



2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY, LIVE IN THE MOMENT
AND COME TOGETHER FOR OUR

CHILDREN.

FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN'S SHELTER, INC.

There are many ways to measure the success of an organization – longevity, accolades, numbers served, contract requirements, and new program acquisition among them. So let's take a look at where we've been and how we are doing:

LONGEVITY

Over twenty years ago a dedicated group of local community members set out to right a wrong. Without a local organization to care for children removed from their families due to allegations of abuse or neglect, children were held in the County jails. These men and women started the slow and often frustrating process of giving birth to a not-for-profit organization. They raised money. They built a building. They are the strong foundation upon which this organization was allowed to grow and, hopefully flourish. We thank them for their foresight, their perseverance, their compassion for the most vulnerable of our young people.

Twenty years is not a long time compared to organizations that have been around one hundred years. But in this day and age, with the constant erosion of the government funding that forms the major underwriting of these programs, each additional year of service stands as a testament to the tenacity of the community to care for its children. This public-private (government-donor) partnership is tenuous at best, buffeted each year by legislative philosophy, the state of government coffers, political will, the economy and the attention of the public. It takes strong, steadfast supporters who believe in the work – every moment of every day, year in and year out. We have such friends – you know who you are – and you, too, are the foundation of everything we do. We thank you for making sure this great effort continues to be the best it can be.

ACCOLADES, NUMBERS, CONTRACTS AND PROGRAMS

It is not humanly possible for every day to be a perfect day. But, every once-in-a-while in the history of an organization, we achieve something extraordinary and others notice. And each success opens a new door to further growth and achievement. Here are a few: Florida Network Agency of the Year (1999), opened Poinciana Emergency Home for young children (2001), opened Poinciana Group Home (2003), achieved national accreditation (2004), opened Project Lighthouse Street Outreach Program (2005), became a Johns Hopkins University Listening Post Project Partner (2006), achieved 4-star rating from Charity Navigator (2008), Re-Accreditation (2008), HGTV Dream Home partnership (2008), and Florida Network Top Performer Award for meeting 100% of contractual requirements (2009), became an AmeriCorp service site (2009). In twenty years we have served over 22,000 children, youth and families in our varied programs. Not too bad for one of the smallest, rural and most isolated agencies in Florida!

While all of the above makes us immensely proud, it is not how we measure success. We measure our successes, and our failures, through the eyes of each child, each young person, each family member. Through the tears, the laughter, the challenges faced by struggling young people and their families. Life, as we see it on a daily basis, is sometimes messy, and for some folks it is down-right scary. Human beings are capable of such beauty, compassion and achievement. And human beings are also capable of making foolish decisions and harmful choices. Our job is not to judge, but to help, and to help as many times as it takes for each child, each young person, each family to heal and move forward in a positive way. Now THAT is success worth celebrating!

Kathleen Sullivan



WORK IN PROGRESS

As a community, we take pride in the rich history of the Florida Keys and the many diverse organizations and individuals that have formed with that history. We are a unique community spread over more than 30 inhabited Keys, connected by a common love for the environment, and energized by the abundance of God's love that surrounds us. Our accomplishments are measured not only by the thousands served through our not-for-profit organizations but by the high numbers of committed staff, Boards, donors and volunteers. These individuals give time, energy and resources to all our organizations. As a citizen, I'm amazed at the diversity of thought that produces assistance for our friends in their time of need. We are truly blessed.

Since 1989, The Florida Keys Children's Shelter, has weathered a variety of natural, and financial storms. Through its history, individuals have emerged to focus on the mission of providing programs and services to keep children and young people, safe, and strengthen families. It's unfortunate that instances exist when a child staying at home is not an option. Without the work of our staff of professionals, volunteers and the financial donations of many the threat to our children would increase. The reality of moving our children from this rural atmosphere to an urban environment threatens the future of the community we serve. Raising donations during this shrinking economy becomes exponentially more important and at the same time more difficult. Volunteers are tested by the growing needs of their "Cause", and the needs of their families. This inevitable clash is intensified by the reduction of available time that can be allocated to the "Cause".

As Chairman of the Board, I thank those that have assisted the Shelter through the years -- to those that have joined our cause; I invite new participants to donate and keep track of our progress. I'm proud of our staff and Board of Directors, and countless volunteers that hold fast to the endeavor of providing a, "soft catch," for those displaced, disenfranchised or forgotten. We are a caretaker of a dream that will bring better service to more than just children and families but to students, and therefore our future. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Kurt W. Rockenbach

Kurt W. Rockenbach
Chairman



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 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 Florida Keys Children's 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 E-newsletter at fkcs.org under the News section of our website. You may also join our mailing list by emailing your request to newsletter@fkcs.org.

At our website, 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!

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS PARTNERS WITH PURPOSE

"Unless we think of others and do something for them, we miss one of the greatest sources of happiness."

Ray Lyman Wilbur

Many, many people have partnered with FKCS over the past twenty years. These special partners have made a deliberate decision to invest in children, teens and families in the Keys. They are our Partners with Purpose. Year after year, these individuals and business leaders continue to support our programs. Our partners give greatly to ensure the children of Monroe County will have the opportunity for a better life. It may be through volunteering in our programs or in the planning and executing of an event, and it also involves sharing their financial resources to meet the needs of our kids and families.

Over the last several months, we have had to say "good-bye" to three of our distinguished partners. Each of these individuals was a "giant" on the behalf of children and for the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. From the very beginning they understood the need for FKCS and labored to make it a reality – giving of their time, energy and finances so children would have a safe place to be.

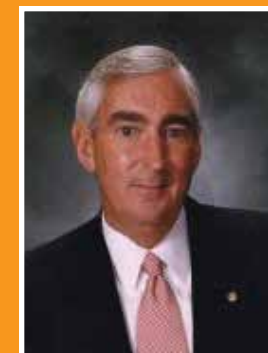
We will miss these outstanding individuals and we are very honored to have had the sincere pleasure of their meaningful partnership. We offer our concern and heartfelt sympathies to their families and friends. And we join with them in remembering and celebrating their exceptional commitments to making the world a better place.

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Etienne de Grellet



"SIS"
CAROLINE STUART KELM



EDWARD VINCENT LETT



RONALD GEORGE HERRON

THE DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN FOR 2008–2009

*Our programs served 735 clients during 2008–2009.
Residential Care served 148 clients;
Non-Residential and Counseling Care served 589 clients.*

JELSEMA CHILDREN'S CENTER

*Short-term Emergency Placement
Youth 11 through 17 years of age
Served 122 clients*

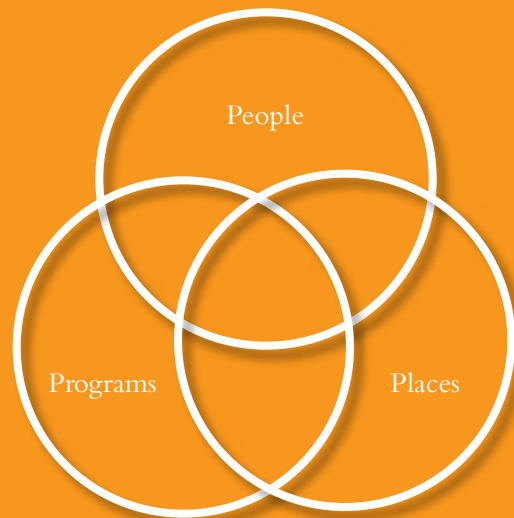
POINCIANA EMERGENCY SHELTER

*Short-term and Long-term Placement
Newborns through 10 years of age
Served 13 clients*

POINCIANA GROUP HOME

*Long-term Placement
Youth 11 through 17 years of age
Served 11 clients*

PEOPLE | PROGRAMS | PLACES



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.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Federal Awards	\$ 280,352
State Financial Assistance	678,768
Other grants and contracts	796,200
Special Events	41,197
In-kind contributions	76,840
Contributions	259,981
Interest and dividends	12,931
Unrealized loss on investments	(56,492)
Net assets released from restrictions	446

Total Revenue and Support

2,090,223

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Jelsema Emergency Shelter Services	305,325
CIN/FINS Temporary Shelter Services	677,712
Poinciana Emergency Shelter	230,139
Poinciana Group Home	246,744
Community Based Counselors	225,339
Jelsema Counselors	65,446
Project Lighthouse Street Outreach	135,466
Jelsema Runaway and Homeless Services	206,506

Total Program Services

2,092,677

Support Services

208,090

Total Expenses

2,300,767

DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

(210,544)

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Donations	11,500
Net assets released from restrictions	(446)

Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

11,054

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS

(199,490)

NET ASSETS, beginning of year

1,189,143

NET ASSETS, end of year

989,653

Our leadership 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 AND 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. Kathy also serves on the National Youth Policy Council and is on the SENetwork Board.

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.

JANEY MILLER, CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Janey Rhyan Miller, Chief Development Officer, joined the Leadership Team in August 2007. Prior to her work at FKCS, Janey was Vice President for Institutional Advancement for York College. During her time with FKCS she has worked to secure the necessary funding to support and maintain all programs. This has been a challenge due to the current economic climate; however, through the commitment of many FKCS set a new high in financial contributions from the private sector.

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.

BEN KEMMER, CHIEF LEARNING AND EVALUATION OFFICER

Ben Kemmer was an Advocate for runaway children and a Health Educator with a youth advocacy organization in Bloomington, IL, before he accepted the position of Youth Advocate at FKCS in March 2001. He also served as Team Leader, FKCS Residential Coordinator and Staff Development Director at FKCS before assuming his current position. In September 2009, Kemmer became Chief Learning and Evaluation Officer for FKCS. In this position, Kemmer is responsible for building organizational strength through the development and implementation of a culture of learning and evaluation throughout all programs and levels of the organization.

LORIANN COLLEPARDI, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Loriann graduated from Brenau University with a master's degree in Clinical Counseling Psychology in 2006. During her internships there she worked with at-risk children with behavioral and mental health issues and their families. Loriann moved to Tavernier in January 2007 to begin working as a Community Based Counselor for the Florida Keys Children's Shelter. In August 2007 she began providing services to children and families served by the Residential Program in Plantation Key. Loriann accepted the position of Residential Program Coordinator in May 2009, managing all aspects of the Plantation Key Shelter, with the exception of therapeutic services.

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.

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.

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Owner, All Things Industrial

WILLIAM LE DENT, VICE CHAIRMAN
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KYM COLLINS, TREASURER
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CAPTAIN DON FANELLI, SECRETARY
Monroe County Sheriff

ANDY GRIFFITHS, JR.
Charter Boat Captain, Monroe County School Board Chair

JAY ROURKE
Owner/Managing Partner, Waterfront Fine Homes

COL. RICK RAMSAY
Under Sheriff Monroe County

MARINA KAY WIATT
Student Representative, Marathon High School

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KATHY TUELL
Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Inc.

TRUSTEES

STEVEN PRIBRAMSKY
Pribramsky & Zuelch Accounting Firm

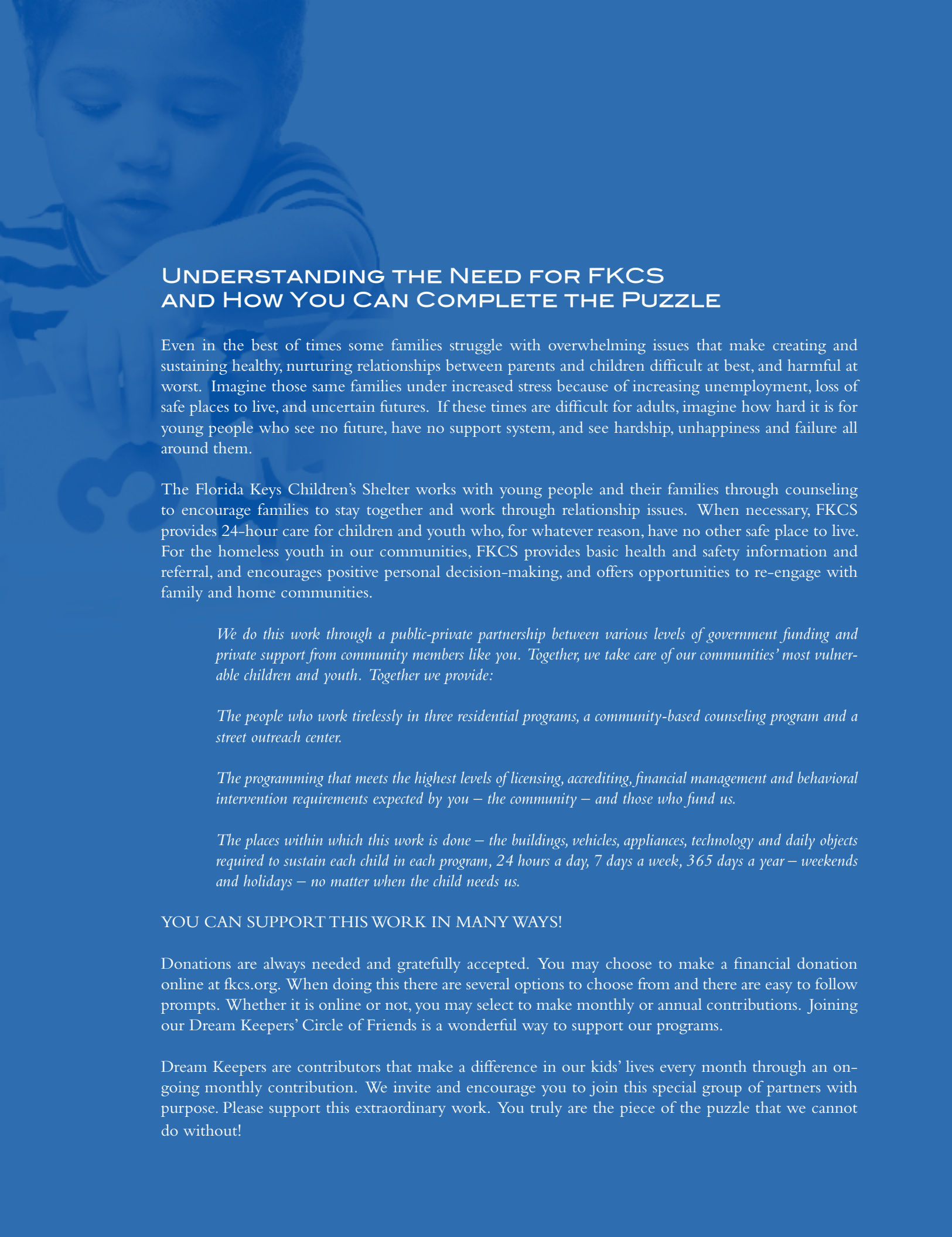
HON. MIKE PUTO
*Florida Keys Electric Cooperative, Marathon
Board of Directors*

HON. RICHARD ROTH
Sheriff (Retired), Monroe County

HON. JOANNE WILLS
Juvenile Judge (Retired)

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MICHAEL SAWYER
REBECCA SAWYER
JAI SOMERS
ALEX SORRENTINO



UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR FKCS AND HOW YOU CAN COMPLETE THE PUZZLE

Even in the best of times some families struggle with overwhelming issues that make creating and sustaining healthy, nurturing relationships between parents and children difficult at best, and harmful at worst. Imagine those same families under increased stress because of increasing unemployment, loss of safe places to live, and uncertain futures. If these times are difficult for adults, imagine how hard it is for young people who see no future, have no support system, and see hardship, unhappiness and failure all around them.

The Florida Keys Children's Shelter works with young people and their families through counseling to encourage families to stay together and work through relationship issues. When necessary, FKCS provides 24-hour care for children and youth who, for whatever reason, have no other safe place to live. For the homeless youth in our communities, FKCS provides basic health and safety information and referral, and encourages positive personal decision-making, and offers opportunities to re-engage with family and home communities.

We do this work through a public-private partnership between various levels of government funding and private support from community members like you. Together, we take care of our communities' most vulnerable children and youth. Together we provide:

The people who work tirelessly in three residential programs, a community-based counseling program and a street outreach center.

The programming that meets the highest levels of licensing, accrediting, financial management and behavioral intervention requirements expected by you – the community – and those who fund us.

The places within which this work is done – the buildings, vehicles, appliances, technology and daily objects required to sustain each child in each program, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – weekends and holidays – no matter when the child needs us.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS WORK IN MANY WAYS!

Donations are always needed and gratefully accepted. You may choose to make a financial donation online at fkcs.org. When doing this there are several options to choose from and there are easy to follow prompts. Whether it is online or not, you may select to make monthly or annual contributions. Joining our Dream Keepers' Circle of Friends is a wonderful way to support our programs.

Dream Keepers are contributors that make a difference in our kids' lives every month through an on-going monthly contribution. We invite and encourage you to join this special group of partners with purpose. Please support this extraordinary work. You truly are the piece of the puzzle that we cannot do without!



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
- Silver Circle** Monthly donations of \$50.00 to \$99.99
- 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.



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

To learn more, please visit 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 members every year.

— Dreams really can come true!



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