



# HOME PAGES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## Welcome to Our Home Page!

I am pleased to be able to introduce you to our first edition of the *SCC Home Pages*. The “birth” of this newsletter was not without its share of labor pains, but now born, we feel it was worth the wait. We hope you will enjoy reading and contributing to the *Home Pages* and share it with anyone who would like to know more about the work you do.

Meeting our daily challenges is not easy, but I know that those of you who have been around awhile have found a way to balance the “battle scars” with all of the good you do. When we keep a child safe, improve their well being and help them find permanent homes, we are truly contributing to make this a better

world. That is what you do, one child at a time. Until we meet again, let me just say “Welcome Home and enjoy the Pages.”

**Ed McBride,  
Vice President  
CBC Operations**



## Christmas Angels

On December 4th the ESJ branch of the YMCA became the North Pole for 200 children and their families. Santa made a grand entrance and patiently listened to every whispered wish. Each family received a beautiful photo taken with Santa...a special memory of a special time. There was music, games to play, gifts for all and of course, Pizza! Thank you to our many volunteers, including SCC and YMCA staff, Camilla Noble to everyone at ESJ for hosting our “angels” and to Santa and Santa’s Elves for celebrating this tradition with us again this year. (continued on page 2)

*The SCC Home Pages will be published quarterly. Watch for the second issue at the end of April.*

**F O S T E R . M E N T O R . A D O P T**

## *Christmas Angels (cont...)*

Our generous foster angel donors made it possible to give gifts to 750 children in foster care. Our YMCA hung wish lists disguised as ornaments in each branch. This was a challenging year as we expanded the number of children served from 320 to 750 ---a significantly larger number. Our foster families have struggled

financially along with the rest of the country, and they are truly appreciative of the joy that you brought into their homes and lives. Plans are underway for our celebration next year. Watch for news as we make plans throughout the year.



## *A Generous Gift from Best Buy*

In DeSoto County, Santa wore blue and yellow this year! To commemorate the celebration of the grand opening of their newest store in Port Charlotte, Best Buy donated \$5,000 to the SCC for children in DeSoto County. Who says Santa always wears red?



**Left to Right- Mark Stepp, Best Buy Manager, Scott Reams, District Manager, Kevin McKenney , SCC Director and Marion Carroll, Case Manager ,DeSoto County.**

## ***Celebrating Adoption!***

The 2009 Adoption picnic was a great success. The Heart Gallery and the SCC hosted 250 adoptive children and families, waiting children and families, volunteers and SCC staff. It was a beautiful day...perfect for picnic fare made possible by Best Buy and the Heart Gallery, Cakes from Sweetbay, and our wonderful volunteers. At the end of the day the adoptions were commemo-

rated by the release of one white balloon for every adopted child. Our local celebration of National Adoption Day culminated in the adoption of eighteen children at the Manatee County Courthouse on the 20th of November. After the formal adoption ceremonies everyone celebrated with punch and cake and a special gift of a framed handmade keepsake of each child's new name and date of adoption.



**Jeremiah Guccione, Heart Gallery Director, with a new family....Aaron, Micah, Christian, Shelly and Avilo Zaldivar on Adoption Day.**

## ***Winter Carnival...Spring Plans...Thank you Scouts!***

Kudos to the Manatee Junior League for their wonderful Winter Carnival on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>. Children from all three counties restocked their backpacks with school supplies while they enjoyed food and entertainment. Way to go Manatee Junior League!

We also heartily thank the Manatee Junior League for adopting the SCC as their

annual charity project this year. Plans are underway for an event in the spring. Watch for the details.

Many thanks to Manatee County Cub Scout Pack # 22. Their Christmas Gift Drive was a complete success. The scout troop delivered gifts to families caring for ten children during the holidays, a tremendous effort. Thank you!



**John Kim, Laurie Reliford, The Weessner's and Stefanie Babb**

## ***Foster Parent Appreciation***

Each month, beginning in January, 2010, two names will be drawn from the roster of foster parents who have been licensed for at least six months, are in good standing, and are currently taking placements.

Mr. and Mrs. Ric Coffey and State Farm Insurance are the generous sponsors of the program. Each family drawn is awarded a certificate and a \$50

check that can be used in any way the family chooses. The January winners were Jean Fairchild and David and Teresa Richtmyer. The February winners are Charlotte and Jack Powell and Alicia and Jeffrey Thomas.

Every parent, without exception, has mentioned using the gift for their children. In her thank you letter Jean Fairchild

wrote: "...there are many other families who surely had more need of it than I, nevertheless, when it is used for the children it is all good and of course that is how I am going to use it"

This generosity of spirit and love of children in need has been echoed by all the incentive recipients. And undoubtedly, by all foster parents!



**Foster Parent Teresa Richtmyer**



## THE SAFE CHILDREN COALITION

1500 Independence Boulevard  
Suite #210  
Sarasota, Florida 34234  
Phone: 941-371-4799  
Fax: 941-371-5439

Manatee Office  
5729 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
Main Phone: (941) 721-7670  
Main Fax: (941) 721-8950

DeSoto Office  
925 North Mills Avenue  
Arcadia, FL 34266  
Main Phone: (863) 494-5082  
Main Fax: (863) 494-5883

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
[WWW.SAFE CHILDREN  
COALITION.ORG](http://WWW.SAFE CHILDREN<br/>COALITION.ORG)

## SCC Birthdays And Anniversaries- January-March

**Anniversaries**  
Ashley Arcadi-One Year  
Kent Baker-Two Years  
Dara Bannister-Two Years  
Aniko Barna Roche-Two years  
Rachele Benedetto-Three Years  
Betsy Burns-Thirty Three Years  
Maureen Coble- Three Years  
Brandon Craig- One Year  
Mara Cunha- Three Years  
Sara Dawson- Three Years  
Lisa Eckley-Two Years  
Jeffrey Freeman- One Year  
Eric Johnson One Year  
Erica Kleinfeld -One Year  
Todd Martel-Two Years  
Angela Murray-Three Years  
Monique Myers-Six Years  
Fay Pendleton-One Year  
Laurie Reliford-Three Years  
Fred Saari-Fourteen Years  
Erica Snyder-Four years  
Alexis St. John-One Year  
Michele Vitale-Two Years  
Leanette Way-Five Years  
Dail Weinberger-Six years  
Christine White- One Year

**Birthdays**  
Abby Blackwell-1/9  
Lucia Branton-3/18  
Betsy Burns-1/13  
Shawn Clarke-3/9  
Shmir Corzine-1/27  
Brandon Craig-1/9  
Janelle Dennis-1/9  
Von Dowling-1/9  
Lisa Eckley-1/13  
William Fisher-2/11  
Barbara Galloway 2/11  
Marvin Garwood-2/10  
Sharon Givens-2/10  
Sandra Hancock-2/24  
Pam Hodge 2/12  
Eric Johnson-2/2  
Tami Kleister-1/6  
Kristina Knudys-2/8  
Nancy Martin-1/28  
Beatrice Moran-1/5  
Noli O'Hern-3/13  
Sheryl Ostrow-1/27  
Jason Poe-3/13  
Susan Porreca-3/31  
Ella Powell-3/31  
Laurie Reliford-3/7  
Tameika Richardson-3/20  
Horras Sheffield-1/8  
Sean Staffieri-1/10  
Leanette Way- 1/17  
Erin West-3/6  
Sean White-3/9  
Jennifer Williams-1/30

## Kalish Resource Center

Groundbreaking service delivery will once again be offered at Kalish House. In early May Kalish will become a youth development center. Community volunteers, SCC Independent Living youth, and SCC staff are transforming Kalish into a "cutting edge", community based youth inspired teen center. The programs to be offered will assist teens in foster care and young

adults who were formerly in foster care, to obtain life skills and education to make it possible for them to live independently, obtain employment, have a quality of life appropriate for their age, and to assume personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults. Having our youth involved in the Kalish House planning is essential to our success. Layla McCarty has been named as the Resource Center Coordi-

nator. Layla has 8 years of experience working with the SCC and has a talent for connecting with this age group. She will be working to develop community resources, employment, transportation and mentoring for the teens and young adults that come to the Center. It holds great promise and we look forward to reporting on the programs and opportunities that will be made available.



Young volunteers from Sarasota Christian Church paint Kalish House.

F O S T E R . M E N T O R A D O P T

1-866-661-5656