our community's support of the many events each year that raise funds for FKCS. Perhaps the most well-known is the annual Black & White Ball. Started in 1986, the ball has become an increasingly important source of funds.

The 2008 Black & White Ball, which had a "Hollywood Dreams" theme, raised a net total of almost \$65,000 for FKCS. The gala event was held on March 29 under huge white tents on the beach at Morada Bay in Islamorada. Six singles, three men and three women, competed for the honor of reigning as King and Queen of the Ball by raising money for the shelter. Tom Smith and Stacie

Krupa, who raised the most money, were crowned King and Queen. Their worthy opponents, Christi Allen, Michelle Young, Mike Anzalone and Dr. Travis Bennett were named to the Royal Court. Months of fundraising created some very memorable events. We appreciate everyone's hard work and creativity. Our grateful thanks to all of the Royal Court members and to the entire Black & White Ball committee, chaired by Lyndsey McGlasson and Holly Stewart.

Another popular event that benefits the Florida Keys Children's Shelter is the Mayor's Ball and Auction. The sixth annual Mayor's Ball was held at the Westin Resort and Marina on Friday, December 7. Special thanks to our honorary host, Key West Mayor Morgan McPherson, to Bill Hoebee, our celebrity auctioneer, and to our sponsors Comcast, Cooke Communications and The Gardens Hotel. It was a wonderful evening that raised a net total of almost \$39,000 for FKCS.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Can you believe how quickly the years seem to fly by? My grandmother always told me this would happen, but I'm not ready—time passes too quickly.

With the beginning of a new year, more than any other time, I enjoy reminiscing and dreaming. Do you find yourself doing that? Your favorite memories may involve family traditions. I was thinking about this and it occurred to me that it's the personal touches we add to ordinary things that makes our memories special.

Sadly, the majority of the children and teens that need our help do not have many happy memories. However, because of people like you they do have dreams. For most, their dreams may be all they have to get them through some very tough times. We need your help to keep their dreams alive and to continue to provide a safe place for these kids to dream.

To accomplish this we have created the Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends, and we would like to invite and encourage you to join. Dream Keepers are our contributors that make a difference in the lives of our kids every month. A child's needs are constant, and our funding from contracts only meets 70% to 75% of those daily and monthly needs. However, we must provide 100% care every day because children need 100% of their needs met!

To support our children and teens we need consistent monthly support. Be a charter member of our Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends. Membership is easy. Simply choose the level of giving that works best for you. Then complete the enclosed card and return it to the Florida Keys Children's Shelter at 73 High Point Road, Tavernier, FL 33070. Every monthly donation at any level will directly benefit our children! Will you become a Dream Keeper?

You make the difference every day in the lives of our kids. Your willingness to support us through your financial gifts is priceless to many and to me personally. You are one of the most important ingredients to allowing and inspiring these kids to feel secure enough to dream.

We appreciate you all the time; nevertheless, I want to extend an extra thank you as we begin a new year. Thank you for all that you do to help us. I wish you and your family health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Janey R. Miller  
Chief Development Officer

*Dream Keepers' are our contributors that make a difference in the lives of our kids every month. A child's needs are constant. To support our children and teens we need consistent monthly support. Be a charter member of our Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends. Membership is easy. Simply choose the level of giving that works best for you. Every monthly donation at any level will directly benefit our children!*

\_\_\_\_ **Platinum Circle** Monthly donations of \$250.00 and greater

\_\_\_\_ **Gold Circle** Monthly donations of \$100.00 to \$249.99

\_\_\_\_ **Bronze Circle** Monthly donations up to \$49.99

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Dream Keeper monthly donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We will send a monthly contribution. \_\_\_\_ Please contact me/us to enroll in the automatic monthly program.

\_\_\_\_ I/We will make a donation today for \_\_\_\_\_ for our annual membership in the Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends instead of a monthly donation.

Monthly donations can be mailed to the **Florida Keys Children's Shelter, 73 High Point Rd, Tavernier, FL 33070**. For your convenience, we will be happy to set up easy automatic monthly payments from a bank or charge account, or you can set this up on your own.

**Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends makes paradise a safer place for our most vulnerable kids.**



SAFE KIDS ★ STRONG FAMILIES ★ HEALTHY COMMUNITY



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FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, INC.**

{ [www.fkcs.org](http://www.fkcs.org) }

**Administrative Office**  
73 High Point Road  
Tavernier, FL 33070  
Phone: 305-852-4246  
Fax: 305-852-6902

**Key West Satellite Office**  
5503 College Road  
Suite 2085  
Key West, FL 33040  
Phone: 305-295-3122  
Fax: 305-295-3125

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Our Dream Keepers encourage and inspire all of us to reach for and achieve new and better dreams for the future of our most vulnerable children and teens in Monroe County. Shouldn't these kids feel safe enough to dream?

*Kindly fill and mail our Dream Keepers' pledge card and help us make their dreams come true.*

*To learn more, please visit [fkcs.org](http://fkcs.org)*

*Dream about this... If 125 individuals and families became Silver Circle Dream Keepers' at the middle range, the Florida Keys Children's Shelter would receive \$112,500 from the charter members in the first year.  
— Dreams really can come true!*