

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Natalie Brown, 305-725-0604 nbrown@kristihouse.org

BREAKING THE SILENCE LUNCHEON

Kristi House raises funds and awareness at its 16th Annual Luncheon

Kristi House, the Children's Advocacy Center serving Miami-Dade County, returned fully in-person to Jungle Island for its 16th Annual Breaking the Silence Luncheon on October 13.

Amazon was the Title Sponsor of the event which raised funds for Kristi House services for children overcoming sexual abuse and sex trafficking trauma. Nicklaus Children's Hospital was the Presenting Sponsor, and Bradesco Bank was the Major Sponsor. Other major sponsors included Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, Norma Jean Abraham, Wendy Brainard, Eileen Chin, DEX Imaging and Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.

Ximena Kavalekas hosted a beautiful pop-up shop and generously donated a portion of sale proceeds of the day. She unveiled a new design called the "Amanda," named in honor of Kristi House CEO Amanda Altman. Wines were donated by Kristi House's longtime sponsor, Republic National Distributing Company.

Guests heard moving testimony from Erika Obando about her journey from "victim to victorious," overcoming immigration trauma, child sexual abuse trauma and other tremendous challenges...all too-familiar to thousands of child-victims who have found healing at Kristi House. Funds totaling \$148,500 were raised for Kristi House's services and prevention programs.

ABOUT KRISTI HOUSE

Kristi House, Inc., the Children's Advocacy Center for all of Miami-Dade County, is dedicated to providing a healing environment for child victims of abuse and their families. This approach includes coordinating client families' involvement with legal, medical and mental health systems, limiting the number of interviews to reduce the trauma associated with each retelling of the story, and ensuring that no child falls through the gaps. Kristi House also directly provides a full continuum of wrap-around services and care for victims and their families free of charge, including therapy, which is critical for recovery from the trauma of abuse for most survivors.

Kristi House is centrally located in the "Health District" area of Miami at 1265 NW 12 Avenue. Five satellite locations in other parts of Miami-Dade County serve clients in surrounding neighborhoods. Founded in 1995, Kristi House has provided services for more than 24,290 victims of child abuse and their families to help them recover from the trauma of abuse and exploitation. Services include case coordination, therapy, referral, transportation, advocacy, client emergency assistance, as well as prevention education and training. For more information, visit www.kristihouse.org.