



**Wesley House
Family Services**

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009, VOLUME I, ISSUE I

NARCELINE CLAIRJUSTE RECEIVES AWARD

At the May 7th Child Professionals Day in Miami, the Miami-Dade CBC Alliance and Our Kids Miami-Dade/Monroe honored Narceline Clairjuste, Family Support Supervisor from Wesley House. She was one of ten to receive a Child Welfare Professionals Award at the ceremony.

Narceline has worked for Wesley House Family Services in Key West for three years. During that time she has proven herself to be one of the most reliable and versatile employees in the agency. As a Family Support Supervisor for Wesley House, she is a dedicated professional with a passion for helping children. Narceline handles her multifac-

eted job responsibilities with cool efficiency, even in the face of chaotic and sudden changes in circumstances. She manages her small staff with an eye toward maximizing efficiency and playing to strengths, as she tries to improve and expand the scope of the visitation program in cost-effective ways. She also serves a vital role as the only Creole-speaking member of Wesley House's staff. Her linguistic proficiency (she also speaks French) has proven critical on many occasions.

Narceline says, "Thanks a lot for the recognition. It was a great ceremony and listening to all the people there, so devoted like us,

for the safety of the children makes me realize that I want to go forward in that field. I did in the past receive compliments or awards from some employer's content of my performance at work, but it was never something like this."



Narceline Clairjuste

FOSTER CHILDREN'S FUND GETS A BOOST!

The Conch Republic Foster Children's Fund, administered by Wesley House Family Services, received donations of \$35,937 from several recent fundraisers: the Conch Republic Royal Investiture (\$17,502), 801 Bingo (\$1,729), Bowling at NAS (\$1706) and matching

funds of \$15,000 in the name of Steeven Knight, CEO and founder of the Key West Harbor Yacht Club and Yacht Clubs of the Americas. The Fund provides a source of money for non-recurring, special expenses for foster children in Monroe County, such as a

band trip, a graduation ring or a prom dress; no money is used for administrative expenses. Special thanks go to Chris Lippa and Jean Zeman who helped to organize the Bowling event at NAS, and to James Gilleran and R.V. Beaumont for once again donating and

OUR MISSION

Promoting and enhancing the safety, well-being and development of children by educating, supporting and meeting the needs of families.



During the past year, the agency's services have helped more than 2,800 children and families in Monroe County.

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FOSTER CHILDREN'S FUND (CONT.)



2009 Queen Leigh Fox, WHFS Events Coordinator, Mary Falconer, and Sir Peter Anderson, Secretary General of the Conch Republic.

hosting 801 Bingo to benefit the Fund.

Finally, thanks to Sir Peter Anderson, founder of the Fund, who rallied 27 people to run for Royal Office at the Annual

Conch Republic Royal Investiture held at the Green Parrot. Thanks to our 2009 Royal Family: Queen Leigha Fox, Queen Emeritus Ellen Varela, Howard Livingston, Carrie Trumbo, Sean Fisher,

Josh Fisher, Jeremy Fisher, Tioti Whitehurst, Wendy Carlisle, Lalla Rook Tompkins, Suzanne Jackson, Beth Moyes, Tammie Murray, Scott Shores, Bill Hobe, Brian Anderson, C. Michael Thompson, Dee Mogavero, Caroline Ford Cotton, Dixie Henkel, Gary Legge, Kevin May, Laura Breeden, Mary Katherine Stump, Catherine Feeney, Nicole Cates, and Richard Bedore.

Sir Peter Anderson, WHFS CEO Doug Bloomberg and Steeven Knight at the check presentation.



BOTTLE CAP BIRTHDAY BASH

THIS IS THE 2ND TIME IN 2009 THAT BOTTLE CAP OWNERS CAROLYN & CARMELO HAVE HELPED WHFS RAISE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS.

On Friday, May 29th, the Bottle Cap Lounge hosted a birthday bash for WHFS Board Member Julio J. Barroso and Associate Board Member Kelly Croce Sorg. This is the second time in 2009 that Bottle Cap owners Carolyn Sullivan and Carmelo Vitale have helped Wesley House raise much-needed funds for its programs. Both Julio and Kelly asked that no

gifts be given, just donations to Wesley House. There was fabulous 80's music by DJ Chaka Chandler, hors d'oeuvres by the Rum Barrel, cake by Publix, and a 50/50 raffle. Other sponsors included Love in Bloom Florist, 901 Signs & Design and DZINE, Inc. Guest bartenders were Burton Aldrich from Southern Wine & Spirits and Annie Hamer of First State Bank.

The event raised almost \$1,700 for Wesley House and everyone had a great time!



Bottle Cap Owner Carolyn Sullivan

HURRICANE/EMERGENCY PLAN

There are times when Wesley House Family Services may have to close for an emergency, including inclement weather. Staff and families/clients should call the following emergency numbers in case of severe weather or another type of emergency in Monroe County:

- Wesley House: 305.809.5000
- Inez Martin: 305.296.5231
- Monroe County: 800.427.8340
- National Weather Service: 305.295.1316 (Key West) or 305.229.4522 (Miami)
- National Hurricane Center: 305.229.4402
- Public Safety Information Line: 305.289.6018

Staff and families/clients must listen to radio stations throughout the hurricane season. Radio stations throughout the Keys will broadcast information about closings. These include:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| WWUS 104.1 | WIIS 107.1 | WEOW 92.7 |
| WKEY 93.5 | WAIL 99.5 | KONK AM 1630 |
| WKEZ 96.9 | WCTH 100.3 | WFKZ 103.1 |
| WCNK 98.7 | WKYZ 101.3 | WFFG AM1300 |

Online information can be found at:

- National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.gov
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Wesley House Emergency: <http://alerts.wesleyhouse.org>

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION DAY

May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month, and every year we honor those people who open up their homes as foster parents.

On May 17th, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe and Wesley House held their annual "Foster Parent Appreciation Day" at Theater of the Sea in Islamorada. The event was very successful, drawing 35 foster parents and 19 children for a day of mingling with dolphins, sea lions, par-

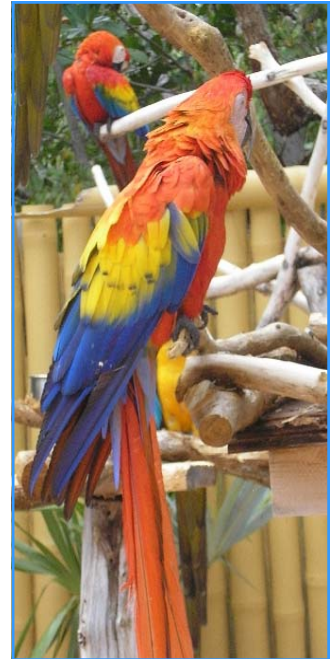
rots and other exotic birds.

Ten children were selected to touch the bottlenose dolphins, two of whom performed for the foster families. Then it was on to the Sea Lion Show where Mimi the sea lion offered hugs, kisses or handshakes to the children, most of whom wanted hugs.

The day ended with a bottomless boat ride through the lagoon. We are deeply grateful to the staff at Theater of

the Sea for organizing such a special day for these very special people.

Foster parents are an integral part of the services Wesley House provides to the community. Without the supervision they provide to children in licensed care, the system would never work. We need more foster families than ever, so if you would like to help, please contact us at 305-809-5000. The rewards are priceless.



17TH ANNUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

The 17th Annual Early Childhood Conference, "Teachers Light the Way," took place on Saturday, May 2nd at Marathon High School. Two hundred fifty people attended the day-long conference filled with activities and educational workshops for child care providers, parents and others. There were more than 35 presentations given throughout the day.

This year's Keynote speaker was the entertaining Shawn Brown from the Super Fun Club who led sessions in "Tough Transitions Made Fun with Music" and "Dynamic Puppetry and Storytelling." Lunchtime entertainment was provided by Sam Demming, a local performer.

The Conference was sponsored by the Early Childhood

Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Orion Bank, the Ocean Reef Foundation, Kaplan Early Learning Coalition, Crystal Water, Carolyn Sullivan and Carmelo Vitale.

Shawn Brown
performing



KIDS' KORNER BY ANNE HOYT

Are you looking for fun (and inexpensive) ways to entertain your kids this summer? Try a few of these:

Buy cheap fly swatters and put bubble solution into a large bucket. Have the children dip the swatters into the bucket and use the swatter as a bubble wand. It makes tons of tiny bubbles! Kids love it.

Hang a large piece of white paper on a fence and allow the children to use markers, paint brushes and sponges to make designs on the paper.

Using Styrofoam meat trays, have the children drizzle blue colored glue onto the tray. Then sprinkle with sand. Glue on different types of shells and glitter. Add fish

stickers (or glue on Pepperidge Farm goldfish). Color with plastic clear wrap to look like an aquarium!

Make ice cream S'Mores in the microwave!

Ingredients:
Ice cream cones
Chocolate chips
Marshmallows

Soft caramels (like the kind used for caramel apples)
Paper cups

Have each child place his or her cone in a paper cup, so it will stand up. Unwrap one caramel and drop it into the cone, add a teaspoonful of chocolate chips, drop in the marshmallow and microwave for 15 seconds. Eat warm—kids love these!

OUR SERVICES

Wesley House provides many services to children and families throughout the Florida Keys, including:

- Recruitment, training and support of Monroe County foster parents
- Transitioning skills for teens exiting foster care & graduating to self sufficiency as adults
- Road to Independence Program providing services to young adults exiting foster care
- Support & education for prospective adoptive parents
- Free public adoptions with continued guidance & support as new families are establishing
- Both voluntary & court-ordered preventative home visitations to keep family units intact
- Intensive short-term crisis intervention services
- "Nurturing Parenting" classes
- Dedicated case manager preservation services for investigated & verified reports of abuse, neglect or abandonment
- Preservation services are also available to troubled families on a free, voluntary basis
- Financial assistance for child care for income-eligible families
- Free childhood education and community services, including resource & referral information
- Free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten available in public schools, child care & faith-based centers
- Recruitment, training & technical assistance for early childhood education professionals
- Free consumable classroom materials for early childhood education providers
- Healthy Families-Monroe, providing voluntary in-home support to promote positive parent-child relationships for expectant families & newborns
- Two directly owned and operated Early Childhood Development Centers in Key West: Inez Martin and Frederick Douglass



Kids at Inez Martin Early Childhood Development Center, Key West

Wesley House Family Services is accredited by the prestigious International Council on Accreditation. The agency adheres to the "Best Practice" concept of developing and implementing the most efficient and effective way of delivering its services.

THANKS TO YOU

With support from generous individuals, foundations and corporations, Wesley House Family Services has helped more than 2,800 families and children in the Florida Keys. The following people have given \$100 or more from April 1-May 31, 2009.

Although space does not permit us to list all gifts, each contribution, no matter what size, is crucial to our efforts. Many thanks for your support.

(\$5,000 +)

Ocean Reef Foundation
Conch Republic Royal Investiture Event
Steeven Knight

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Bowling at NAS Event
Bottle Cap B'day Bash Event
801 Bourbon Bar
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Kenneth Gill
Keys' Children's Foundation
Orion Bank
Sloppy Joe's
Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor
Sean Fisher
Order Sons of Italy Lodge #2436
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Klein
Southernmost Entertainment
United Way of Monroe County

(\$500-\$999)

Hemingway House Museum
Cypress House

Stephen Delise
Lalla Rook Tompkins
Kaplan Early Learning Coalition
Tioti Whitehurst
Windswept, Inc.
(\$100-\$499)
All Keys Gas
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Aubry
Charles Comparetto
Lane Workman
Dudley Dommerich, Jr.
Paul Donnelly
Leslie Eadeh
The Laundry Loft
Bill Heller
Stephanie Howe
Chris Lippa
Mike Morawski
Harry J. Salvatore
Sippin' Internet Café

It's EASY TO DONATE ONLINE!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.WESLEYHOUSE.ORG

South Seas Rigging, Inc.
Southernmost Hotel Collection
Summerland Glass, Inc.
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United Way of Palm Beach County
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Tracy Leigh
Pirates of the Marquesas
Pirate Wellness Center
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Rudy Krause
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Phyllis Donahue
Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory