



PRESS RELEASE

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HEARTS & HOMES: CHILDNET CELEBRATES BROWARD'S FOSTER PARENTS

PLANTATION, FL - May is National Foster Care Month. Throughout the month, ChildNet, Broward County's Community Based Care lead agency, and local foster care providers will honor individuals and families whose homes are a temporary safe haven for children in foster care during a difficult time in their young lives. Local celebrations are a part of a month long, nationwide campaign to celebrate foster parents and raise awareness about the need for additional foster homes. In Broward County, there are more than 700 foster parents who have accepted the call to share their hearts and homes with youth who have been separated from their biological family due to abuse, abandonment or neglect.

"Foster parents play a supportive and lasting presence in the lives of children that have endured a great deal of hardship," notes Larry Rein, ChildNet's VP of Network Development. "During this month we want to especially recognize these incredible individuals who make such a large difference in the lives of Broward County's foster children."

Across Broward County, caring individuals and families are helping foster children build brighter futures by serving as foster parents. To recognize local foster parents for their commitment to our community's most vulnerable youth, ChildNet will host its Sixth Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner on May 29th at the Carolina Club in Margate. The appreciation dinner will feature guest speaker Bob Danzig, former CEO of The Hearst Newspaper Group. A former foster care child, Danzig now spends much of his time traveling the country to advocate for children in foster care.

During the ceremony Broward residents who have fostered for more than 10, 15 or 20 years will be recognized with commemorative engraved picture frames to recognize their years of service. Throughout the evening, themed gift baskets, complimentary hotel stays, restaurant gift certificates and department store gift cards will be raffled off. Jennifer Smith, ChildNet's Foster Home Recruitment Coordinator and event organizer, selected the Hearts and Homes theme for the Foster Parent Dinner as an expression of gratitude for their willingness to open their hearts and homes to Broward's most vulnerable children.

To commemorate National Foster Care Month, ChildNet encourages members of the community to get involved by learning how they can foster a child. For additional information, please call ChildNet's Foster Home Recruitment Hotline at (954) 414-6001 or visit www.browardfostercare.org

ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization selected by the state through a competitive process to serve as the local Community Based Care lead agency. As the lead agency, ChildNet manages the local system of services and supports for Broward's abused, abandoned and neglected children and their caregivers. This system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support. For more information on ChildNet, visit the Web site at www.ChildNet.us or call (954) 414-6000.

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