

# Impact Report



*Growing strong for the children and families of our community.*



# About Kristi House

## MISSION

Kristi House is dedicated to eradicating child abuse and child sex trafficking – working nationally on solutions and locally to heal child-victims.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center provided services to 1,619 children and their families during CY 2022 at its main center and satellite locations in Miami-Dade County. A staff of 68 full-time and eight part-time members provided advocacy, therapy, transportation, education and other supportive services to help children and their families heal from the trauma of sexual abuse, physical abuse and sex trafficking.

## PARTNERS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL APPROACH

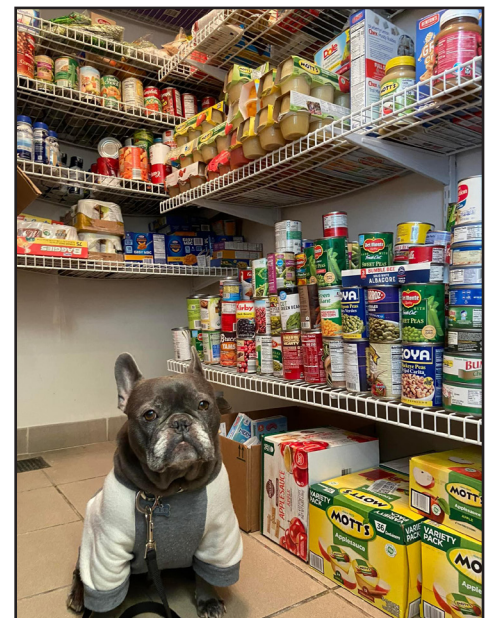
Eight agency-partners worked collaboratively to help children and families overcome the abuse, and hold the perpetrators responsible. These partners address the victim and family's medical, legal, emotional and concrete needs. We salute our Multidisciplinary Team working together for more than two decades:

- State Attorney's Office
- Florida Department of Children & Families
- University of Miami Child Protection Team
- Jackson Hospital Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center
- Guardian ad Litem
- City of Miami Police
- Miami-Dade Police

## A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Kristi House is fortunate to have support from individuals, corporations, foundations, public officials and public entities to enable us to serve children with trauma throughout Miami-Dade. This report highlights Kristi House activities through Dec. 2022.

Community groups and other volunteers help our mascot Mr. Blu keep our Emergency Pantry stocked and organized. By helping with families' essential needs, they can focus on healing. Thanks to all involved in providing vital assistance to families served at Kristi House.







## Message from CEO Amanda G. Altman, Esq.

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**I**t has been a privilege to serve as CEO of Kristi House for the past four years. We faced many challenges as a result of the pandemic, the losses it brought about and the shifts it made in so many aspects of our lives.

Despite the changing landscape and thanks to a community of support, Kristi House continued in its work, uninterrupted, making children whole again, fortifying families and preventing more victims.

**KRISTI HOUSE** knows what it takes to heal children, and does so every day. We provide children and their families with proven, evidence-based mental health services, which enable them to get past the trauma and go on with their lives. In most cases, children and youth who complete treatment with Kristi House are stronger than ever.

It is important that children who experience abuse and other forms of trauma get help from experienced professionals. Most victims left untreated face life-long serious emotional and social consequences — depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, physical health problems, education and career challenges — to name a few.

To overcome potentially devastating, long-lasting effects, Kristi House coordinates all the services a victim and the family will need for the healing process. We provide treatment, link families to other needed community resources, and serve as a bridge to law enforcement.

Kristi House could not be the beacon of hope it is for families without our dedicated Multi-disciplinary Team partners and the tremendous support we receive from the community. With the continued support of a caring community and committed board, staff and volunteers, we pledge to continue our work to eradicate child sexual abuse and sex trafficking, and to heal the future. ■



***“You all gave attention to our family, the school, what surrounds the parent. . .a thing you don't find in other therapy offices. You were always there at every turn, not only offering support to the child, but to us the parents. Thank you for making a difference from the bottom of our hearts.”***



# Highlights of Community Impact

## CORE SERVICES

Kristi House continued providing its specialized services for treating child sexual abuse as well as other child traumas wrought by abuse, family and community violence. The Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center served more than 2,000 children with allegations of abuse. Seven agency partners worked to heal the victims and hold the perpetrators responsible. Kristi House **services remained 100% free to children and families** and included Therapy, Family Advocacy, Transportation, Emergency Support and Education.



Police Academy Class (PAC) 140 at Kristi House for a tour and to learn more about indicators of and resources available for child victims of sexual abuse. Law enforcement partners are key to our multidisciplinary approach to cases.

## PREVENTION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A record **14,425 individuals** – including service providers, parents, youth and other community members – participated in education and training courses presented by Kristi House's team of four multilingual education specialists.

- New programs in mental wellbeing were rolled out in response to calls from the community and the tremendous need for **mental wellbeing** support thanks to major grants from Florida Blue Foundation and the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation.
- Kristi House and 11 experts presented the second annual **Human Trafficking Symposium** in January 2022 to more than 500 participants from South Florida and around the country.
- Safety and prevention geared for **K-3** and social & emotional health reading circles for small children at local libraries were added.
- We introduced new evidence-based curricula including from the One Love organization that covers intimate **healthy and unhealthy relationships** for teens.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF AND THE FIELD

- Kristi House continued its commitment to evaluating outcomes and sharing what we learn with the field. We are proud to have distinguished research partners at **Florida International University** and **University of Miami** who guide this work and enable dissemination of our findings in scholarly peer-reviewed journals.
- Five articles were published in **academic journals** in FY 2021-22 in *Child Abuse Review*, *Journal of Human Trafficking*, *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, and *Psychological Trauma*.
- Staff presented five sessions at major statewide and national conferences.
- Trainings provided for Kristi House staff and community partners included a six-month learning collaborative in **Motivational Interviewing**, a program on the impact of **family violence** on children and a two-day workshop on **secondary trauma** for direct service workers and clinicians.

## SUSTAINING OUR WORK...

- Began second three-year U.S. Department of Justice grant to provide young women in **Project GOLD** with educational support, jobs training and career planning...**Bridges to the Future**.
- Began five-year grant from **The Children's Trust** to lead community-wide human trafficking work.
- Continued expansion of our social media **reach**. ■



Kristi House team in Orlando at annual conference for Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers.



## SERVICE STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Calendar Year 2022



### Total Children Served at the Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center

Referrals of Children .....	1,619
Average Age at Intake.....	10.9 years
Therapy Sessions.....	7,534
Family Advocacy Services.....	15,544
Education Program Hours.....	556
Education Program Participants.....	14,425
Transportation - Trips .....	2,026
Project GOLD Members.....	78
Psychiatric Evaluations & Follow Ups.....	267





# Programs

## THERAPY



**T**herapy is a critical component in helping children overcome the trauma of abuse. While child sexual abuse has been Kristi House's specialty since founding, its mental health unit has the proven treatment interventions for many types of childhood trauma including problematic sexual behavior, physical abuse, and substance abuse combined with trauma. Kristi House is one of very few agencies in Miami-Dade County providing specialized mental health services for child trauma regardless of families' ability to pay. Because untreated child trauma often manifests itself in health, sexual and social problems throughout life, it is vitally important that Kristi House provides abused children with mental health services. ■

## FAMILY ADVOCACY

**B**ecause the legal system can be difficult to negotiate, and gaining access to supportive agencies and therapy can also be complicated, Kristi House Family Advocates work directly with families to facilitate these processes. They determine the needs of children and families, make referrals for needed services, and assist families in accessing those services. They also coordinate services with our partner-agencies in the Center and community to help reduce system trauma. Kristi House provides a vital support system to victims, encouraging them to pursue all avenues of treatment and all legal means to stop the abuse and ensure long-term recovery. ■



## TRANSPORTATION

**P**roviding transportation is critical to many of the families we serve, enabling access and improving client outcomes. Public transportation does not reach many of our families who are without vehicles. Kristi House added a fourth transportation route this year in the southern end of Miami-Dade to help ensure children can get to us in one of our five locations. Project GOLD drivers transport girls every afternoon for group programs, therapy and educational support at the Drop In Center. Transportation ensures all children and teens can get to Kristi House services safely. ■

# PROYECTO BRAZOS ABIERTOS

**K**risti House launched its *Proyecto Brazos Abiertos* (*Project Open Arms*) in early 2019 to provide free, evidence-based therapy to minors designated as unaccompanied minors who have experienced trauma. Many of these youth are in residence at shelters in South Florida while efforts are made to place them with relatives or other sponsors in the U.S.



A large portion of these youth, some of whom have been separated from their parents upon arrival, are suffering from separation trauma, anxiety and PTSD symptoms as a result of their journeys and their experiences in their home countries. Kristi House is continuing to provide therapy when needed for post-release youth who have been placed with families. The pilot was launched with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). ■



***“You are great people with great hearts. My child went through some terrible things and you helped him out, and you even helped me too.”***

—KRISTI HOUSE PARENT

## CLIENT SUPPORT & SPECIAL EVENTS

**I**n addition to food drives, toy drives and back-to-school drives, the community never lets our Kristi House families down at the holidays with special events and parties for all the seasonal celebrations. ■





# Education and Outreach

**W**ith national studies finding 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18, and 1 out of 2 children suffering some type of trauma during their childhood, Kristi House is dedicated to child abuse prevention through training and education. We deliver best practice programs for schools, community groups, corporations and faith-based organizations, with different courses specifically geared for children, parents and service providers. Since founding, Kristi House has provided classes, training and education programs to more than 157,400 participants. We continue to focus on ways to secure support to expand education and outreach to keep more kids safe. ■



## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

- What Every Adult Needs to Know
- Stewards of Children
- Children and Traumatic Stress
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC 101)
- Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior
- Project HeadSTRONG: Mental Health
- Escalation – The Story of an Abusive Relationship
- Hurricanes: Supporting Families through Trauma
- How Mass Violence Impacts Youth

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

- Child Safety Matters™
- Teen Safety Matters™
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation Safety for Teens
- NetSmartz™ Online Safety
- Not a #Number™ Teen Sex Trafficking Prevention program
- Stay Safe – Teen Dating
- Internet Safety
- One Love's Healthy Relationship series

## MIAMI C-START PROJECT

**K**risti House reached 340 clinicians, case workers and supervisors with training through its Miami C-START program, carried out in 2012-2021 with major federal support. The goal was to increase Miami-Dade's capacity to treat child trauma and grief. C-START uses the Community-Based Learning Collaborative approach to engage multiple stakeholders in yearlong training and practice on screening, referring and delivering evidence-based interventions.

Taught by national master trainers, collaboratives have focused on Trauma-

Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), and its cultural modifications for Hispanic/Latino families; Problematic Sexual Behavior – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (PSB-CBT); Risk Reduction through Family Therapy (RRFT); and TF-CBT modified for child sex trafficking victims.

C-START was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). ■







# Child Sex Trafficking

## PROJECT GOLD

**P**roject GOLD uses a strengths-based, survivor-led approach for commercially sexually exploited girls and those at risk. The Drop In Center — unique in South Florida — provides a home-like setting for engagement and delivery of restorative services, including care management, therapy, advocacy, transportation, education and recreational enrichment. It provides an alternative to a dangerous life of abuse and exploitation.

Project GOLD began its *Bridges to the Future* initiative after recognizing that in addition to wraparound services, positive adults, and a trauma-informed, survivor-focused approach, girls need vocational training, job skills and career planning to help them pursue productive futures. Launched in early 2019, *Bridges to the Future* is addressing this vital component with tutoring, financial counseling, job readiness assistance, and support for educational and professional certifications, internships and apprenticeships. The program

seeks to help girls identify their strengths to forge

linkages and routes out of trafficking. It is supported by a major grant from the U.S. Department of Justice-Office for Victims of Crime, and private funders. Corporate partners and community organizations provide internship opportunities.

During its first four years, despite the pandemic and all its challenges, young women in the *Bridges* program achieved tremendous outcomes:

- 109 participants in participants in
- 137 job placements
- 23 enrollments in post secondary education and vocational programs
- 15 returned to high school earn diplomas
- 8 internships
- 5 completed certification programs. ■



*Staying Tough, Resilient and Optimistic when life's Not Great.*

**K**risti House began a mental well-being initiative in 2022 with a focus on helping Miamians cope with life's challenges.

Project HeadSTRONG features *Mental Health Mondays*, a series of four-part programs on six key topics: Anxiety, Grief, Depression, Anger, Shame & Guilt, and Self-esteem & Self-care. All are invited to join these community

programs to help cope with the trials life throws one's way. Sessions take place virtually on Mondays from 12 noon to 2 pm.

Other Project HeadSTRONG components are focused on delivering mental wellbeing programs to children and youth in schools and community settings, as well as to service providers who are serving children, youth and families.

All programs are free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Florida Blue Foundation. ■



*“My therapist is the best. She has helped me learn to love myself. Something I had a hard time doing for years. I am forever grateful for her.”*

—KRISTI HOUSE CLIENT

### **MANDATED REPORTER AND WHAT IT MEANS**

In Florida, any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare shall immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Abuse Hotline of the Florida Department of Children and Families at 1-(800) 96ABUSE.

### **SERVICES AT NO COST TO FAMILIES**

Kristi House does not charge for its services and never turns away a child in need. This is possible thanks to support from individuals, corporations and community groups, along with public grant funds, that ensure quality services and programs to children in Miami-Dade County. All gifts to Kristi House are tax-deductible.

## **Steps Adults Can Take to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse**

These guidelines provide simple and practical actions you can take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

### **STEP 1 : LEARN THE FACTS**

The facts about child sexual abuse can be staggering, but they can help us understand the risks children face.

### **STEP 2 : MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY**

If you eliminate opportunities for children to be in isolated, one-on-one situations, you can dramatically reduce the risk of abuse.

### **STEP 3 : TALK ABOUT IT**

Children often keep abuse a secret, but talking openly about our bodies, sex, and boundaries can encourage children to share.

### **STEP 4 : RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS**

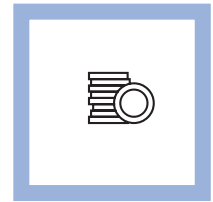
Don't expect obvious signs when a child is being abused. Signs are often there, but you have to know what to look for.

### **STEP 5 : REACT RESPONSIBLY**

Be prepared to react responsibly if a child discloses abuse to you, or if you suspect or see that boundaries have been violated.

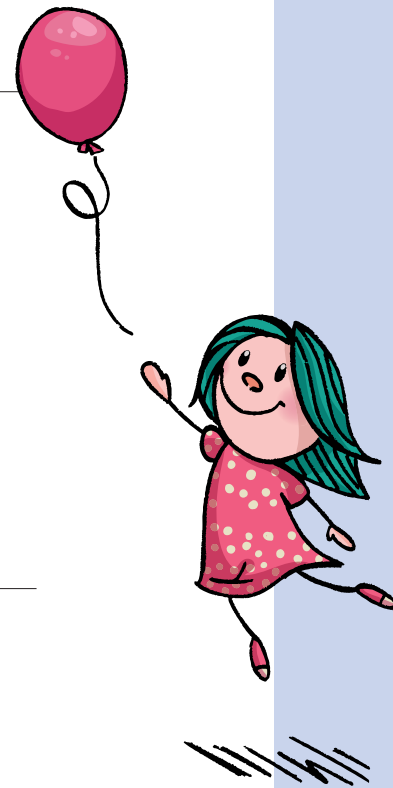


# Summary of Financial Statements

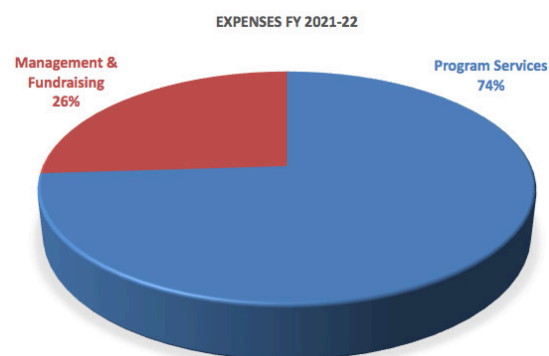
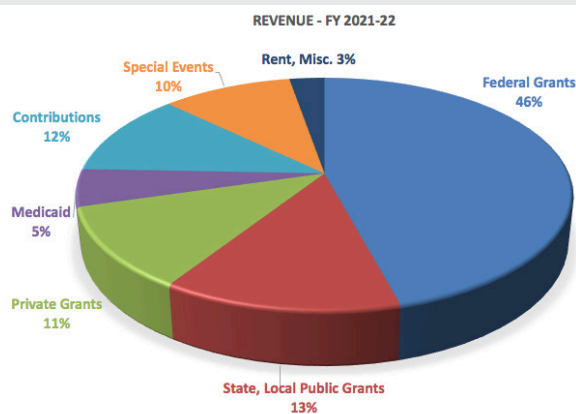


## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash and equivalents	\$1,043,264	\$814,858
Investments, net	\$21,691	\$21,215
Grants and contributions receivable	\$874,307	\$1,132,899
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$37,953	\$32,266
Property and equipment, net	\$1,455,833	\$1,530,500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,433,048</b>	<b>\$3,531,738</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$209,080	\$126,923
Note payable (PPP Loan)		\$658,561
Deferred rent revenue	\$203,525	\$235,451
Deferred grant revenue	\$19,121	\$19,906
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$431,726</b>	<b>\$1,039,941</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	\$2,741,008	\$2,326,807
With donor restrictions	\$260,314	\$164,990
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,001,322</b>	<b>\$2,491,797</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,433,048</b>	<b>\$3,531,738</b>
EXPENSES	2022	2021
Program Services	\$4,227,424	\$4,187,927
Supporting Services	\$1,481,959	\$1,068,672
Total Expenses	\$5,709,383	\$5,256,599
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$244,360)</b>	<b>\$68,107</b>



Through donations, grants and special events, Kristi House raised \$5,365,023 in revenue in FY 2021-22..







# Thank You!

## to Kristi House Donors & Grantors

Kristi House gratefully acknowledges all those whose generous contributions help children and families in our community.\*

### FOUNDATION GRANTS

Anthony R. Abraham Family Foundation  
The Batchelor Foundation  
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The Children's Trust  
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*Listing includes grants and gifts of \$1,000 and greater made 1/1/22-12/31/22. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Development Office at 305-547-6845 or [events@kristihouse.org](mailto:events@kristihouse.org) with corrections..*

### PUBLIC GRANTS

City of Homestead  
City of Miami Gardens  
Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers  
Miami-Dade County  
State of Florida Office of Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime

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Ashley Ziff

***Thank you for making a  
difference and keeping  
kids safe.”***



## Kristi House Staff\*

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**Natalie Brown**, Chief Strategy Officer  
**Theresa Kennedy**, Chief Operating Officer  
**Vanessa Ramirez, Psy.D.**, Chief Program Officer  
**Robert Senn**, Chief Financial Officer

### STAFF MEMBERS

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**Stephanie Alvarez**, Therapist  
**Stephanie Arevalo**, Family Advocate  
**Julie Basulto, Assistant** Clinical Supervisor  
**Michelle Benhayon Rivas**, Family Advocate  
**Deborah Billings**, Prevention Education Director  
**Jurmelle Bynoe**, Family Advocate  
**Lara Carter**, Community Relations and Special Projects Manager  
**Adriana Castano**, Family Advocate  
**Josuee Cesar Montinard**, Family Advocate  
**Josefina Costa**, Clinical Supervisor  
**Maria Couch**, Therapist  
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**Natalie Herrera**, Therapist  
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**Nancy Loza**, Therapist  
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**Desiree Gerald**, Member Support Specialist  
**Cherelle Herbert, Mentor**  
**Laura Hincapie Korgi**, Therapist  
**Ashley Martell**, Group Program Coordinator  
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**Milan Vega**, Mentor  
**Aisya Wilson**, Lead Therapist

\*As of 3/10/2023





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\*As of 3/10/2023



### HELPING KIDS TO THRIVE

The Power of Ten added a Little Free Library in Kristi House's courtyard as part of their project to improve literacy accessibility and increase minority representation in reading materials. Books for children at Kristi House are always available. ■

**KRISTI HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

**Main Office**

1265 NW 12th Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33136  
Tel: (305) 547-6800

**[www.kristihouse.org](http://www.kristihouse.org)**

**KRISTI HOUSE SATELLITE OFFICES**

**Miami Gardens**

111 NW 183 Street, Suite 304  
Miami, FL 33169  
(305) 547-6870

**Project GOLD Drop In Center**

(305) 547-6850

**Palmetto Bay**

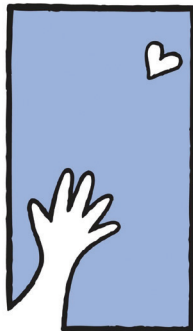
8925 SW 148th Street, Suite 213  
Miami, FL 33176  
(305) 547-6890

**Homestead**

Campbell Shoppes  
2008 NE 8th Street  
Homestead, FL 33033  
(305) 547-6810



**KRISTI**



**HOUSE**

**HEALING  
THE FUTURE**

Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center  
is dedicated to helping children and  
families overcome trauma.

