

voices for children of Broward County

INSIDE:

2023 Gratitude Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Letter from Leadership

As we celebrate another successful year at Voices for Children of Broward County, we are filled with a profound sense of gratitude and admiration for the incredible impact we have collectively made on the lives of children in foster care. This year marked two special milestones: celebrating a decade of supporting children in foster care and the grand opening of our first home, The Mimi Center of Hope. These milestones represent a significant step forward in our mission to provide support and advocacy for children in foster care in our community. We have the honor to lead this remarkable organization, and we are humbled by the dedication and generosity of our community.

The significance of our efforts extends well beyond mere statistics and figures. It shines through in the radiant smiles of children who have found hope and love. It resonates within the young lives we've supported, guiding them to reshape their paths, reimagine their futures, and reignite their dreams. We have worked hand in hand with foster families, caseworkers, and community partners to create a nurturing environment where every child feels valued and empowered. Through our tireless efforts, we have been able to navigate complex systems, remove barriers, and create pathways to success for these resilient children.

We continue to be a beacon of hope for children in foster care, providing them with the love, support, and opportunities they deserve. Our commitment to advocating for their well-being has not wavered, and the results speak for themselves. Together, we have made a transformative difference in their lives.

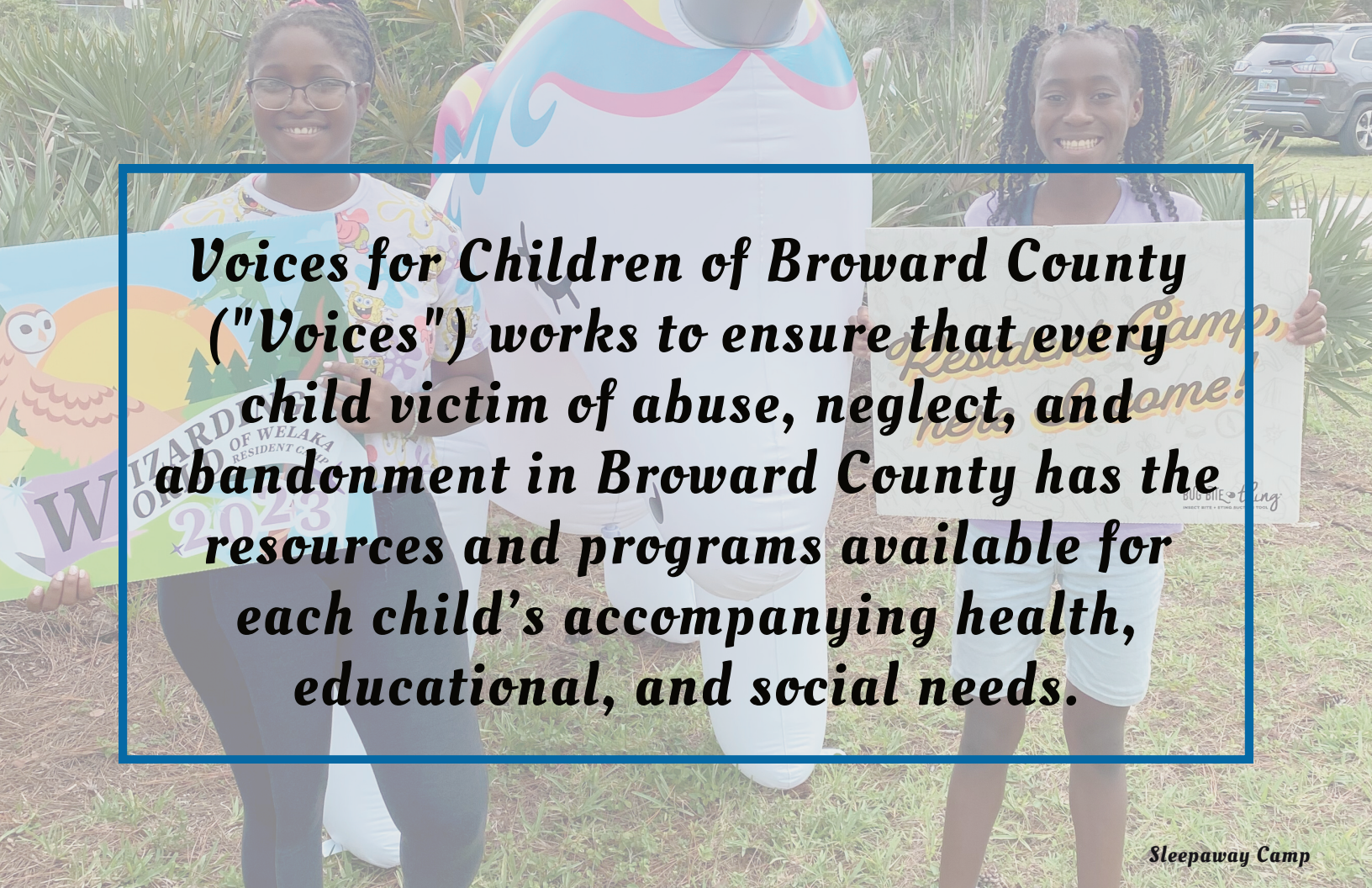
None of this would be possible without your unconditional support. Your belief in our mission and your generous contributions have fueled our efforts and propelled us forward. It is because of your compassion and commitment that we have been able to provide life-changing opportunities to children who have experienced unimaginable hardships.

From the bottom of our hearts, we extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Thank you for standing with us, for being a voice for the voiceless, and for making a lasting impact on the lives of children in foster care. Together, we are transforming their stories and shaping a brighter future.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Erica Herman
President & CEO

Rich Pruitt
Chair of Board of Directors



Voices for Children of Broward County ("Voices") works to ensure that every child victim of abuse, neglect, and abandonment in Broward County has the resources and programs available for each child's accompanying health, educational, and social needs.

Sleepaway Camp

voices for children of Broward County

Our Story ~ Celebrating 12 Years



2011
Voices is founded by community volunteers and officially established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

2014
Voices hired its first Executive Director/President & CEO

2015
Voices developed and launched new programs to better meet the needs of children in foster care

2017
Voices partnered with the 17th Judicial Circuit Court to create two Child Waiting Rooms on the Dependency floor to provide a safe haven for children

2019
Voices hosted its first Walt Disney World Dream BIG Day for 25 children in foster care

2020
Voices hired its second full-time team member - Vice President of Programs

2021
Voices added a new program: Fostering Hope

2022
Voices opened the new Mimi Center of Hope opened in Lauderdale Lakes

This year, Voices was invited by Magnovo Training Group to partner with Danone North America during their conference at Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort to receive hand stuffed (with love!) animals from the Danone North America team during their teambuilding session. Being able to witness the joy in everyone's face as they carefully crafted each stuffed animal was incredible. The involvement from our community to make the foster care experience is so impactful.



Our Work ~ Programs

Emergency & Normalcy Needs Program

Plays a crucial role in filling the gaps for children within the foster care system. By adopting a holistic approach, the program ensures that the unique needs of each individual are met, advocacy services are facilitated and appropriate referrals are provided to empower these children not only to overcome challenges but to thrive and flourish.

586 *Children received financial resources and advocacy support for individual, health, educational, and social needs*

Special Initiatives

The Emergency and Normalcy Needs Program has several specialized initiatives that support foster care children.

- Project Blue
- Summer Camp Initiative
- The RISE Initiative
- Dream BIG Grad Fund
- Donation drives to support Back-to-School, Holiday Wishes, and Baskets of Love events

475 *Backpacks provided*

5,125 *Holiday toys donated*

103 *Baskets of Love provided*

Our Work ~ Programs

Fostering Hope

Closes a critical gap for youth who are preparing for their transition to exit the foster care system towards independent living. Tailored for young adults aged 17 to 22, this program offers comprehensive support in areas such as housing, employment, education, wellness, and other essential aspects, facilitating a successful transition into adulthood.

15 *Youth were supported in the Fostering Hope Program*

'I've moved around a lot in the last few years, about 25 times now. Basketball has always been something I can rely on because it's always there when I need to get my mind off things. Miss Lammy was able to help me get on to a team in my neighborhood and took me shopping for new sneakers and gear. I didn't even realize the sneakers I was wearing were too small for my feet! There are a lot of new kids I've met playing ball and I finally feel like I fit in with everyone.'

~Marcus, age 15

School Break Food & Wellness Program

Bridges nutritional gaps that arise during the Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks by providing nourishing meals when school is not in session. Beyond meal provision, the program also empowers participating children to engage in physical fitness, sport, or a wellness activity of their preference. The associated costs for these activities are covered, enhancing the overall well-being of the children involved.



6,588
Meals were provided

21
Youth participated in sports through The Luke Hoyer Atheltic Fund

Our Work ~ Programs

Dream BIG Days

Closes the gap in enriching experiences for children in foster care by providing memory-making opportunities that restore a sense of normalcy. Through visits to enriching venues, cultural institutions, and events throughout the year, this program aims to bring moments of joy and growth to their lives.

Past days this year have included:

- Everglades Exploration
- Back-to-School Drive Shopping Extravaganza
- Brunch with Santa and Holiday Wishes



76 *Youth participated in a Dream BIG Day*

On July 16, 2022, Voices held a Dream BIG Day for 20 children and their Guardians ad Litem to Everglades Holiday Park. The day included an airboat ride, lunch, and a show hosted by the world famous Gator Boys. It was heartwarming to see all the attendees spend quality time with each other.

"I can't believe I got to see an alligator in real life! It was the coolest thing ever!"
Maya, age 9



Our New Home

The Mimi Center of Hope

In Summer 2022, we opened our doors to The Mimi Center of Hope. Our new home marks a turning point in our ability to better serve the children who rely on us. The Mimi Center of Hope allows us to provide comprehensive support to children in foster care, ensuring they have access to the resources and opportunities they deserve. It is a place where their voices will be heard, their needs will be addressed, and their dreams will be nurtured.

This physical presence symbolizes our commitment to:

- Innovative programs and initiatives, designed to address the unique challenges faced by children in foster care and empower them to reach their full potential.
- Dedicated space for growing partnerships and collaborations to provide higher quality programs and services for foster care children.
- Technology to better serve more complex cases, improve data collection, provide quality assurance, and demonstrate the impact we have on our community's most vulnerable youth.

The Mimi Center of Hope would not be possible without the generous founding donors from our Hearts of Hope: Building a Future. Leading this list of founding donors is philanthropists and advocates for children, Donna and Jim Inglis, who make supporting vulnerable youth a priority in their lives to ensure that the organizations they support are successful in fulfilling their missions.

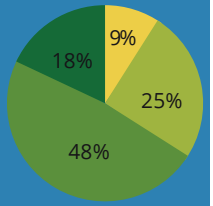
To learn more about our founding donors or for more information, scan the QR code.

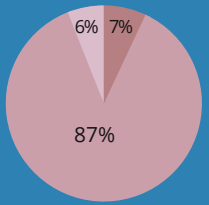


Financials

Revenue

Government Grants: 18%
Gifts, Corporations & Foundations: 48%
Special Events: 25%
In-Kind Donation: 9%





Expenses

Programs Services Expenses: 80%
Fundraising, Events, & In-Kind Expenses: 7%
Management & General Expenses: 6%



2022-2023 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Rich Pruitt - Board Chair -Carnival Cruise Line
Robert Kopf - Vice Chair - Community Volunteer and Philanthropist
Donna Inglis - Vice Chair - Community Volunteer and Philanthropist
Arielle Capuano, Esq. - Immediate Board Chair - Levinson & Capuano, LLC
Amy Goldin, Esq. - Member at Large - Amy H. Goldin, P.A.
Erica Herman - President & CEO - Voices for Children of Broward County

Board of Directors

Amy Bisceglia - AB Governmental Affairs
John Calabrese - Guggenheim Partners
Carlos DeBrito - Cox Automotive, Inc.
Emily Dmiszewicki - It'Sugar
Brittney Farwell - Trustbridge Hospice Foundation
Chase McCue - Hard Rock International
The Honorable Jackie Powell - 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida
Luz Carime Reveiz - American Express
Desiree Saunders - HANDY & HOMES
Deborah Steiner - Douglas Elliman Florida

Advisory Council

Louis Berlin - Berlin Consulting Group
Marty Elberg - Law Office of Martyn S. Elberg
Police Chief Manuel Marino - Port Orange Police Department
Braulio Rosa - Broward County Bar Association
The Honorable Ronald Rothschild - Retired, 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida

thank you

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our committed leaders, generous donors, valued partners, and cherished friends. **Your** unwavering confidence in our mission and **your** support in transforming the stories of children in foster care are deeply appreciated.

Stories of Hope, Love and Inspiration

Meet DeAndre

"I can finally train to be the best quarterback in football history! I'm ready to be a superstar! "



DeAndre has dreamed of playing football from the moment he watched his first NFL game. But when he was 12 years old, he was placed into foster care because of his father's drug activity which caused tremendous mental and psychological abuse. Thanks to donors like you, DeAndre was able to join a football club and be outfitted with all the equipment he needs for a winning season.

Meet Kasey

"I love unicorns and mermaids! And now I can take my new unicorn everywhere--she's my best friend!"



Kasey is only 5 years old and has been in foster care because both of her parents have passed away. Unfortunately, she has moved between seven different group homes before being placed in a more permanent situation. After each move, she loses more and more of her personal items. Because of donors like you, Kasey was able to get new essential items such as clothes, shoes, and even a unicorn stuffy to help make her feel safe.

Meet Noah & Milo

"When we were apart, it felt like pieces of us were missing. We're so happy to see each other again!"



Noah and Milo are 10 year-old twins that were separated from each other when they came into foster care a few years ago after suffering years of physical abuse. After years apart, they were finally reunited! With your support, the boys were able to spend quality time together on a special outing where they were excited to catch-up and enjoy each other's company after the long distance between them.

Meet April

"I used to always have to share a bed and could never sleep well. Now I can sleep and spread out as much as I want!"



After several years in a group home, 8 year-old April was finally placed with a relative. But as most children do, April experienced quite the growth spurt and soon outgrew her bed. Each child deserves a comfortable place to lay their head at night and with your help, April received a brand new bed frame, mattress, and bedding for her new room so that she can create a space that is special for her.

How You Can Help Initiatives

Volunteer

Volunteers play a vital role in our success. We actively seek compassionate individuals who are eager to make a positive impact in the lives of children in foster care. We believe that every volunteer has the power to create meaningful change. By joining us, you will have the opportunity to lend your unique skills and talents to support our mission. Whether you have a passion for programs, advocacy, event planning, or fundraising, there is a place for you. Together, we can provide crucial support and resources to these vulnerable children, offering them hope, stability, and a brighter future. Join us today and become a part of the dedicated team making a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

Donate

We invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of children in foster care. Your donation can provide crucial support and resources that these vulnerable children desperately need. Your contribution, no matter the size, will have a profound impact on their lives, empowering them to overcome adversity and reach their full potential. Together, let's create a brighter future for these children. Please consider making a donation today and be a catalyst for change.

Make a Donation

Sponsor an Event



BACK-TO-SCHOOL



DREAM BIG DAY



HOLIDAY WISHES CAMPAIGN

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



SOARING FOR CHILDREN



SUMMER CAMP

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to learn more about sponsorship an event, please email Erica at erica@voicesbroward.org.

Voices for Children of Broward County
401 E. Las Olas Blvd., Ste 130-301
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

954.367.9185
www.voicesbroward.org

VoicesBroward
@BrowardVoices
@BrowardVoices

Printing of the 2023 Gratitude Report has been graciously sponsored by Amy Goldin & Brian Strelitz

