Issue #65

April Newsletter 2026

Children's Aid Club

Our Mission is to positively impact the health, general welfare and education of underprivileged children in our community.



All for One & One for All!

As we move into spring, I'm reminded how much can bloom when Children's Aid Club comes together. We are blessed with the opportunity to partake in something big—the CASF Golf Tournament—and it's right around the corner. This event not only brings in great financial support for CAC but also offers an opportunity to showcase the incredible things we do.

We're calling on every member to contribute and do their part. Whether it's a restaurant gift card, a bottle of nice wine, tickets to a concert, or a weekend getaway—each donation helps! Think about it this way: the same amount we might spend on cocktails with friends, a few trips to Starbucks, a bottle of wine, or a new pair of sandals we don't really need can translate into a month of rent for a family, school supplies for an entire class, nights of safe shelter, or a meal for a family in crisis.

Every contribution that you make to the CASF Golf auction and raffle, big or small, adds up to real change. If each of us gives one item or reaches out to one local business for a donation, our auction tables will be overflowing—and so will the opportunities we will have to those we serve.

Let's keep our mission in focus and our hearts in the game. Together, we can turn a day on the green into a season of giving and growth for our children and families.



Laura A. Balistreri *Happy Easter*

Save the Dates:

Virtual Board Meeting:
April 14th - Tuesday - 9:30am
(link sent day before)

General Meeting
April 21st - Tuesday - 9:30am
The Point of Pompano Beach (Meeting Room)
2880 NE 14th Street Causway
Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Hosting:
Linda Ianelli
Fran English

*If you are unable to come:
Call Valerie Taylor, Membership

In this newsletter you can expect:

- Spotlight Article
- Board Updates
- Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Welfare Report
- Community Impact & Social Photos
- Member News & Birthdays
- Event Calendar

Happy Easter to Children's Aid Club!





Each year, our beloved members, Sandy Noonan and Louise Proffer, lovingly lead CAC's *Eggs-travagant Easter Basket Program* for families selected through the schools and organizations with which CAC partners. Louise takes on the enormous task of compiling names, ages, infant sizes, and other details into a master spreadsheet so that Sandy can carefully order just the right number of chocolate bunnies, chocolate eggs, lollipops, stuffed animals, cookies, coloring books, frisbees, and other special age-appropriate treats. It is truly a *mammoth* undertaking that requires months of thoughtful planning and preparation.



A heartfelt thank-you goes to everyone who helped count, categorize, sort, and wrap. Special thanks to our "Warehouse Wonder Women" and to all those who simply couldn't pass a Dollar Tree without stopping in to pick up much-needed treasures for the children. Your generosity, time, and love helped make Easter brighter for so many little ones.





CASF Golf Tournament





WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are currently seeking Silent Auction items for the upcoming Golf Tournament.

To make the auction as successful as possible, we are especially in need of high-value items that guests will be excited to bid on. Rather than baskets filled with miscellaneous items to increase perceived value, we are hoping for quality, standout donations that will attract strong interest and generous bids.

If you have an item to contribute, please reach out to Kelle as soon as possible. We are now weeks away, and the FINAL DEADLINE IS WED APRIL 8TH, so there is still time to bring everything together.

kelle.enriquez@gmail.com

HOTEL STAYS
for example:
Riverside Hotel
The W Hotel
The Westin of FLL Beach
Hilton Hotels



EXPERIENCES
for example:
Restaurants
Theatre Tickets
Marlins Club Seats
Country Clubs
(Coral Springs, etc)

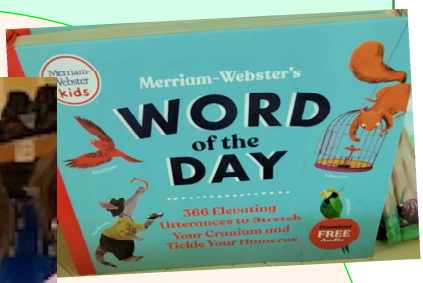
GOLF FOURSOMES
Clubs for example:
Jacaranda
Lago Mar
Pompano Beach
Plantation Preserve
Ft Lauderdale
Coral Ridge
Clubs



ITEMS WORTH $100 OR MORE!
for example:
Humidors
Cigars
Signed Sports items (donated)









Ann Powell's Book Drive

Every year, near Ann's April birthday, we honor her memory by asking members to bring to the next meeting some new children's books that will be included in Holiday baskets and birthdays. Ann loved reading, and it's a way of keeping her memory alive.

Children's Aid Club
Virtual Board Meeting
Minutes by Becky Ford

March 10th, 2026
Google Meet

Devotional: An Irish Prayer
May you have love that never ends
Lots of money and lots of friends
Health be yours, whatever you do,
and may God sendmany blessings
to you!

Meeting called to order by President Laura Balistreri at 9:29 am.
Devotional – Linda I.
Approve Minutes – February minutes were approved by the board
Membership – Valerie took attendance and talked about the proposed Coffee & Conversation. She has been visiting with the five interested people, but they seem to be more interested in helping rather than being members. Valerie will continue to engage with them one on one to ascertain whether they are wanting membership. Discussed briefly some ways they could help such as getting raffle items or underwriting. Or helping at the Golf Tournament. One person who would like to help is Laura Palmer, who is a family member of the Gore Foundation. Sandy Gore has come to TNT as a guest of Georgie Wright, this is how the connection came about with the Gore Grant.

Ways and Means – Belinda continues looking at new avenues of funding/revenue. Caroline Courtney is helping Belinda with a connection to the Community Foundation. The city of Pompano has funding for non-profits; Belinda will attend an online meeting to learn more about this.

Treasurer – Barb

Checking Account	$118,507.86
Schwab Account	$381,291.25
Total	$499,799.11

Purchase was made for $24,855 in Walmart and Target gift cards for Easter Baskets. Credit card payment of $8,946.65 was paid on March 5th

Welfare – Kristina (See Welfare Report) Discussed Bennett Elementary and that we are dropping them as an organization. Their biggest need is for Weekend Snack Packs for really low-income children. They currently have 40 kids that need food. Pam M. would like to start a program providing Weekend Snack packs. This will start at Bennett School and expand to other schools if successful. She plans to set up during the summer and deploy when school starts in August/September. Will need to figure out logistics for a simple campaign. The thought is that cases of food will be sent to the school and that they will make it into food bags for the kids. Pam will work on getting more information together for Board approval to try this program. Valerie asks about the "Tiny Blessings Bundles" would be very useful for PACE but PACE is not one of the designated organizations. Pam M will check with grant personnel to be sure they are okay with adding PACE to the program. The grant for these was for $10,000 and we've spent $5600 with three months left to use the funds. Valerie will find out how many bundles are needed by PACE and get back to the board.

Children's Aid Club
Virtual Board Meeting
Minutes by Becky Ford

March 10th, 2026
Google Meet

Corresponding Secretary – Janice B. reports we are still receiving notes from people about TNT.

Unfinished Business –

-TNT After Party was a nice event with good socialization.

-Easter baskets are being worked on over the next two weeks. Sandy reports she has been to every Dollar Store for chocolate Easter Bunnies 😊. Pam M will be the bunny for the Easter parties.

- The woman who bought the Portugal trip in the live auction at TNT has buyer's remorse and would like her money back. She purchased for $6000 and CAC paid $5000. She has been offered $1000 back but hasn't responded. A policy will be worked on for future such circumstances.

- Golf Tournament is coming up soon and is a little earlier this year. Members should bring 5 items worth $40-50 to the meeting next Tuesday. Gift cards are the preferred item. Gina will be sending out specific assignments to members.

New Business –

-Nominating Committee will be selected by the next meeting. CAC committee forms will be going out at the next meeting. Laura is working on refining the form.

- Ann's books will be collected in April, bring three new books.

- We will not be doing Brian's bags.

Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Pam Markus with a second by Kristina B. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Minutes submitted by Becky Ford, Recording Secretary



Children's Aid Club
General Meeting
Minutes by Becky Ford

March 17th, 2026
Powell Warehouse

Devotional: An Irish Blessing
May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be
yours wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that endures.
May all life's passing seasons bring
the best to you and yours!

Meeting called to order by President Laura Balistreri at 9:24 am.

Devotional – Linda I.

Approve Minutes – Jeanne Dixon made and motion to approve the February minutes. Belinda McDonald seconded and minutes were approved.

Membership – Valerie took attendance. She has decided against having a Coffee & Conversation for prospective members. She will meet with them in smaller groups as they seem to be more interested in helping rather than becoming members.

Ways and Means – Belinda is making some exciting connections; Caroline Courtney is helping with a connection to the Community Foundation of Broward which came to our attention through Equine Assisted Therapies. Already a $3000.00 donation has come in through this connection. The city of Pompano has funding for non-profits. Belinda is working on this and checking with other municipalities to raise awareness about CAC.

Treasurer – Barb

Checking	$93,739.19
Schwab	$381,291.25
Total	$475,030.44

-Our credit card payment of $8,946.65 was paid on March 5th
-We purchased Walmart and Target gift cards for Easter baskets totaling $24,855
-We wrote a check to Tomorrow's Rainbow for their budgeted funds in the amount of $17,000

Welfare – Louise gave report for Kristina (See Welfare Report) There is $10,705 in gift cards on hand. Organizations need to get their applications in for funding for next year, due March 27. The Episcopal church has opened up the Tiny Blessings bundles to other organizations than the original four organizations. There is $5500 left of the grant money. Can also unbundle if needed. Belinda encourages members to get photos when bundles are delivered. There is $15,000 left in the organizations budget. Encourage your organizations to use their funds.

Corresponding Secretary – Janice B. reports we are still receiving Thank you notes from our organizations.

Unfinished Business-

-TNT – nothing new to report.
-Easter parties and Easter baskets – Pam M. will be the Easter bunny for the parties. Easter Baskets will be ready for pickup tomorrow. We are serving 94 Families, 172 Adults, 298 Children with Easter Baskets.
- Golf Tournament – This is CAC's 22nd year of helping CASF with the Golf Tournament. The

Children's Aid Club
General Meeting
Minutes by Becky Ford

March 17th, 2026
Powell Warehouse

Raffle Baskets will be worked on April 9 at CASF offices. You can drop off your items to Barb, Pam M, Gina or to CASF. Randa and Heather are helping with the raffle this year. Gina thanks Julie N. for her very organized notes for the golf tournament. This year there will be Party Central – a fun spot between the two courses with a cigar roller and a DJ (Laura's dad). Gina is working on getting a coffee sponsor, Hooters for wings and other ideas. Send an email to Kelle Enriquez with the items you are bringing for the raffle. Members should bring 5 items worth $40-50. Gina will be sending out specific assignments to members.

New Business –

-Nominating Committee will be Caroline Courtney, Sue Black and Linda Ianelli.

- Special Project - Pam M. would like to start a program providing Weekend Snack packs. This will start at Bennett School and expand to other schools if successful. She plans to set up during the summer and deploy when school starts in August/September. Will need to figure out logistics for a simple campaign. The thought is that cases of food will be sent to the school and that they will make it into food bags for the kids. Pam will work on getting more information together for Board approval to try this program.
- Gina has obtained a large shoe donation from MIA shoes.
- Ann's books will be collected in April, bring three new books. Books for older kids needed.
- Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027 is being worked on, let Pam M know if you have a location or want to be a hostess.
- Leadership Broward is hosting a lunch on May 1 and Gina is trying to put together a table. One of the honorees is Harley J Miller. The lunch is 11:30-1:30 at the Hard Rock Hotel.
- There was a request from Wireless Infrastructure Association of Arlington. They are having a Conference in Fort Lauderdale and they would like a Giveback opportunity and reached out to CAC. Laura will work on a project for them.
- Jeanne Dixon is having a jewelry cleaning day on 4/23/26 in preparation for Mother's Day

Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Belinda M. with a second by Janice B. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Minutes submitted by Becky Ford, Recording Secretary



All the grandmothers in the room were excited when sweet baby Mackensie Ahmed came to our general meeting.



Balance Sheet

Children's Aid Club

As of February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BOA Charity Checking	$126,711.16
Dues and Administration Expense	15.13
Total for BOA Charity Checking	**$126,726.29**
BOA Savings	0.00
Gibraltar	0.00
Schwab Investment Fund	373,705.89
Total for Bank Accounts	**$500,432.18**
Accounts Receivable	
Active Member Dues	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	**$0.00**
Other Current Assets	
Aldi Food Cards	0.00
Gas Cards	0.00
Other Accounts Receivable	0.00
Publix Food Cards	1,500.00
Target Food Cards	2,250.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Wal-Mart Food Cards	7,000.00
Winn Dixie Food Certificates	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	**$10,750.00**
Total for Current Assets	**$511,182.18**
Fixed Assets	
Leasehold Improvements	$8,168.22
Accumulated Depreciation	-7,056.95
Total for Leasehold Improvements	**$1,111.27**
Total for Fixed Assets	**$1,111.27**
Total for Assets	**$512,293.45**
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Credit card	12,881.61
Total for Credit Cards	**$12,881.61**
Other Current Liabilities	
Temp Restricted Funds - Megan's Fund	381.72
Temp Restricted Funds - St. Mary Magdalene Church	5,146.75
Temp Restricted Grant - Gore Family Foundation	19,000.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	**$24,528.47**
Total for Current Liabilities	**$37,410.08**
Total for Liabilities	**$37,410.08**

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	167,841.21
Retained Earnings	291,550.35
Net Income	15,491.81
Total for Equity	**$474,883.37**
Total for Liabilities and Equity	**$512,293.45**

Profit and Loss

Children's Aid Club

August 1, 2025-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
cash rewards	741.07
Donations	$62,830.15
Memorial	3,754.32
Total for Donations	**$66,584.47**
Dues	3,625.00
Fundraising Income	
Holiday Letter	26,550.00
Taste 'n' Tell	
Bake Sale	2,555.00
Cruise Raffle	4,925.00
Donations	$10,515.00
Piece of the Pie	150.00
Total for Donations	**$10,665.00**
Live Auction	27,800.00
Pop-Up Shop	1,920.00
Raffle Basket	12,570.00
Reservations	25,200.00
Silent Auction	21,950.00
Underwriting	101,000.00
Total for Taste 'n' Tell	**$208,585.00**
Total for Fundraising Income	**$235,135.00**
Misc. income	3,052.99
Unrestricted Grant Funds - Gore Family Foundation	3,500.00
Unrestricted Grant Funds - St. Mary Magdalene Church	4,853.25
Total for Income	**$317,491.78**
Gross Profit	**$317,491.78**
Expenses	
Bank Charge	38.00
Charity	
Back to Basics	20,000.00
Bennett Elementary	2,461.00
Blessed Sacrament	4,680.00
BPHI	5,155.84
Broward Health	3,750.00
CDTC (Children's Diagnostic)	6,811.49
Croissant Park Elementary	500.00
Cross Creek School	1,021.81

Profit and Loss

Children's Aid Club

August 1, 2025-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Cypress Elementary	2,064.06
Donors Choose.org	1,319.02
Equine Assisted Therapies of SF	10,500.00
Feeding Families	42,400.00
God's Little Lambs	4,940.19
Henderson Behavioral Health	5,984.09
Holiday Baskets	
Christmas	16,757.07
Easter	26,905.22
Thanksgiving	30,379.54
Total for Holiday Baskets	**$74,041.83**
Hope Women's Center	5,540.93
Individuals	
Baez Family	420.00
Colson Family	400.00
Curiel Family	2,334.00
Florence Louis Family	2,355.00
Foux Family	512.95
Griffith Family	2,815.00
Harris Family	50.00
Rivera Family	500.00
Santiago Family	2,540.00
Total for Individuals	**$11,926.95**
JJCF	6,750.00
Light of the World Clinic	5,725.00
Mary Ann's Closet	2,358.23
Memorial Donation	950.00
Northside Elementary	3,465.86
Our Father's Soup Kitchen	3,034.59
PACE	3,944.49
Pompano Beach Middle School	3,458.30
Seagull Alternative School	1,458.07
The Little Schoolhouse	5,410.08
Tomorrow's Rainbow	1,650.00
Whispering Pines School	72.95
Total for Charity	**$241,374.78**
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	2,759.00
Total for Contract Services	**$2,759.00**

Profit and Loss

Children's Aid Club

August 1, 2025-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Fundraising Expenses	
Taste & Tell	
Decorations	1,222.09
Invitations	724.00
Live Auction	16,680.00
Main Course and Food expense	22,901.30
Miscellaneous	300.00
PayPal fees	1,207.97
Program	1,006.00
Raffles	1,000.00
Silent Auction	6,690.00
Sound System	995.00
Supplies	203.76
Taste & Tell Bank fee	5.00
Total for Taste & Tell	**$52,935.12**
Total for Fundraising Expenses	**$52,935.12**
Misc	1,254.22
Office Supplies	280.49
Operations	
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	291.25
Total for Operations	**$291.25**
Other Types of Expenses	
Insurance - Liability, D and O	508.03
Total for Other Types of Expenses	**$508.03**
Postage	30.00
Post Office Box	244.00
Socials	239.15
Sunshine	519.99
Warehouse Expenses	66.34
WebsiteURL fees	1,209.60
Yearbook	300.00
Total for Expenses	**$302,049.97**
Net Operating Income	**$15,441.81**
Other Income	
Purchase Discounts	50.00
Total for Other Income	**$50.00**
Net Other Income	**$50.00**
Net Income	**$15,491.81**

Congratulations CAC! We raised a total of $155,649.88 from Taste 'N Tell this year!! Think of how many children we can help!

CAC WELFARE REPORT

March's Board & General Meeting. Reporting Period 2/1/2026 to 2/28/2026

Organizations:

BPHI	$ 27.99
CDTC	$ 678.66
Cross Creek Elementary	$ 402.01
Cypress Elementary	$ 575.21
God's Little Lambs	$ 38.28
Hope Women's Center	$ 708.00
Our Fathers House	$ 1,105.00
Pace Center	$ 944.19
Pompano Beach Middle	$ 894.50
Seagull Alternative	$ 500.00
The Little Schoolhouse	$ 38.19
Total:	**$ 5,912.03**

Tiny Blessings Grant

Henderson Health	$854.30
Hope Women's Center	$333.40
Total	**$1,187.70**

Gift Cards on hand at 2/28/2026:

Publix Cards:

150 $10 cards at $9.70.	$. 1,455.00

Walmart Cards:

465 $10 cards	$ 4,650.00
47 $50 cards	$ 2,350.00

Target Cards:

250 $10 cards	$ 2,500.00
TOTAL CARDS:	$10,705.00

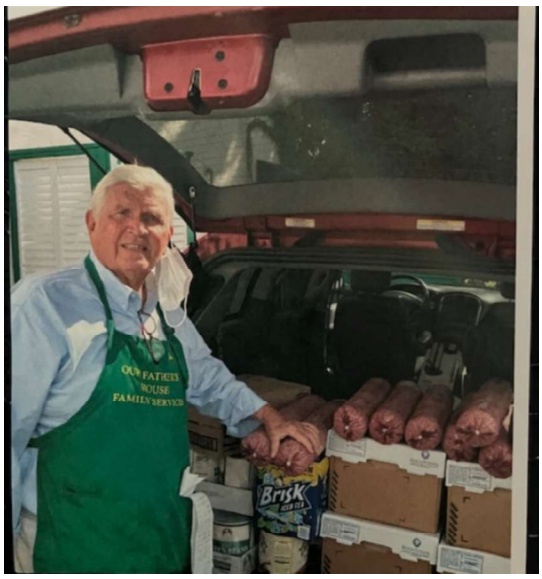
Gore Grant (2026)

Equine Assisted Therapies	$3,500.00

Special Requests: None
Individual Requests: None
Emergency Requests: None

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE - GORE GRANT

Thanks to the generous Gore grant, Our Father's House is putting every dollar to meaningful use by purchasing healthy food to serve through its soup kitchen. Jim Crissy (left) unloads the van after a trip to Restaurant Depot—looks like spaghetti is on the menu today! Pictured as well is Nichole, who faithfully serves at Our Father's House five days a week, preparing sandwiches and packing brown bags for guests to take with them. Each day, the kitchen provides **150 to 200 hot lunches,** and every guest leaves with **DINNER TOO** that includes a sandwich, cookies, and a piece of fruit.





EASTER

What a joyful morning at **God's Little Lambs School**! More than 90 students shared their **EGGcitement** as they greeted the Easter Bunny with bright smiles, warm hugs, and pure delight. Children's Aid Club members Ghislaine Martin, Janice Bloomfield, Heather Knight, Randa Flinn, and Pam Markus helped create a memorable celebration by hiding candy-filled Easter eggs, distributing gifts, and capturing each child's special moment with the Easter Bunny. These photos reflect our true mission that extends far beyond helping to fill funding gaps—we also strive to bring **joy, celebration, and genuine affection** to every child whose life we are privileged to touch. Through moments like these, we remind children that they are seen, cherished, and surrounded by a caring community.













The Little Schoolhouse March Birthday Party!







CAC liaisons Linda Ianelli and Fran English lovingly plan & prepare birthday parties each month for birthday children—and their 40 classmates. Through their kindness and dedication, these children have come to know they are remembered, celebrated, & deeply cared for. What a gift it is for a child to hear, "Happy Birthday," receive a present with their name on it, and be surrounded by sweets, smiles, and love.

Tomorrow's Rainbow HOPE FLOATS EVENT

Despite the rain, my kids and I attended Tomorrow's Rainbow's Hope Floats event. Aside from the bounce house, games, face painting and other activities, the main highlight was decorating and floating memorial paper boats. After decorating your boat you would attach it to a float that would be pulled down the New River by kayaks. The kayaks created a parade of boats that memorialized friends and loved ones that may not have survived grief and trauma; a moving and somber event.









Through scholarships provided by CAC we are fortunate to help those get the grief support they need. May we continue to uplift those facing difficult times and provide a pillar of hope to overcome grief and trauma. *Laura A. Balistreri*



(left)Abby Mosher, Director of Tomorrow's Rainbow with Laura Balistreri, CAC President Extraordinaire

C. Robert Markham Elementary
Technology with Global Communication Magnet School

March 6, 2026

Dear Members of the Children's Aid Club,

On behalf of the students and staff at C. Robert Markham Elementary School, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of pencils and electric pencil sharpeners for each of our classrooms.

Your thoughtful support ensures that our students have the basic tools they need to fully engage in learning every day. Something as simple as a sharpened pencil can make a meaningful difference in a child's ability to participate confidently in class, complete assignments, and focus on their academic growth.

The addition of electric pencil sharpeners in each classroom will also help our teachers maintain an efficient and organized learning environment, allowing them to dedicate more time to instruction and student support.

Your generosity and commitment to supporting children and education are truly appreciated. Thank you for partnering with us to help create a positive and productive learning experience for our students.

With sincere appreciation,

Junoisier J. Allen

Ms. Junoisier J. Allen, M.Ed.
Principal

A substitute teacher reached out to CAC with a request for pencils and pencil sharpeners for every classroom. We are so grateful to Barbara Hume for stepping in and making sure this need was met!

EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPIES OF SOUTH FLORIDA

CAC sponsored 8 students for equine-assisted therapy in the Boca Raton School of Autism program this year. These programs help provide therapeutic riding and equine activities to children with special needs so that they may improve physically, mentally and emotionally!



MARY ANN'S CLOSET

Lucky recipients of the **TINY BLESSING BUNDLE** made possible through a grant from a local Episcopal Church!





Everything you need to bring your baby home from the hospital!



Northside Elementary

CAC provided scholarships for those 5th graders that would not have been able to afford the Graduation trip to SeaWorld Orlando.

Imagine being the one left behind….

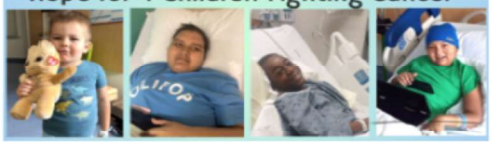




Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation

Share Your ❤️ with Greyson, Leonidas, Michael & Kenneth

Hope for 4 Children Fighting Cancer



Be Their Light Pam! Spring is a season of renewal, hope, and new beginnings. As flowers bloom and days grow brighter, we're reminded that every child deserves the chance to grow, thrive and dream without limits. We ask you to open your hearts to these (4) innocent children facing life-threatening challenges as their families struggle to stay financially afloat. Each of their families has received our emergency financial assistance, but they need more. Through our Advocacy Program (last resort program) we reach out to our community for help. Your contribution will ensure these families have food and housing, but most important, you will let them know they are **not alone**.

Our purpose is to help bridge the gap between mainstream and disadvantaged families fighting childhood cancer so that all children can have an equal chance to beat cancer.

With gratitude for your consideration,

Sandra Muvdi, MBA
President / CEO

Please click to "DONATE", Zelle to info@jjccf.org, PayPal or mail check.

Greyson, 4-year-old, Nicklaus Children's Hospital



Make an immediate difference in the life of Greyson as he fights Brain Cancer (malignant grade 3 fast growing tumor). While mom is unable to work, they need urgent help paying their mortgage and gas for their 161-mile commute to his treating hospital in Miami.

Mother's quote: **"In the blink of an eye, our lives shifted from playdates and story time to emergency scans, surgeries, and a life full of uncertainty. What makes his story so extraordinary isn't just the medical challenges he's endured-it's the way he's faced them. With courage. With heart. With a strength far beyond his years."** Read more...

DONATE

Leonidas, 14-year-old – Broward Health

This family of 5 needs help with rent while single mom working reduced hours at a restaurant is unable to make ends meet. Kindly help Leonidas and his family ease their financial burdens while he battles leukemia. Family's biggest worry is their monthly rent of $2,595. He has also recently been diagnosed with diabetes, making food and care more expensive.



Hospital Social Worker's quote: "Prior to his diagnosis, his mother worked tirelessly to provide for her family, but the demands of his rigorous treatment schedule have required her to significantly reduce her working hours. The emotional and financial strain of supporting a critically ill child while also caring for the entire household has been overwhelming.." Read more...

DONATE

Michael, 9-year-old – Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital



After his mother heard the shocking words, "your child has Leukemia" she did not understand this meant she had to quit working and her family of (5) would soon be facing an eviction notice. The aggressive Leukemia (AML) Michael is fighting requires him to be hospitalized 3 weeks out of each month to be treated with intensive chemotherapy.

Social Worker's quote: "Your support will do more than just help cover expenses, it will lift a tremendous financial weight, allowing Mom to focus her energy on Michael's diagnosis and the well-being of her children during this incredibly hard time." Read more...

DONATE

Kenneth, 14-year-old – Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Kenneth and his mom left their home country of Honduras, leaving behind his father and siblings, to try to save his life. He is fighting relapse leukemia and responding well to treatment in Miami. They need help paying for food and Uber rides.



Child's quote: **"In Honduras, I no longer had the chance to regain my health. My parents began knocking on doors, managing to bring me to the U.S. Thank God I'm receiving treatment. I'm asking for a helping hand and solidarity especially so that our financial, mental, and emotional burdens may be less difficult."** Read more...

DONATE

Broward Public Library Foundation Spring Events

For More Information, please go to:
bplfoundation.org

LITERARY FEAST ·2026·

Whether you enjoy historical fiction, mystery and spy thrillers or celebrity biographies, the books written by this year's best-selling Literary Feast authors offer you hours of absorbing reading.

Brad Taylor, ReShonda Tate, Scott Eyman, Robert Watson, and South Florida chef Lenore Nolan-Ryan are among the special guests featured during the Literary Feast weekend, April 17-18. One of Broward County's most anticipated cultural and philanthropic events, Literary Feast brings together community leaders, book lovers, and acclaimed authors for an unforgettable weekend celebrating literature and libraries. The Helen Ingham Foundation is the event's Presenting Sponsor.

Alexa Lanier and Ellen Crane are again serving as co-chairs, leading a group of dedicated dinner hosts and volunteers working to make this event a success.



John and Jennifer Uustal

Joining them are Honorary Chairs John and Jennifer Uustal. John Uustal, who recently signed his first book contract with Simon & Schuster, is the founding partner of Fort Lauderdale-based Kelley | Uustal, a prominent personal injury law firm. "What a thrill it is to enter our 37th year of Literary Feast with honorary chairs who represent everything important to our foundation — a love of libraries, the Broward community, and a passion for helping others," said Ellen Crane.

Get Tickets

NIGHT OF LITERARY FEASTS

The fundraising Night of Literary Feasts will begin at 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, April 18** with the Welcome Reception at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort. At the reception, the anticipated 350 guests can meet the authors, while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, a lavish silent auction, and book sales and signings. The Welcome Reception, sponsored by JM Family Enterprises, will be followed by intimate dinners with individual authors.

Tickets start at $100 for the reception-only and $200 for the reception and dinner. For tickets and more information, visit **bplfoundation.org/a-night-of-literary-feasts**.

Proceeds support Broward County Library's literacy programs, including the Summer Learning Program, SAT/ ACT Prep Workshops and the StoryBook Festival.

LitLIVE!

To hear the Literary Feast authors speak on moderated panels, join us for LitLIVE! on **Friday, April 17** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Auditorium in the Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. At this free event, attendees can also purchase books and have them signed while meeting the authors. LitLIVE! is sponsored by Nova Southeastern University and the NSU Alvin Sherman Library. To register, visit **bplfoundation.org/litlive**.

SILENT AUCTION

The Night of Literary Feasts' Silent Auction will open Monday, April 13 and continue until 10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Bid on hotel stays, gift cards, an exclusive ride on the Goodyear Blimp, and much more at home or at the event via your smartphone or computer at **one.bidpal.net/literaryfeast2026**. The Silent Auction is sponsored by Ryder System, Inc.

LITERARY FEAST AUTHORS

Jeff Boyd
Hard Times

Chanel Cleeton
The Lost Story of Eva Fuentes

Scott Eyman
Joan Crawford: A Woman's Face

Nicole Glover
The Starseekers

Deborah Goodrich Royce
Best Boy

Oliver Munday
Head of Household

Lenore Nolan-Ryan
Love Is the Main Ingredient

Hannah Pittard
If You Love It, Let It Kill You

ReShonda Tate
With Love From Harlem

Brad Taylor
Shadow Strike

Robert Watson
Declaration: The Story of American Independence



LitLUNCH!

More than 240 guests enjoyed the 16th annual LitLUNCH!, featuring bestselling author and media powerhouse Zibby Owens.

Owens discussed her journey to becoming a podcaster, publisher, and bookstore owner, as well as themes in her recent novel, *Blank*.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on special raffle items, including tickets to Owens' Totally Booked Live April event with authors in New York City, and hotel stays at Pier Sixty-Six and the Seminole Hard Rock.

Held on Feb. 20 at Pier Sixty-Six, this year's LitLUNCH! co-chairs were Laurie M. Ernest-Jones and Marianna Seiler DeJager. Proceeds support Broward County Library literacy programs, including the Books 'n' Bears at the Holidays program, which was highlighted at the luncheon.



Books & Bites

Books & Bites continues this spring with a special afternoon featuring two authors whose latest novels explore story, place, and resilience in distinct ways.

The event is scheduled from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 at Belmont Village Senior Living, Fort Lauderdale.



South Florida native **Christie Caliendo** writes literary fiction inspired by Florida's striking contrasts—beaches and swamps, beauty and decay, belonging and loss. Set near Lake Okeechobee, her new book, *Lesser Haven*, is a haunting blend of Southern gothic and psychological suspense.



Joining her is **Timothy Schmand**, a Buffalo-born writer whose fiction blends reality with adventure and imagination. A former museum and parks administrator with an MFA in Creative Writing from Vermont College, Schmand's work has appeared alongside writers such as Charles Bukowski and John Updike and earned honors including the Calvino Prize for Short Fiction. His latest novel, *The Danbury Chronicles*, offers a rust belt magic realism tale of a snowy Thanksgiving weekend, in Buffalo NY, 1969.

Guests will enjoy an engaging conversation about writing, storytelling, and the creative journeys behind their work.

Books & Bites is free for Library Foundation members at the $50 level and above; all others are welcome to attend for $25, space permitting.

Reserve Your Spot Today

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Belmont Village Senior Living!

Did You Know?

You can explore a new language, or refresh your skills, with Rosetta Stone, available free through Broward County Library. With courses in 30 languages, it offers engaging lessons that build reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, along with activities that strengthen grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

You can access Rosetta Stone from anywhere, and the mobile app makes it easy to practice on the go. Simply register online with your library card to get started, then download the app on Apple or Android devices to continue learning anytime, anywhere.

Learn More

Library Giving Day

The Next Chapter with Library Giving Day 2026

For countless Broward County residents, the library is indispensable — where children discover the joy of reading, job seekers find their footing, and curious minds of every age access knowledge freely. **On April 1**, for **Library Giving Day 2026**, you can ensure the library remains available for all residents in all chapters of their life.

Library Giving Day is a national celebration of libraries that unites supporters across the country in one powerful act of generosity. The Broward Public Library Foundation is proud to participate this year, with every dollar raised going directly toward programs and services at Broward County Library's 37 branches.

Your gift—in any amount—helps fund early literacy programs, digital resources, workforce development, cultural events, and so much more. Together, we can write a brighter chapter for Broward.

Donate, April 1 on Library Giving Day, and anytime at bplfoundation.org/library-giving-day

SPRING

Equine-Assisted Therapies Spring Events

Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida, Inc.
Creating a path to unbridled moments. Witness the magic.

HORSIN' AROUND...

Musings from around the paddock and in the stable.

The Countdown to Race Day Begins!

9TH ANNUAL
A DAY AT THE RACES

PLEASE JOIN US

SUNDAY
APRIL 12, 2026
12:00–4:00PM

THE EXCLUSIVE
FLAMINGO ROOM
AT GULFSTREAM PARK

Come when you can, leave when you must.

THOROUGHBRED RACING
(including special Equine-Assisted Therapies race)
WINNER'S CIRCLE RAFFLE
GOURMET BUFFET
AND GALLOP TO GIVE FOR OUR HERD

The highly anticipated "Day at the Races" event at Gulfstream Park returns for its ninth year!

Join us on **Sunday, April 12th from 12–4 p.m.** for an unforgettable afternoon of racing, community, and impact.

This year, guests will enjoy the exclusive Flamingo Room with stunning finish-line views, a private buffet, and dedicated betting stewards for a true VIP experience.

Plus, your favorite traditions return: "Gallop to Give For Our Herd," the Winners Circle Raffle, and Silent Auction, all supporting the incredible horses at the heart of EATSF.

Day at the Races sells out quickly! Make sure you grab your tickets by clicking here to join us this Spring!

Interested in supporting EATSF and Day at the Races even more? Event sponsorships are available! Click here to email Executive Director, Molly Murphy today!

Come Visit Us: Two Free Events at EATSF!



We're excited to welcome you to EATSF for two upcoming on-campus experiences in the weeks ahead!

Calling all veterans: Join us on April 8th from 9:00–10:30 am for our Veterans Program Open House. Come tour the campus, meet our incredible horses, and learn more about our free program designed specifically for those who have served. It's a peaceful and meaningful way to start your morning.

Ponies and Pints: Looking for the perfect way to unwind after work? Join us on April 30th from 5:30-7:00 pm for Ponies and Pints! Spend an evening with us on campus; relax on the deck with a beverage in hand, take in the atmosphere, and then head out to the barn to experience the magic firsthand as you meet our horses. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn more about what we do, and see the impact of EATSF up close.

Click here to RSVP to Executive Director, Molly Murphy today!



Happy Birthday



Heather Knight
4/1



Sandy Noonan
4/9



APRIL Calendar 2026 *Children's Aid Club*

Wednesday, April 1st

Little Schoolhouse (LSH)
EASTER Bunny Visit
9am - 11am
Be there at 9am to hide the eggs!
Contact: Linda Ianelli & Fran English

Friday, April 10th

Little Schoolhouse (LSH)
Birthday Party 10am
Contact: Linda Ianelli & Fran English

Tuesday, April 14th

Board Mtg Via Google Meet at 9:30am
Link will be emailed the night before.

Wednesday, April 15th

God's Little Lambs (GLL)
Birthday Party 10am
Contact: Ghislaine Martin & Janice Bloomfield



Friday, April 17th

Broward Partnership for the Homeless (BPHI) Pompano Campus
Mother's Day Boutique & Birthday Party 6 - 8:30pm
Contact: Vanessa Diaz-Font & Valerie Taylor

Monday, April 20th

CASF GOLF TOURNAMENT
Assignments have been handed out! For more information, contact Gina Jenkins!
CASF Golf Charity Classic 2025
The Club at Weston Hills
2600 Country Club Way, Weston FL

Tuesday, April 21st

General Meeting: 9:30 am
The Point of Pompano Beach
Meeting Room (Marsha Tessler's Condo)
2880 NE 14th Street Causway
Pompano Beach, FL 33062
Hostess: Linda Ianelli & Fran English

Looking Ahead to May

May 12th - Last Board Meeting
May 19th - Last General Meeting
Mother's Day Jewelry Boutique Parties:
God's Little Lambs - May 7th
Little Schoolhouse - TBA
CAC's Fiscal year is August 1st - July 31st.
All receipts/org's paperwork needs to be complete by the end of our fiscal year.
* CAC goes on hiatus during June, July and August. There are no formal meetings or newsletter.

