

## **ChildNet Public Relations Report August 2015**

### **Community Relations**

#### **Annual Care for Kids Luncheon – Broward**

- Tracking coverage

#### **Foster Care Graduation Celebration – Palm Beach**

- Distributed release with photos
- Tracking coverage

#### **TIL Graduation Ceremony**

- Distributed release with photos
- Tracking coverage

#### **Predictive Analytic Project**

- Distributed release
- Tracking coverage

#### **Florida Coalition for Children Administrator of the Year Award**

- Distributed release
- Tracking coverage

#### **Girl Scouts Decorate/Furnish Lobby and stuff Duffel Bags**

- Distributed release with photos
- Tracking coverage

#### **ChildNet Open House**

- Drafted media alert and distributed
- Drafted and submitted follow up release for approval
- To distribute release with photos upon approval



**Media Coverage  
August 2015**

## **Coverage tracked as of August 31**

*\* Please note: the following is coverage Pierson Grant was able to track via Google Alerts and editorial scans. There may be other print, TV/radio, online and social media placements that are not captured here.*

- Coral Springs Forum, August 5
- Society Scene, August 6
- News Channel 12, WPEC-TV, August 6
- Around Town, August 7
- Sun Sentinel, August 10
- Hi-Riser, August 12
- Palm Beach Post, August 13
- South Florida Times, August 13
- Sun Sentinel, August 13
- Palm Beach Post, August 14
- Sun Sentinel, August 17
- Hi-Riser, August 19
- South Florida Times, August 19
- Palm Beach Post, August 20
- Sun Sentinel, August 20
- Boca News Now, August 20
- Sun Sentinel, August 25
- Sun Sentinel, August 26
- Sunrise Forum, August 26
- Westside Gazette, August 26
- Sun-Sentinel, August 30



## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### STUDENTS PUBLISH FOSTER CARE BOOK

The students in Amanda Rathèr's fourth-grade class at Heron Heights Elementary School recently raised and donated \$700 to ChildNet, a Broward County community-based care organization, by publishing a book, according to a press release.

The class wrote and illustrated a children's book titled "A Forever Family," which tells the story of a brother and sister in foster care, the release states. The students raised funds by selling the book.

Visit [childnet.us](http://childnet.us).



# Society Scene

## Scene+Be Seen



Emmanuel Bruno, left, Mark Knit, Richard Carlton and Nicole Ashfy



Rolando Arauz, left, Nanci Campbell, Mariella Pelati-Morandi, Anne Daurta, Vindra Gobin, Diana Verity and Michelle Tandon

To provide a sense of comfort and security for children visiting with their families, ChildNet teamed with BB&T to decorate and furnish seven visitation rooms at ChildNet's new office in Fort Lauderdale. The murals were designed and outlined by four artists from ArtServe, and each room was based on a classic children's book including "The Cat in the Hat," "Alice in Wonderland," "Goodnight Moon" and "Curious George." About 60 BB&T Lighthouse Project volunteers helped each artist paint the walls to complete the beautifully decorated rooms.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Jaye Abbate, left, and Carrie Bennett



Mark Marsel, left, Jim Paryz, Neksy DeMartini, Mike Oster and Jaye Abbate



Lakeesha Wilson, left, Alexa Phillips, Janet Saller, Erin Barrows and Francine Chong



Monica King, left, Jason Aube, Nanci Campbell, Mike Oster and Emilio Benitez



Mike Wright, left, Janie Casoria, Nadine Floyd and Lori Pratico



06 Aug 2015



24 • AROUND TOWN • AUGUST 7 - 20, 2015

## ChildNet Circle of Supporters Cocktail Reception Raises Awareness and Funds for Children in Foster Care



ChildNet, the Community Based Care lead child welfare agency in Broward and Palm Beach counties, recently hosted a cocktail reception at Timpano Italian Chop House on Las Olas with ChildNet Circle of Supporters; an

involved in the child welfare system. The support from the Circle of Supporters has allowed over 100 children to make happy childhood memories by participating in activities like summer camp, dance classes, and soccer teams.

Jonathan Pollard, a Fort Lauderdale trial lawyer and commercial litigator, spoke about his decision to become a Circle of Supporters member. "I am incredibly grateful for all of life's blessings and am keenly aware of the need for more support of children in the child welfare system," said Pollard. "While it is important that we continue to raise funds, it is even more important that we continue to increase



Jonathan Pollard and Denise Grant



Kerry, Fiona and Erio Palmieri



Dan McCawley, Sigrid McCawley and Erio Gabrielle

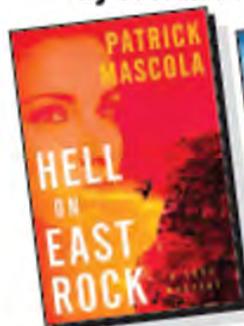
nual giving society supporting children in care. The evening highlighted the impact that contributions have made on the lives of children

awareness in our local communities about the need for people to foster and adopt children in care." Call (954) 414-6000 or visit [www.facebook.com/ChildNet](http://www.facebook.com/ChildNet).

These Books have been Sold Out at Barnes & Noble, S. Federal Hwy., across from Whole Foods  
 A new supply is now in and available

Also available (by mail) at Amazon, Books A Million, Kindle & Nook

Two of a Trilogy Love Mystery Novels by **PATRICK MASCOLA**



The 1st Novel of the Trilogy "HELL ON EAST ROCK" earned ★★★★★ from Amazon and Barnes and Noble

Have Reader Reviews had this entangled Love Mystery Claimed a Must for Hollywood's IQC SCREEN

The 2nd Novel of the Trilogy "THE HELL OF INNOCENCE" continues with the love torments of the beautiful, well made billionaire Jennifer Kendall. In Hell of Innocence at 44, she experiences great joy of marriage and motherhood, but not before she goes through a "Hell maddening" experience.

The 3rd and Final of the Trilogy "TO HELL! WITH HELL..." is in motion.



## ChildNet Hosts Annual Care for Kids Luncheon Benefitting Children in Foster Care



(L to R): Jeffrey Dwyer, ChildNet; Eric Yutzy, WPLG Local 10; Lorraine Thomas, honoree; Sigrid McCawley, Boies Sciller & Flexner LLP; Catalina Avalos, Tripp Scott P.A.

# Hi-Riser

Serving the condominium communities of Deerfield Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Lighthouse Point, Pompano Beach, Lauderdale By The Sea and Fort Lauderdale

## Society ACCESS

BY PHYLIS STEINBERG

### CHILDNET HONORS FOSTER PARENTS

Outstanding foster parents in Broward County were honored by ChildNet at the recent Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner.

Attending the event were child welfare administrators and foster parents.

Wendy Smith, director of Foster Home Recruitment and Quality, thanked foster parents for their quality care giving to foster children.

Social service agencies nominate foster parents who have excelled in their parenting roles for the "Foster Parent of the Year" awards.

Coral Springs resident Karen LaSure was among the recipients recognized with this special award.

LaSure has fostered 43 children and adopted four during the past 22 years through 4Kids of South Florida. She also has fostered children through Children's Medical Services, children who have suffered from Leukemia, blood disorders, Cerebral Palsy and various other medical challenges.

Diana Lake, a Davie resident, was also named a Foster Parent of the Year. Lake has fostered more than 20 teenage girls who were struggling with substance abuse, bi-polar disorder, depression, conduct disorder, as well as girls who were involved in human trafficking and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Sondra Ragin of Sunrise was the third recipient

of the award. Ragin works with those children who have significant mental health and behavioral needs and has been a therapeutic foster parent for 14 years.

ChildNet is a private nonprofit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare system, dedicated to protecting abused, abandoned and neglected children in the community.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, contact ChildNet at 954-414-6001.

### ANNUAL CAPPIES MARKS 13TH YEAR

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts 13th annual Cappies Awards Gala recognized students for outstanding achieve-



ChildNet event: Christina Parker, left, Jeanette Patton, Ida and Landry Starling.



ChildNet event: Tamar Riley, John LaSure, left, Karen LaSure and Ashley LaSure.

August 13, 2015

## AT&T awards laptops to foster care students

Two graduating foster care students — one from **Lake Worth Community High School**, the other from **John I. Leonard High School** — were recently awarded new laptops, wireless mics and laptop bags from AT&T worth more than \$4,000.

Ten other students received the same gift during a graduation celebration last week at the West Palm Beach **ChildNet** office. ChildNet is a nonprofit that helps protect abused, neglected and abandoned kids and teenagers.

The Lake Worth and John I. Leonard graduates are **Johnnisha** and **Sharmin**. (Last names weren't provided since both are in foster care.)

The laptop donation is part of AT&T's focus on education through its **AT&T Aspire program**. The company said it's investing \$350 million to improve communities by helping students succeed in school and become workforce ready.

*Please follow me on Twitter [@KevinDThompson1](#) or feel free to call at 561-820-4573 or email me at [kthompson@pbpost.com](mailto:kthompson@pbpost.com) with story ideas, comments and really nice places to listen to live jazz.*



AUGUST 13, 2015

## LOCAL AGENCIES HONOR SUCCESS OF FOSTER KIDS: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECEIVE LAPTOPS, GIFT CARDS



WEST PALM BEACH — Foster care youth in Palm Beach County who are 2015 high school graduates were recognized in a special community celebration at ChildNet, the Community-Based Care lead agency in Palm Beach County. "We are so proud of these students," said Larry Rein, executive director of ChildNet in Palm Beach County. "They all have incredible aspirations and a bright future. ChildNet joins with all of our service providers in acknowledging and celebrating their success. We also appreciate the generosity of AT&T, Guardian ad Litem and all of our partners who provided tools for these students to move on to the next phase of their lives."

The students each received a special certificate of graduation from ChildNet, a \$25 gift card from the Guardian ad Litem program and laptops from AT&T. Following the ceremony, students, their families and community partners enjoyed breakfast courtesy of Original House of Pancakes. Former news anchor and foster care and adoption advocate Jim Sackett was the emcee.

"It was terrific to be part of the graduation at ChildNet," said Karl Blanco, director of sales for AT&T in South Florida. "These students faced challenges and overcame them. It was nice to see that they are getting ready to take the next steps in their lives, in their education or in their career. We presented each of them with a laptop, laptop bag and wireless mouse and they were very appreciative. You could see it on their faces. We wish them well."

The students attended high schools throughout Palm Beach County and already made plans for college. Brianna Turner of Boynton Beach was one of the students recognized. "I am already enrolled in Palm Beach State College to get a degree in micro biology and cell science," she said.

Community partners who helped the youth as they attained their degree included Children's Home Society, Vita Nova, Friends of Foster Children, Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach, Best Foot Forward and Place of Hope.

As the single private non-profit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare systems in Broward and Palm Beach County, ChildNet is dedicated to protecting abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves.



## AT&T Donates Laptops to Foster Care Students



In recognition of their high school graduation, AT&T presented 12 ChildNet foster care students with new laptops and wireless mice. The donation is part of AT&T's focus on helping students succeed in school and become workforce ready.

# The Palm Beach Post

AUGUST 14, 2015

LAKE WORTH

## Foster care students receive gifts

Two foster care students who recently graduated from high school – one from Lake Worth High, the other from John I. Leonard – were awarded new laptops, wireless microphones and laptop bags from AT&T. The items were worth more than \$4,000. Ten other students received the same gifts during a graduation celebration last week at the West Palm Beach ChildNet office. ChildNet is a nonprofit that helps protect abused, neglected and abandoned children and teenagers. The Lake Worth and John I. Leonard graduates are Johnisha and Sharmin (last names weren't provided because both are in foster care). The laptop donation is part of AT&T's focus on education through its AT&T Aspire program. The company says it is investing \$350 million to improve communities by helping students succeed in school and become workforce-ready.

— KEVIN D. THOMPSON

# Hi-Riser

Serving the condominium communities of Deerfield Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Lighthouse Point, Pompano Beach, Lauderdale By The Sea and Fort Lauderdale

## VOLUNTEER EFFORTS SUPPORT CHILDNET

ChildNet, the nonprofit organization responsible for the administration of the local child welfare systems in Broward and Palm Beach counties, teamed up with BB&T bank to decorate and furnish seven visitation rooms at ChildNet's new office in Fort Lauderdale. The volunteers helped to fund the artists, supplies and furnishings for the

project.

Murals were designed and outlined by four artists from ArtServe, and each room was based on a classic children's book including "The Cat in the Hat" and "Alice in Wonderland." BB&T Lighthouse Project volunteers helped artists paint the walls to complete the decorated rooms.

The BB&T Lighthouse Project, is celebrating its sixth year of service and volunteerism to try to make a difference in the community.

For information about ChildNet, call 954-414-6000.



Attendees were in the painting mood at the ChildNet fundraiser.

AUGUST 13 – 19, 2015

PALM BEACH

## Local agencies honor success of foster kids

*High school graduates receive laptops, gift cards*



PHOTO COURTESY OF AT&T

**PROUD GRADUATES:** Several young adults were saluted with gifts, including laptops, wireless mice and laptop bags donated by AT&T in honor of their achievement.

### Staff Report

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PLEASE TURN TO **LAPTOPS/2B**



**BEARING GIFTS:** Karl Blanco of AT&T, left, presents student Brianna Turner with a laptop in celebration of her graduation. Also pictured are ChildNet Executive Director Larry Rein and Michelle Canaday of the Guardian ad Litem.

## ChildNet hosts graduation celebration for foster kids

### LAPTOPS, FROM 1B

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As the single private non-profit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare systems in Broward and Palm Beach County, ChildNet is dedicated to protecting abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves.

# The Palm Beach Post

AUGUST 20, 2015

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN PICTURES



### AT&T donates laptops to foster care students

AT&T presented new laptop computers to 12 foster care students during a graduation celebration at the West Palm Beach ChildNet office. ChildNet is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting abused, neglected and abandoned youth. The donation is part of AT&T's focus on education. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



## Foster Care Youth Celebrated During 11th Annual Transitional Independent Living Program Graduation Ceremony



Michelle Orr, Lauderdale Lakes; Kirk Brown; Kyandra Dorestin, Plantation



Aaron Hall, Coral Springs; Gabrielle Joseph, Sunrise; Donquest Talerant, Lauderdale Lakes

# BOCA NEWS NOW™

August 21, 2015

## AT&T Honors Boca Raton Foster Care Students With Laptops



AT&T recently recognized 12 graduating foster care students, including two in Boca Raton, with laptops. The students are served by [ChildNet Palm Beach County](#), a nonprofit is dedicated to protecting abused, neglected, and abandoned youth. The laptops were presented to the students during a graduation celebration at the West Palm Beach ChildNet office.

Hope for a brighter future is what drives young adults served by ChildNet. They students understand education is crucial for a strong future, and AT&T agrees.

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AT&T is a strong investor in education and the use of technology to improve it. Through the [AT&T Aspire](#) program, the company is investing \$350 million to improve our business and communities by helping students succeed in school, in the workforce and in life. Since its inception in 2008, AT&T Aspire has impacted more than 1 million students in all 50 states and supported more than 1,000 high-performing organizations, including ChildNet.

# Sun-Sentinel

August 20, 2015

## ChildNet



Karl Blanco, left, Brianna Turner, Larry Rein and Michelle Canaday

investing \$350 million to improve communities by helping students succeed in school and become workforce ready.

AT&T recently presented 12 foster care students with new laptops, wireless mice and laptop bags in recognition of their graduation.

The gifts were given to the students during a graduation celebration at the West Palm Beach ChildNet office. The nonprofit agency serves Broward and Palm Beach counties and is dedicated to protecting abused, neglected and abandoned youth.

The donation is part of AT&T's focus on education. Through the AT&T Aspire program, the company is

AUGUST 25, 2015,

## Volunteers spruce up ChildNet's Fort Lauderdale office

**N**anci Campbell enjoys making a difference in children's lives.

Through the BB&T Lighthouse Project, Campbell and about 60 other BB&T associates recently volunteered to help paint murals and furnish seven visitation rooms in ChildNet's new Fort Lauderdale office.

"The project at ChildNet could not have been more perfect timing for the organization, and it brought back fond childhood memories by painting visitation rooms with popular children books," Campbell said. "I visited since decorating the rooms, and to see the smiles on the children's faces was so rewarding."

The annual Lighthouse Project is a way for BB&T employees to give back to the community.

"It feels great to support the worthwhile efforts of the people and organizations in our community that are truly making a positive difference and changing lives for the better every day," said Jason Aube, **Broward County** market president.

Volunteers painted different murals based on popular fairy tales, such as "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Cat in the Hat."

"Instead of looking like a sterile office, we wanted to make [the rooms] warm and comforting," said Emilio Benitez, president and CEO of ChildNet, which administers the foster care system in Broward and Palm Beach counties..

BB&T associate Mark Krill helped assemble some chairs and painted storybook characters on the walls. For Krill, volunteering at ChildNet hit "close to home."

"I was fortunate enough to have others reach out and help me as I came through challenging times as an infant and was adopted myself," he said.

In addition, the Lighthouse Project was one of five in the country to win \$5,000 through the BB&T Spirit Award, which they are donating to ChildNet, Aube said.

Benitez said he plans to use the funds to renovate the playground.

"Whether it is helping to build a home for a deserving family, providing playground equipment in an empty park, supporting our troops abroad or simply helping a foster parent get their home ready for more children, we try to support as many individuals and organizations that are doing their part to make our communities a better place to live," Aube said.



# SUNRISE & TAMARAC FORUM

ALSO SERVING LAUDERHILL & NORTH LAUDERDALE

AUGUST 26, 2015

## SCHOOLS

### FOSTER CARE YOUTH GRADUATE

Case managers, life coaches, caregivers, peers and community leaders gathered during the 11th annual Broward County Transitional Independent Living program "Build On Your Dreams" graduation ceremony, according to a press release. More than 100 foster care youth celebrated graduating from middle school, high school, technical school, college and master's programs.

ChildNet works with a broad group of service providers to ensure that youth are prepared to transition from foster care successfully, the press release states. These services assist them with obtaining the skills and education necessary to become self-sufficient, live independently and maintain employment.

Among the students was



**DREAM BUILDERS** Graduates of the Broward County Transitional Independent Living program include Aaron Hall of Coral Springs, left, Gabrielle Joseph of Sunrise and Donquest Tolerant of Lauderdale Lakes.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the evening's keynote speaker, 25-year-old Jabari Caldwell, who was in the foster care system for nearly 11 years. He graduated in 2015 with a master's degree in clinical social work from Florida State University and is now employed as the assistant

director of clinical services with Children of Inmates in Miami-Dade County. The graduation ceremony was coordinated by a group of nonprofit agencies.

For information, call 954-414-6000, or visit [ChildNet.us](http://ChildNet.us).

August 20, 2015

## Foster care youth celebrated during 11th annual Transitional Independent Living Program graduation ceremony



Foster care youth celebrated during 11th annual Transitional Independent Living Program graduation ceremony

*More than 100 students receive diplomas*

**Jabari Caldwell and Samuel Mills**



**Michelle Orr, Lauderdale Lakes; Kirk Brown and Kyandra Dorestin, Plantation.**

DAVIE, FL – Case managers, life coaches, caregivers, peers and community leaders gathered recently during the 11th Annual Broward County Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Program “Build On Your Dreams” graduation ceremony. More than 100 foster care youth joined together to walk the stage and celebrate graduating from middle school, high school, technical school, college and masters programs.

“Regardless of a person’s background, graduation is a major achievement for any student,” said Monica King, executive director of ChildNet in Broward County. “We are incredibly proud to gather as their supporters to acknowledge and celebrate their success and bright future.”

ChildNet works with a broad group of service providers to ensure that youth are prepared to transition from foster care successfully. These services assist them with obtaining the skills and education necessary to become self-sufficient, live independently and maintain employment. In providing life skills training and offering financial, educational and social support, the children and young men and women in foster care learn to live independently and succeed.

Among the students who walked the stage was the evening's key note speaker, 25-year-old Jabari Caldwell, who was in the foster care system for nearly 11 years. He graduated in 2015 with a master's degree in clinical social work from Florida State University and is now employed as the assistant director of clinical services with Children of Inmates in Miami-Dade County.

"It is an honor to speak on behalf of all the inspiring students who walked across this stage and to celebrate all that we have accomplished," said Caldwell. "In my life I have learned that everything can be taken away from you, but you will always have your education. And that is something we can and will always count on."

LilCrystal Dernier, 23, who graduated from Florida A&M with a bachelor's degree, also took a moment to reflect on her journey. "It does not matter where you start or where you come from," said Dernier. "We are all proof that nothing is impossible."

The TIL graduation ceremony was coordinated by a collaborative group of nonprofit agencies who support transitioning youth including ChildNet, the community-based care lead agency in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, the FLITE Center, HANDY, SOS Children's Villages, Camelot Community Care, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, Children's Services Council of Broward County, Memorial Healthcare System and Henderson Behavioral Health.

For more information about ChildNet, call (954) 414-6000 or visit [www.ChildNet.us](http://www.ChildNet.us) and [www.facebook.com/ChildNet](http://www.facebook.com/ChildNet).

## Girl Scout Junior Troop Earns Bronze Award Supporting Local Foster Care Youth



Brianna Burke; Analicia Herde; Chloe James; Zaida Alvarez, Troop Leader; Angelica Arias; Anabela Shearer

August 30, 2015

## Helping to spruce up ChildNet office



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Among those helping to spruce up ChildNet's new Fort Lauderdale office are, from left, Millie Wright, Janie Casola, Nadine Floyd and Lori Pratico.

**BY JENNIFER SHAPIRO-SACKS**  
Special Correspondent

Nanci Campbell enjoys making a difference in children's lives.

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