

December Newsletter 2025



Children's Aid Club

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



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. Hamilton Wright Mabie

President's Message:

A Season of Joy and Love

As we bring our extraordinary 70th Anniversary year to a close, let us finish it with the same energy, generosity, and spirit that have carried us through every month. I am deeply grateful for each of you and for the **heart** you bring to CAC, especially during this meaningful season. Our LYC Bake Sale is just around the corner, and your willingness to bake, donate, or lend a hand is

sincerely appreciated.

I also look forward to celebrating together at our Holiday Social on December 7th. Significant others are warmly welcomed, and in the spirit of good fun, please bring a \$10 gag gift for our playful exchange. As a reminder, our meetings fall one week earlier this month: the Board Meeting on December 2nd, and the General Meeting on December 9th at the warehouse. I encourage you to come a little early for a meet-and-greet and stay afterward as we prepare and address the Taste 'N Tell invitations, which will be mailed the first week of January.

This season invites us to reflect on all we have accomplished and all we have to be thankful for. On a personal note, my heart is especially full as I look forward to welcoming my third child into the world. Thank you for making this milestone year truly exceptional. It has been an honor to share it with you, and I look forward to closing it with warmth, gratitude, and sisterhood.



Warm Wishes for the Holidays,

Laura A. Balistreri



In this newsletter you can expect:

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

Save the Dates:

Virtual Board Meeting:

Dec. 2nd- Tuesday - 9:30

Google link sent the night before

General Meeting

Dec. 9th - Tuesday - 9:30am

Powell Warehouse

1851 SW 2nd Ave. Unit 10

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315

Passcode in black book*

Hosting:

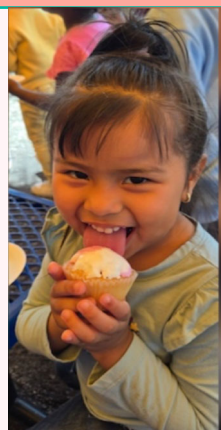
Sue Black

Jeanne Dixon

*If you are unable to come:

Call Valerie Taylor

December Spotlight



General Meeting Devotional

One Song can spark a moment,
one flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
one bird can herald spring.
One vote can change a nation,
one sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
one laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey,
one word must start a prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
one touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
one heart can know what's true.
One life can make a difference,
that difference starts with you.

Unknown



Taste 'n' Tell 2026

We know that everyone is busy shopping and wrapping gifts to provide an amazing Christmas for our holiday families.

Between now and our meeting on December 9th, please give some thought to your Raffle Basket for Taste 'n' Tell. Remember that we work in teams of two or three members and aim for a value of \$250 to \$500. Please go on the Google Drive and enter information about your basket or email Barbara Hume (bjhume@gmail.com) with the information. If you have items that don't work with your theme, please bring them to our December general meeting at the warehouse to share with others. Items of any value are still needed for the Silent Auction. We have some new items to offer in the Live Auction, including several very affordable trips. If you have any questions, please contact any of your Team Leaders.



Once our December Monthly meeting is adjourned, Members will receive a packet of their TNT invitations to review, label, and prepare for mailing by affixing the stamps to the mailing envelope. You may even like to jot a note to the invitee, personalizing it. They are to be returned as they will all be mailed on January 2nd.

NEW Holiday Basket Policy Passed

Liaisons and members who shop for unsponsored families may be reimbursed up to \$50 per child *after first* shopping at the warehouse for age-appropriate available items. Reimbursement intended to cover only items that cannot be obtained at the warehouse. Funds to come from the Holiday Appeal donations.

“Unsponsored” refers to families or children who were not adopted by members and therefore need to be shopped for items. When members adopt a family, the expectation is that it is a personal donation, supplemented by items available from the warehouse. However, if any member needs support, please try to partner with another member or reach out to Pam Markus for assistance. We give so much of our time and energy—no member should ever feel an added burden or unexpected financial strain.

News You Can Use



LYC Mingle Jingle Bake Sale – December 12

Get ready to BAKE for the Mingle Jingle at the Lauderdale Yacht Club

Best sellers: cookies, cupcakes, holiday breads, and cakes.

Important: Please bake four or five items; for example, 6 cookies is one item, so 2 batches may be enough, or 4 cupcakes may be one item, or small loaves of holiday breads; approximately, about \$35 - \$40 worth. No Store bought items allowed. Clearly mark items that contain NUTS, and please package baked goods in clear tins, or cellophane, so shoppers can see the treats.

Delivery:

Building opens at 8:30 AM

Please deliver baked goods by 9:30 AM (10 AM latest) for pricing and setup.

Volunteer Info:

Wear your pink CAC shirt and comfortable shoes.

Shift 1 – 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Kristina (cashier), Julie (cashier), Jenny B., Becky F., Randa, Barbara, Caroline, Ghislaine

Shift 2 – 12:30 PM–4:30 PM

Belinda (cashier), Rena, Sandy, Gail, Lynda S.



Early Drop-Off Locations:

Laura Balistreri – 340 Lido Drive, Fort Lauderdale

Barbara Hume – 5941 NE 15 Ave, Fort Lauderdale



SANTA'S VISIT TO LITTLE SCHOOLHOUSE & GOD'S LITTLE LAMBS



Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be spreading holiday cheer on December 17th, with a visit to **The Little Schoolhouse at 9:00 a.m.** followed by **God's Little Lambs at 10:15 a.m.** Each stop will include photos, singing, and plenty of festive magic. It is truly heartwarming to watch the children's excitement as they sing to Santa, greet him with hugs, and experience the joy of the season.

Children's Aid Club
Board Meeting Minutes (paper meeting)
November 4th, 2025



Board meeting was held over email due to the funeral of Bill Ferrante.

Board members were asked to submit reports to me for recording.

Ways and Means – no report

Treasurer – Barb Hume's report

Checking Account \$ 35,014.74

Schwab Account \$347,330.20

Total \$382,344.94

- We received and deposited a \$10,000 check from St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church for the Tiny Blessings grant.
- We received and deposited a \$10,000 check from Cheryl Arena, our first underwriting donation for Taste 'n' Tell.
- We purchased Walmart cards for Thanksgiving totaling \$23,800.
- The credit card payment of \$3,803.92 was paid on November 1st.

Welfare – Kristina Bryn- Welfare Report for November (See Report issued for Board & General Meeting)

Emergency Requests: Total: \$400.00

Individual Requests: Total: \$1,905.00

October Total: \$2,305.00

Corresponding Secretary – Janice Bloomfield reported Thank you letters were written to:

- Gore Family Foundation for the grant
- Blessed Sacrament (need address and person to write to)
- Cheryl and Andrea Arena \$10,000 the Tnt Underwriting
- There have been about 18 donations so far in memory of Bill Ferrante. (approx. \$2,075)

Thank you letters received:

- Back to Basics
- Light of the World Clinic

New Business –

There was a motion made by email:

We would like to make a motion that members shopping for families for Christmas be reimbursed for items not available at the warehouse, with the funds to come from the Holiday Appeal. Our recommendation is \$50 per child for ages up to 12 and \$75 per child for ages 13 to 17. (This would mainly be to purchase clothing since we have games and toys at the warehouse. We did this one other year.) Motion was seconded by Becky Ford. There was discussion per phone with President Laura Balistreri and then a brief meeting and discussion prior to the General Meeting. Based on the discussion, **a revised motion** was made by Becky Ford: Liaisons and members who shop for unsponsored families may be reimbursed up to \$50 per child after first shopping at the warehouse for age-appropriate available items. Reimbursement intended to cover only items that cannot be obtained at the warehouse. Funds to come from the Holiday Appeal donations. A vote was held by email and the motion carried with 8 members voting in favor of passing the motion.

Minutes recorded by Becky Ford, recording secretary.

Children's Aid Club

General Meeting Minutes at Tomorrow's Rainbow

November 11, 2025



Meeting was called to order at 9:32 am by President Laura Balistreri

Devotional – Linda Ianelli read a quote about how one person can do so much. Also, a Thank You letter from Pam Ferrante was shared thanking everyone for their support during Bill's illness and passing.

Presentation – Abby Mosher of Tomorrow's Rainbow gave a talk about what they do and they are celebrating their 20th Anniversary. She presented CAC with an anniversary book of gratitude with notes by former participants.

Approval of Minutes from October 2025 – A motion was made to approve the minutes by Linda Ianelli, second by Ghislaine Martin and minutes were approved by membership.

Membership – Valerie (present on Video) took roll call. Rena Udell reported Rachel Pope is doing much better. Cards are welcome.

Ways and Means – Belinda McDonald was not in attendance today so no report

Treasurer – Barb Hume's report

Checking Account	\$ 35,014.74
Schwab Account	\$347,330.20
Total	\$382,344.94

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- We purchased Walmart cards for Thanksgiving totaling \$23,800.
- The credit card payment of \$3,803.92 was paid on November 1st.

Welfare – Kristina Bryn- (see report)

There was one Emergency Request: Colson Family: GLL, Ghislaine Liaison, Total: \$400.00.

And one Individual Request: Noah Curiel: Gina Bono Jenkins, Honorary Member

This is the continuation of the young man we started helping in September for his dental work. He received his dental cleaning on Friday, October 24th and will have a series of four appointments to take of his eight cavities. Board approved \$300 in Walmart GCs to be given to his caretaker, Tammy, so she could purchase the clothes and items Noah needed. Board also approved \$105 for his Dental cleaning and \$1,500 for his cavity appointments.

Total: \$1,905.00, this amount was ratified with a motion by Ghislaine Martin and seconded by Pam Markus and the motion carried by vote of the members.

Corresponding Secretary – Janice Bloomfield reported Thank you letters were written to:

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- Cheryl and Andrea Arena \$10,000 the Tnt Underwriting
- There have been about 18 donations so far in memory of Bill Ferrante. (approx. \$2,075)

Thank you, letters, received:

- Back to Basics
- Light of the World Clinic

Unfinished Business –

- Thanksgiving baskets are complete and being handed out to the liaisons today for delivery.
- Holiday Baskets: Laura will send out the list of families and their assigned sponsors and also dates for shopping in the warehouse. Liaisons are encouraged to call their sponsors to verify they received the information. Gifts are needed back to the liaison by December 5.

Children's Aid Club

General Meeting Minutes at Tomorrow's Rainbow

November 11, 2025



Louise mentioned she has \$25 gift cards available for teenage boys since there are not a lot of items for that age at the warehouse.

- Equine Assisted Therapy fundraiser- Held their fundraiser on Nov 1, Caroline had 6 CAC volunteers to help and \$150,000 was raised.
- Holiday Mingle Jingle and Shop is Dec. 12 at LYC. Members are asked to provide baked items. Doors will open at 8:30 am to deliver your items to LYC or you can deliver to someone the day prior at their house see email from Laura. There will be an AM shift 09:00-12:30 and a PM shift 12:30-4:00, the assigned helpers are also listed in the email from Laura. Bring lunch and wear your pink CAC shirts and comfortable shoes.

New Business –

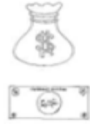
- TNT-Linda Ianelli reported the Save the date went out, invitations are with the printer and will be ready for the December meeting. Barbara Hume reported that the menu committee had a meeting with Dan and Elaine and the chef at LYC. The main dish will be Chicken Pot Pie which Elaine was excited about. The menu will be served at the CAC Holiday Social. Members may be asked to prepare a recipe to contribute to the social. Kristina encouraged members to be working on baskets and raffle items and auction items. Please use the grid so others can see what you are working on.
- Holiday Social is December 7th at Pam Markus' clubhouse. A list will be circulated for items to bring so stay posted for that. There is an oven and a microwave available if needed.
- Julie Newton spoke about 100+ Women Who Care Broward and encourages members to consider joining as CAC can appeal for a quarterly donation. Membership is \$400/year or \$100/quarter. CAC is eligible to get funds once every two years.
- Valerie Taylor reports books were purchased with the Doc Taylor memorial funds and there are 77 books at the warehouse, mostly animal books.
- Jacalyn Murray spoke about the Gala she attended at the Episcopal church. They had beautiful flowers that were donated by Trader Joe's and the congregation put the arrangements together. She wonders if this would be an option for TNT. Vanessa is working with a Wholesaler who will make the arrangements for \$20 each.

Ghislaine Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rena Udell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

Minutes recorded by Becky Ford, recording secretary.



Ghislaine Martin handing Thanksgiving envelopes to Abbey Mosher, director of Tomorrow's Rainbow. THANKS ABBY!



Balance Sheet

Children's Aid Club

As of October 31, 2025



DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BOA Charity Checking	\$37,539.10
Schwab Investment Fund	343,705.89
Total for Bank Accounts	\$381,244.99
Accounts Receivable	
Other Current Assets	
Publix Food Cards	3,000.00
Wal-Mart Food Cards	5,250.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$8,250.00
Total for Current Assets	\$389,494.99
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	\$390,606.26
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Credit card	8,735.65
Total for Credit Cards	\$8,735.65
Other Current Liabilities	
Temp Restricted Funds - Megan's Fund	381.72
Temp Restricted Funds - St. Mary Magdalene Church	10,000.00
Temp Restricted Grant - Gore Family Foundation	22,500.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$32,881.72
Total for Current Liabilities	\$41,617.37
Total for Liabilities	\$41,617.37
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	167,841.21
Retained Earnings	291,550.35
Net Income	-110,402.67
Total for Equity	\$348,988.89
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$390,606.26



Profit and Loss



Children's Aid Club

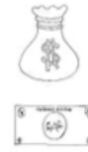
August 1-October 31, 2025



DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
cash rewards	387.67
Donations	\$5,758.05
Memorial	130.00
Total for Donations	\$5,888.05
Dues	3,375.00
Fundraising Income	
Holiday Letter	14,555.00
Taste 'n' Tell	
Underwriting	10,000.00
Total for Taste 'n' Tell	\$10,000.00
Total for Fundraising Income	\$24,555.00
Total for Income	\$34,205.72
Gross Profit	\$34,205.72
Expenses	
Bank Charge	11.00
Charity	
Back to Basics	20,000.00
Bennett Elementary	1,486.60
Blessed Sacrament	3,180.00
BPHI	1,946.06
Broward Health	2,500.00
CDTC (Children's Diagnostic)	2,962.67
Croissant Park Elementary	500.00
Cross Creek School	619.80
Cypress Elementary	294.53
Donors Choose.org	1,319.02
Feeding Families	42,400.00
God's Little Lambs	4,815.25
Henderson Behavioral Health	1,350.49
Holiday Baskets	
Christmas	112.99
Thanksgiving	24,248.58
Total for Holiday Baskets	\$24,361.57
Hope Women's Center	2,798.53



Profit and Loss
Children's Aid Club
 August 1-October 31, 2025



DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Individuals	
Colson Family	400.00
Curiel Family	2,334.00
Florence Louis Family	2,355.00
Foux Family	512.95
Santiago Family	2,540.00
Total for Individuals	\$8,141.95
JJCF	2,250.00
Light of the World Clinic	5,725.00
Mary Ann's Closet	2,058.23
Northside Elementary	2,110.98
Our Father's Soup Kitchen	1,705.95
PACE	788.69
Pompano Beach Middle School	2,563.80
The Little Schoolhouse	5,220.18
Tomorrow's Rainbow	1,650.00
Total for Charity	\$142,749.30
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	1,050.00
Total for Contract Services	\$1,050.00
Fundraising Expenses	
Taste & Tell	
Decorations	154.91
Total for Taste & Tell	\$154.91
Total for Fundraising Expenses	\$154.91
Office Supplies	57.84
Operations	
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	114.00
Total for Operations	\$114.00
Sunshine	105.00
Warehouse Expenses	66.34
Yearbook	300.00
Total for Expenses	\$144,608.39
Net Operating Income	-\$110,402.67
Net Other Income	
Net Income	-\$110,402.67

WELFARE REPORT for November’s Board & General Meeting 10/1/2025 to 10/31/2025

Organizations:		Gift Cards on Hand at 10/31/2025:	
Bennett Elementary.	\$ 105.63	Publix Cards:	
Blessed Sacrament.	\$1,455.00	300 \$10 cards at \$9.70 each	\$2,910.00
Broward Health	\$1,250.00	Walmart Cards:	
BPHI	\$1,325.11	5 @ \$50 cards	\$250.00
CDTC	\$ 151.75	Aldi cards:	
Cross Creek Elementary	\$ 310.75	0 \$25 cards	\$0.00
God’s Little Lambs	\$ 66.68	Total on Hand:	\$3,160.00
Henderson Behavioral	\$ 442.98	Special Request Fund:	None
Hope Women’s Center	\$ 708.00		
Mary Ann’s Closet.	\$2,058.23		
Our Father’s House	\$ 56.10		
Total:	\$7,930.23		

Emergency Requests:

Colson Family: God’s Little Lambs, Ghislaine Martin, Liaison
 Carolyn Stevens, GLL Director, reached out to Ghislaine asking if CAC could help Colson family’s grandmother. Her daughter is on life-support, and the grandmother is taking care of the three young children. She needed immediate assistance for food. Welfare approved \$400 in Walmart GCs. Ghislaine delivered the GCs to GLL for the family on Tuesday, October 21st.
 Total: \$400.00

Individual Requests:

Noal Curiel: Gina Bono-Jenkins, Honorary Member
 This is the continuation of the young man we started helping in September for his dental work. He received his dental cleaning on Friday, October 24th and will have a series of four appointments to remove eight cavities. Board approved \$300 in Walmart GCs to be given to his caretaker, Tammy, so she could purchase clothes and items Noah needed. Board also approved \$105 for his dental cleaning and \$1,500 for his cavity appointments.
 Total: \$1,905.00

October Total: \$2,305.00



NOVEMBER 2025

Thanksgiving Baskets

Feeding Families

- 25 organizations
- 102 families
- 202 adults
- 307 children**



Broward Partnerships Tomorrow's Rainbow for the Homeless



PACE Center for Girls



God's Little Lambs

Children's Aid Club works diligently each year to fight food insecurity among Broward County's most vulnerable children by partnering with local organizations to identify families in need. Through fundraisers, private donations, and programs like last month's Feeding Families campaign and the annual Thanksgiving Baskets, CAC distributed \$23,800 in Walmart food gift certificates to support more than 100 families with over 300 children this Thanksgiving.

The Little Schoolhouse



Children's Aid Club Extends Relief for Second Straight Month, Reaching 991 Children Facing Food Insecurity; 684 Children Helped in October, 307 More in November!

Feeding Families Campaign - Thank you Notes

CAC Community Impact

One of the greatest rewards of giving is witnessing recipients pass that generosity forward. Neithan's mother, who recently received food assistance from Children's Aid Club, chose to share her blessings in the most beautiful way. She invited all the mothers and children staying at the Ronald McDonald House to join her for a shared meal, thoughtfully setting a lovely table outdoors in a nearby park. In doing so, she is teaching her son—and reminding all of us—the true meaning of the season.

Special thanks to Carole Falkanger, liaison for the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, for making this connection possible.



Dear Children's Aide Club,
Thankyou for your sponsorship.
It takes a village and we
thank you for being apart of
ours.
-Mrs.Dwens
NorthSide Elementary !!

FROM: J a r a n g t a
And Mother
Janet

Thank for helping me go to
Sea world
Liam.
Thank for helping me go to
Eresian Thank you to help to go sea
World.
-Markenlu



THANK YOU, CAC,
FOR HELPING
OUR FAMILIES AT NORTH
SIDE!

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR US EACH AND EVERY
YEAR.
WE APPRECIATE EVERYONE
—
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT
YOU DO!

(Left) Northside Elementary thanks CAC for Feeding Families with big, beautiful smiles!

Why do we do what we do?
Because together we see
dreams come true!

Little Schoolhouse celebrated the
November birthdays and so
grateful for all the gifts!!



Children's Aid Club
3296 N. Federal Highway #11503
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339

Dear Children's Aid Club Team,

Thank you for the grocery gift cards and for the care behind your *Feeding Families* program. Your support arrived right when we needed it most. With food costs rising, it can be challenging to keep the pantry stocked, pack school lunches, and still serve a healthy dinner. Your gift eases that burden and gives us real peace of mind.

Because of you, we'll be able to buy fresh produce, milk, eggs, and the staples our kids rely on. More than the groceries, your kindness reminds us that our community stands with families like ours. We're grateful for the compassion, respect, and dignity you show in the way you serve.

Please extend our thanks to everyone who makes this possible—your staff, partners, and donors. We hope to pay this kindness forward whenever we can.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A Family of Six

Dear God's Little Lambs,

Thank you for choosing our family to receive grocery gift cards. Your kindness came at the perfect time and lifted a real weight off our shoulders. As a family of six—your support makes a meaningful difference.

We're grateful not only for the gift itself, but for the care, respect, and dignity you show families like ours. Please share our appreciation with everyone involved. Your generosity helps our kids eat well and feel supported by their school community.

LeBron Family

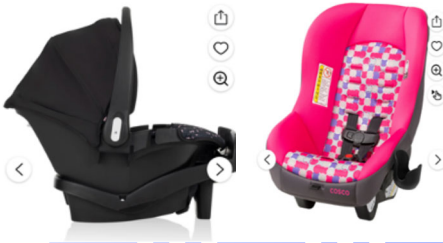


God's Little Lambs celebrated
the November and December
birthdays and sent thank you
letters for food assistance.

Tiny Blessing Bundles are making an Impact!

The Tiny Blessings Bundle provides the unique ability to gift a mother all the essential necessities she needs at once. CAC already has the system in place to efficiently execute this program. When an organization's contact alerts the liaison to a need for a car seat or bundle, CAC follows the same procedure used for other requests. Funds for these purchases will come directly from the **TINY BLESSINGS BUNDLE** received by The Episcopal Church of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin. What an amazing gift!!

1. A Car Seat (two options)



2. A Pack N Play



3. Formula



4. Diapers



5. Wipes



Equine Assisted Therapies of South Florida

On November 1st, Children's Aid Club members helped Equine Assisted Therapies, a longtime partnered organization, at their 17th Annual Horseshoe Hoedown. The event was held in the Vegso Family Arena on the EATSF campus and featured live music, gourmet buffet, silent and live auctions, and a demonstration of riding skills from some EATSF participants.

Thanks Becky Ford, Heather Knight, Jacalyn Murray, Caroline Courtney, Linda Ianelli, and Debra Rowand for helping to make it a galloping success!



Our CAC Prospective Members!

Randa Flinn

Sponsor:
Janice Bloomfield



Michele Holtzheuser

Sponsor:
Jeanne Dixon



Angie Graziano

Sponsor: Pam Ferrante



What are you thankful for this December, and how do you plan to spend your holidays?

This December, and always, I am grateful for my many blessings- good health, amazing family, dear friends, my former colleagues (friends), my former students (now friends), and my new retired life. I am grateful for new, wondrous friends I'm getting to know through CAC, and I feel beyond blessed to have the opportunity to do good through CAC, and to spend time with strong, dedicated women who are deeply impacting the community in positive ways. This Christmas we are at home, with my daughter hosting Christmas Eve, and me hosting Christmas Day. Grandkids at Christmas is another blessing! We are heading to Saint Augustine after Christmas for New Year's Eve. Regretting that our busy December is preventing us from attending the CAC Holiday Social. I know it will be beautiful and fun!

(Above are cookies made for the warehouse holiday shoppers and wrappers by Michele.) When Jeanne told me about Children's Aid Club many, many years ago she asked me if there was anything I could contribute to the silent auction. I was so excited to create something for the ladies luncheon and every year I made something different and the results were always fantastic!! The beautiful seashell mirrors, hand painted baby clothes, jeweled crystal seashell napkin rings brought a one of a kind energy to those tables! I know that there are countless ways that all of us can make a difference in children's lives and I am so excited to have the opportunity to help in anyway I can!

This December I am thankful for so many things. My husband John who works tirelessly for our family. Our two sons Joey and Luca who bring us so much joy and allow us to experience the magic of the holidays through the eyes of a child. I am forever thankful for my mother and our daily morning phone calls. Last but not least, I am so thankful and grateful for the new friends we have made in Florida (the ladies of the CAC included!) who have helped to make it feel like home.



We hope you can join us for the **best party of the year — our Holiday Social!**

This year, we'll be celebrating the wonderful close of our **70th Anniversary**, and we can't wait to come together in friendship and appreciation for this amazing group of hardworking ladies. And yes—**gentlemen are welcome too!**

We will be sampling items from our TNT menu, and if you're able, please consider bringing something tasty to "tell" about. We're expecting **35 people**, so the more the merrier!

The gathering will be held at the Hawthorne Clubhouse. It is located **4.7 miles west of I-95 on Broward Boulevard**. Turn **left on 70th Ave**, then an immediate **right onto Hawthorne Way**. The clubhouse will be on your right.

And don't forget to bring a **small \$10 gag gift** for our ever-exciting **Gift Exchange** — always a highlight of the night!

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



(Left) Thanks to Sandy Noonan and all the Warehouse gals for their incredible organization for all the toys, clothes, bags, and wrappings! It takes weeks of preparation! We see Kristina Bryn, Pam Ferrante and Dale Conner choosing their families' presents.

Don't Forget where all those TOYS came from....our Holiday Angel, Mrs. Irene Feldman. If you feel so inspired, you can write a Thank you note or a Hanukkah card.

4132 Carambola Circle S, #F201
Coconut Creek, FL 33066-2582.



CAC Bulletin Board

Holiday Appeal

Families were assigned to each sponsor, so if you are a liaison, please reach out to your sponsors by phone to make sure they are in receipt of the family info, answer any questions they may have and remind them of the deadline to turn in all of the gifts. I know we are all wanting to be so generous but do remind them to be cognizant of the living situation the family may have.

RAFFLES & LIVE AUCTION

The request letter for a donation is attached to this newsletter. Please print off several copies and keep in your car or purse. When you are shopping or dining out, compliment the manager by offering free advertisement in our TNT program if they donate a good or service for a charitable cause.
"It's for the Children!"



Do you need a CAC shirt or bag? The bag is only \$10 and the shirt is \$20. Or provide your own pink top and get it embroidered for only \$5.00. Contact Pam Markus for more details.



December Library Volunteer Request: Books n Bears at the Arena!

Volunteers are needed to help keep our program on track and students engaged!
Event: Books 'n' Bears at the Arena
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025
Times: 8 am - 12:30 pm
Location: Amerant Arena, 1 Panther Pkwy, Sunrise, FL 33323
Support Needed: Duties will vary, but general roles are bag packers, room set-up, guides, greeters, monitors, activity leads and clean-up.
Volunteers Needed: Any available; the opportunity is aimed at adults, but we will gladly welcome teens 13+ with a parent.
Parking: Available at the Amerant Arena, exact parking location and entrance to be shared with confirmed volunteers the week of the event.

If you are interested, please contact Robert M. Ahlness at RAhlness@BPLFoundation.org or call (505) 604-0739.

For more information: Contact Valerie Taylor!

Don't forget to take pictures when you are delivering your Holiday Baskets!!!

Every picture demonstrates what CAC is all about, helping to support the needs of children in our community! Please send your pictures to Pam Markus, newsletter editor.



Announcements



Holiday Waves
TOY DRIVE GALA
 Drink, Enjoy & Bring A Toy
 MY SAFE HARBOR FLORIDA & WAVES
 WILL BE COLLECTING NEW & UNWRAPPED TOYS
 FOR LOCAL CHILDREN
 GIFT CARDS TO TARGET & WALMART ARE ALSO GREAT!
 Live Music, Food & Drinks
 Great Raffle Prizes!
 THURSDAY DECEMBER 4TH
 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Location:
 Papa's Raw Bar
 4610 N. Federal Hwy.
 Lighthouse Point, FL. 33064



Happy Birthday



Suze Bailey
12/2



Louise Proffer
12/7



Mary Ellen Coen
12/9



Meals on Wheels South Florida "Senior SNAP Relief" Program

Meals on Wheels South Florida is introducing a new initiative designed to help seniors who will be affected by upcoming reductions to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The Senior SNAP Relief Program will ensure that vulnerable older adults continue receiving the nutritious meals they depend on.




About the Program
 With many seniors facing a sudden decrease in their SNAP support on November 1st, this program will serve as a critical safety net. The Senior SNAP Relief Program will provide eligible seniors with four weeks of meals, delivered in two shipments. Each delivery will include:

- 14 nutritious dinners
- 14 shelf-stable breakfast items

This initiative is designed to ensure no senior goes hungry during this transitional period and that every participant has consistent access to healthy, ready-to-eat meals.



Many people in Broward County are facing financial hardship and are struggling to put food on the table. With the holidays fast approaching, food costs on the rise, and uncertainty with the economy, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners is encouraging those who can help to donate money to organizations that feed the hungry and food insecure. Broward County is working together with various non-profit and charitable organizations with the **Feeding Broward** initiative.





MONTHLY DRIVE-THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION

First Come First Served

Holiday Distribution Dates:

- Tuesday, November 18th, 2025
- Tuesday, December 16th, 2025

Time: 9:00AM-12:00PM

FRANKLIN PARK
 2501 Franklin Drive, Fort Lauderdale 33311

To learn more about Meals on Wheels or The Y's program, you can go to www.mowsoflo.org

December Calendar 2025 *Children's Aid Club*

Tuesday, December 2nd

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

Sunday, December 7th

CAC 2025 Holiday Social
Hawthorne Clubhouse
7101 E. Tropical Way
Plantation, FL 33317
RSVP to Jeanne Dixon (301)751-6213

\$10 Gag Gift & BYOB!

Tuesday, December 9th

**General Meeting: 9:30 am at POWELL
WAREHOUSE**

Bring your Invitee addresses!

1851 SW 2nd Ave., Unit 10
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
(code is in your Black Book page 6)

Immediately following the meeting:

Friday, December 12th

**Lauderdale Yacht Club Mingle & Jingle
BAKE SALE**

Drop off your baked goods by 9:30 AM at LYC or to
Laura B, Jeanne D. or Barbara H. the day before.

If you'd like to help, please call
Jeanne(301) 751-6213

AND

Little Schoolhouse (LSH)

Birthday Party 10 - 11:30 am
Contact: Linda lanelli & Fran English

Wednesday, December 17th

Little Schoolhouse (LSH)

SANTA'S VISIT 9AM

Contact: Linda lanelli & Fran English



God's Little Lambs (GLL)

SANTA'S VISIT 10:30 am

Contact: Ghislaine Martin & Janice Bloomfield





3296 N, Federal Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-8422

The Children's Aid Club (CAC) is a local charity celebrating 70 years of dedicated service to children and families in the South Florida community. Partnerships with businesses have always been vital to the success of fundraising efforts, and support is needed to make this milestone year truly memorable.

On February 3, 2026, CAC will host the annual "Taste 'n Tell" fundraising luncheon at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. This event will feature beautiful raffle baskets, a cruise raffle drawing, and both live and silent auctions. **Contributions are essential** to continue providing critical assistance to those in need.

In the past year, CAC provided emergency assistance to 54 individual families, impacting 138 children. A total of \$98,755.94 was allocated through the Welfare Committee to prevent evictions, avoid utility shut-offs, and provide essential needs such as transportation support (e.g., car repairs, insurance, and fuel cards), food gift certificates, school uniforms, clothing, shoes, hygiene items, childcare assistance, and after-school programming. In 2024, our Holiday Basket program, administered three times a year – Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter – served 281 families comprising 860 children. We are unable to do any of this without our community support. That means YOU!

As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, CAC ensures that **100% of funds** raised go directly back into the community. More details about this mission can be found on our website, www.ChildrensAidClub.org.

A donation will make a significant impact on the success of this fundraiser. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are also available. Thank you for supporting local children and families in need.

Member of Children's Aid Club Contact # _____

This letter serves as your receipt. FOR TAX PURPOSES, no goods or services were provided in conjunction with this gift. Children's Aid Club is a 501(c)(3) organization in the State of Florida. The agency's state charitable identification number is SC-03868 and tax id number is 59-6194364. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE (800) 435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.



**Children's Aid Club
Acquisition Form**

2- Part Form – **Top portion** is for your use to get information to the Auction Committee for an offic thank you letter

Bottom portion should be left with the vendor making the donation

Member Name: _____

This donation is _____ Personal _____ Company

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Description of Donation (please include listing of all items and/or special instructions):

Estimated Value: \$ _____

Gift Certificate Attached: _____ Yes _____ No Value \$ _____

Any restrictions and/or expiration dates: _____

Thank you for your donation of _____

Value \$ _____ Date: _____

Signature of CAC Member: _____

Children's Aid Club

a 501c3 charity, Federal ID #59-6194364