

# Healing & Hope News

"The work will continue..."  
- Father Edward J. Flanagan,  
Founder of Boys Town

## Celebrating the 2023 Nonprofits First's Hats Off Awards Nominees

The Nonprofits First's Lucky 7th Annual Hats Off Awards was a great event to celebrate the nominees whose shared passion is to make our communities better. Among them was Susan Yeager, our wonderful board member, who

we nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award. Susan joined our board of directors in 2011 and was voted in as chair-elect from 2017 to 2019. Even after her three consecutive three-year terms ended, Susan has continued to dedicate her time, talent, and resources to helping

children and saving families, by actively participating in the Board Development Committee.

"Susan has been one of the greatest advocates for our Boys Town mission in South Florida. She always has a smile on her face, a positive attitude, and the willingness to help in every way she can," said Daniela Mesquita, Development Director.

Susan's contributions as a volunteer at Boys Town South Florida are the perfect example of dedication, generosity and teamwork. For more than a decade, Susan, and her husband David, contributed and volunteered at nearly every one of our Boys Town South Florida community events and campaign, including past galas, and more recently served as Champions for our Giving Tuesday, donating and volunteering at the Thanksgiving food distribution, and sponsoring our Halls of Hope data walk experience.

Regardless of the tasks, from event check-in and bagging donated food items to setting up silent auction baskets,

Susan has always done it with enthusiasm, warmth, and a beautiful smile. Although she did not win the Volunteer of the Year Award from Nonprofits First, Susan is our winner at Boys Town, and we are truly grateful for her.

*"She always has a smile on her face, a positive attitude, and the willingness to help..."*

Boys Town South Florida is a member of Nonprofits First, which provides resources that increase the operational capacity and impact of nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County. Nonprofits First's prestigious Annual Hats Off

Awards are given to incredible local leaders and volunteers in recognition of their support and achievements in serving our community.



Susan Yeager, board member



From Left: Susan Yeager – board member,  
Bethany Lacey – Executive Director, and  
Daniela Mesquita – Development Director

## A LETTER FROM BETHANY

As we enter the fourth quarter of this year, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for all that we



have achieved together on our mission to support at-risk children and families. Throughout the year, our dedicated team has continued to work tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most. From providing essential resources to at-risk families to creating safe spaces at home and at schools for

children to learn and grow, we have made remarkable strides in our journey.

One thing that has become increasingly evident to me is that champions excel and finish strong in the fourth quarter of their endeavors. It's during this time that individuals and teams dig deep, find their inner strength, and push themselves to achieve greatness. Our champions are the children who have overcome adversity; the parents who have persevered through tough times and the volunteers and staff who have shown unwavering dedication.

I am reminded of a quote by Vince Lombardi: "It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up." Our work may sometimes face setbacks, but it's our determination to rise, to continue, and to fight for a better future, that defines us as champions. Together, we are helping the children and families we serve to become champions, and in doing so, we are building a stronger, more resilient community.

As we move into the holiday season, let us remember that the spirit of giving and hope shines brightest in the fourth quarter. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to our mission. Together, we can make this quarter our most impactful one yet. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you, our supporters, partners, volunteers, and staff, for your continued dedication to our cause. Your belief in our mission is what propels us forward, and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together in the coming months.

Thank you for being champions for our children and families in need

**Bethany Lacey**  
Executive Director



## Welcome New Board Member: Sheri Resnick

**Q.** Why did you become involved with Boys Town South Florida?

**A.** *I became involved with Boys Town because I care deeply about what the organization does for children and families. It appears progress is being made and the families are learning how to change their behavior. This is a key ingredient for real change.*

**Q.** What do you wish other people knew about Boys Town?

**A.** *I wish the organization and the life-changing work it does were more well-known. I was not aware of its existence prior to meeting Bethany and when I mention it to friends and family, they are not aware of it either.*

**Q.** What is your favorite program/service that Boys Town South Florida provides? Why?

**A.** *My favorite program is the In-Home Family Service because I think parents need to learn how to manage situations that occur in the moment. If their instincts are off due to the way they were raised, having someone to discuss it with, and consider other ways to think about the crisis, can help them learn on the spot. The 24/7 crisis support allows that to occur. Bravo!*

**Q.** What will others be surprised to know about you?

**A.** *It might surprise others to know that I was a kid that would have benefited from the support of Boys Town. My family needed help and never got it.*

**Q.** Favorite Quote:

**A.** *"If you want to fly, give up what weighs you down."  
Buddha*





November 15-30, 2023

## Be a Teach Love Giving Tuesday Champion Today!

From **November 15 thru November 30**, you will have a chance to be part of our Teach Love Giving Tuesday Campaign! We are calling out to all our **champions** to join with Boys Town South Florida to make a difference in the lives of at-risk children (girls and boys), and families in South Florida. Teach Love Giving Tuesday provides **you** the chance to make a positive impact in the lives of children in need by becoming a peer-to-peer fundraiser.

The white dandelion in our *Teach Love Giving Tuesday Campaign*, symbolizes strength, resilience, and most importantly hope. To us, white dandelions are symbolic of encouraging our children to dream bigger and have hope for a brighter future.

**You have the power to make a meaningful difference in a child's life, shaping the path toward a brighter future.** All the donations we receive go directly to our programs to support our families with the right care, at the right time, and in the right way. **Want to see how?**



Kayly & Ronan

Meet this beautiful family, Kayly, and her eight-year-old son, Ronan, who participated in our In-Home Family Services program!

In-Home Family Services is a family-focused, skill-oriented intervention that

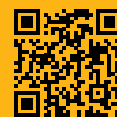
brings Boys Town's well-established methods and strategies directly to families' homes to foster a positive transformation. Kayly needed help setting a routine with Ronan related to mealtime, dressing, and reinforcement

of potty-training habits. Ronan is on the Autism spectrum, which required Kayly to find strategies that would be tailored to Ronan's capabilities and fit into her schedule, so she wouldn't feel burned out from being the sole caregiver.

To alleviate the family's stress when it came to reinforcing positive potty-training habits at home, Boys Town South Florida Family Consultant was able to use charitable donations to buy Kayly a washing machine. The washing machine has been a tremendous time saver. Kayly is now able to wash clothes at home versus going to the laundromat. When it comes to mealtimes and getting dressed, it is still a work in progress. Ronan isn't fully verbal, so Kayly has learned different skills and approaches to help her son communicate his needs, while creating a healthy family routine.

At Boys Town South Florida, we take great pride in our ongoing commitment to providing evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs designed to help children and families in our community cope with trauma, overcome limitations, and get on a positive path.

**Be a Champion for local at-risk children by joining our Teach Love Giving Tuesday campaign!**



Scan here to  
Donate Online

**HELP US REACH  
OUR GOAL: \$20,000**

Champions make a difference! You help carry out the mission of changing the way America cares for children and families. Not sure if you would have the time? We at Boys Town South Florida will create your peer-to-peer page, give you social media posts, and a free Teach Love T-shirt!

To become a champion, please visit [BTSFLGive.givesmart.com](https://BTSFLGive.givesmart.com) or email [InfoSFL@boystown.org](mailto:InfoSFL@boystown.org) for further information. Stay tuned for Matching Gift Challenges!!!

# GIVING

## Featured Events

Another year is another opportunity for growth and resiliency to continue forward in the good fight to save children and heal families. We are honored to have been able to serve the community for the past 32 years. We hope to continue being in the lives of all at-risk children and families that need hope, help, and healing. We especially want to **thank you** for being in the lives of these children and families through your generosity, love, and support.



**November 1 – December 13**

**HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**, we are accepting brand new gifts for children of all ages. Email Lili at [Elizabeth.Lopez-Smith@boystown.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Lopez-Smith@boystown.org) with the subject line: Hope for the Holidays to learn more or be paired with a child.



**November 15 – 30**

**TEACH LOVE GIVING TUESDAY** is our peer-to-peer fundraiser to help our child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention programs. Be a Champion and make a positive difference in the life of a child!



We hosted a brand-new event where community members walked in the footsteps of the children and families we serve. Would you like to **WALK IN OUR HALLS OF HOPE** and have a tour of our programs? Please call 561-612-6000.

Look for our next newsletter to see photos of the event!



### Development Office

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### For more great stories, visit **BOYSTOWN.ORG/south-florida**

Since opening in 1991, Boys Town South Florida has impacted the lives of over 66,000 children through life-changing care to area youth and families. This care includes behavior and mental health, social and emotional support for families with children, school support services, positive parent-child interactions, home visits for families focusing on language and pre-literacy skills, improvement in students' adjustment to school, and parent training.



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**our mission**  
Changing the way America cares  
for children and families.