

KRISTI HOUSE

FY 2021 - 2022

Highlights of Services and Community Involvement



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 nearly 2,000 referrals of children with allegations of abuse and worked with its seven agency-partners to heal the victims and hold the perpetrators responsible. Services remained 100% free to children and families and included Therapy, Family Advocacy, Transportation, Emergency Support and Education.

Prevention Education & 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. The team presented 448 hours of instruction in 263 different sessions. Kristi House and 11 experts presented the second annual Human Trafficking Symposium in January to more than 500 participants from South Florida and around the country. New programs in mental wellbeing were rolled out with major support from Florida Blue Foundation and the Frederick A. De Luca Foundation.

Child Sex Trafficking – Project GOLD Program

Project GOLD continued to serve teen girls overcoming sex trafficking at the two Drop-In Centers, with 78 members receiving services during the year. In addition to care coordination, therapy and enrichment programs of all types, the program helped girls catch up in school, obtain GEDs, and continue their education. Members participating in the Project GOLD "Bridges to the Future" job training and career planning program that began in January 2019 racked up tremendous accomplishments: 117 job placements were secured, 16 enrollments were made into post-secondary education and vocational programs, 15 high school diplomas were earned, eight internships were landed, and three certification programs were completed.

Professional Development for Staff and the Field

Kristi House continued its commitment to measuring and analyzing its work to enable us to evaluate outcomes and share what we learn within 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 through peer-reviewed journals. Four 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*. Five sessions were presented 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 day-long program on the impact of family violence on children and a two-day workshop on secondary trauma for direct service workers and clinicians.

Annual Human Trafficking Education Symposium



January 14, 2022

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Kristi House presented a multi-disciplinary panel of leading South Florida experts to present *Human Trafficking: Strides, Trends & Gaps*. Participants learned the latest updates regarding best practices from the field, plus:

- the intersectionality of trafficking and racial and ethnic discrimination BIPOC
- labor trafficking considerations and practices
- survivor leadership at HT service organizations
- trafficking of males and youth
- and trafficking of LGBTQ+ individuals and more

The panel was well attended with 541 participants and exceptionally well received. [Link.](#)

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Community Outreach through Media



March 2022 - ongoing

Kristi House CEO Amanda G. Altman was featured in various media outlets relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Sex trafficking campaign hopes to create awareness for growing problem in South Florida, WPLG Local 10 ([Link](#))

Prosecutors: Hollywood Man Had 125 Child Porn Images In His Computer, CBS 4 Miami ([Link](#))

Miami-Dade School Board flips its decision, adopts health, sex-ed textbook, Miami Herald ([Link](#))

Miami school board reverses itself, approves sex ed textbook, ABC News / The Associated Press ([Link](#))

Miami-Dade school board reverses decision, approves sex ed textbooks, WLRN Miami ([Link](#))

kristihouse.org/press

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Community Outreach to Migrant Families



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February 25, 2022

Kristi House's Project GOLD joined the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force (SFHTTF) and partners at an outreach event for migrant families in Homestead. Project GOLD's Homestead location which opened in 2021 serves girls who have experienced or are at risk of commercial exploitation in the southern regions of Miami-Dade County.

Community Outreach to Increase Awareness



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July – September 2022

Kristi House's Prevention Education Team participated in various outreach events, including a *Community Health and Empowerment Network Family Fun Day* in Homestead, and a Baptist Hospital outreach event in Kendall. These events enable families and providers unfamiliar with Kristi House to learn about available services and treatment.

Community Outreach to Increase Awareness



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April – June 2022

Kristi House's Prevention Education Team participated in the Gables Literacy Festival, a local family fun day. Kristi House held child safety sessions about boundary safety and gifted new books to families. Kristi House also participated in other community events like the Start Off Smart Community Health & Wellness Fair in Homestead and street outreach in Brownsville.

Expanding Expertise at Conferences



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May – June 2022

Kristi House staff expanded their expertise at various conferences, in order to provide the best quality of care to children and families.

- May: Florida Blue Foundation Community Health Symposium
- June: National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference
- June: Black Health Summit by the Health Foundation of South Florida

Expanding Expertise at Conferences & Trainings



July – August 2022

Kristi House staff expanded their expertise the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers *Krimes Against Kids* Annual Conference, in order to provide the best quality of care to children and families.

Additionally, with the rise in family violence, Kristi House hosted a one-day training for its staff and community partners, *Family Violence & the Brain*. Dr. Geffner covered current issues, research, and controversies as well as assessment and treatment approaches and techniques involving child maltreatment, children exposed to domestic violence, child trauma, and parenting.

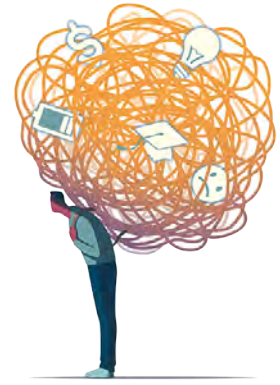


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Mental Health Programming: Project HeadSTRONG



KRISTI HOUSE Kristi House Education Presents

PROJECT HeadSTRONG
Staying Tough, Resilient and Optimistic when life's Not Great.
MENTAL WELL-BEING PROGRAMS
FOR PARENTS

Join Kristi House for FREE community programs to help you cope with the challenges life throws your way.

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Recognizing signs and symptoms
- Relating mental health to different areas of life
- Identifying healthy coping strategies
- Challenging negative thinking patterns
- Practicing grounding and mindfulness techniques
- Identifying healthy habits to enhance well-being
- Developing assertive communication skills
- Planning for ongoing support

Sign up now for one or more sessions:

ANGER	SELF-ESTEEM & SELF-COMPASSION	DEPRESSION
Section 1: Experiencing Anger MAY 2 Section 2: Anger in Our Lives MAY 9 Section 3: Facing Our Anger MAY 13 Section 4: Managing Our Anger Constructively MAY 20	Section 1: Self-Esteem and Self-Compassion JULY 22 Section 2: Self-Perception and Our Life Experiences JULY 28 Section 3: Knowing Our Self-Esteem AUG 7 Section 4: Building Blocks to a Better Self AUGUST 1	Section 1: What is Depression? OCTOBER 3 Section 2: Depression in My Life OCTOBER 17 Section 3: Facing Depression OCTOBER 24 Section 4: Managing Depression Effectively OCTOBER 31

Time: 6 - 8 PM
Location: Kristi House, 1265 NW 32 Ave, Miami FL 33136
Register: kristihouse.org/HeadSTRONG

For more information contact:
Deborah Bellows, Director of Prevention Education
DBellows@kristihouse.org, 786-520-9403

a Kristi House program using evidence-based, experiential, brain-based learning. Not a clinical intervention.

For persons with all or more than one mental health condition, please contact us for more information.

SPONSORED BY
Florida Blue
Foundation

May 2022 - ongoing

In May, Kristi House launched Project HeadSTRONG, Mental Well-Being Programs for adults and youth. One part of HeadSTRONG is Mental Health Mondays, free community programs to help adults cope with the challenges life throws their way. Four sessions on the first topic, Anger, were held in May. Attendees learned how to recognize signs and symptoms, identify coping strategies, develop communication skills, and plan for ongoing support.


In July, four sessions on the second topic, Self-Esteem & Self Compassion, we held. Participants learned exercises to focus on the connection between thinking patterns, values, goals, habits, and relationships and their influence on self-esteem, in addition to offering strategies for building their self-compassion.



Kristi House Reading Circle for Social Emotional Learning



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Reading Circle

Next Date: Wednesday, June 8





Discover Social Emotional Learning taught through sharing picture books with the staff from Kristi House.

When?
The 2nd Wednesday of each month.

2022 Dates:
5/11, 6/8, 7/6, 8/10, 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 12/7

Session 1: 3:00 - 3:30 pm
Session 2: 3:30 - 4:00 pm
The same book will be featured during each session. Each month will feature a different book.

Learn more • Register:
kristihouse.org/readingcircle



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May 2022 - ongoing

Kristi House Reading Circle was launched in May, a monthly Social Emotional Learning (SEL) workshop for children ages 4 – 10 and their caregivers. Kristi House Prevention Education Specialists share picture books and discuss personal boundaries. Sessions take place the second Wednesday of each month and are held at Pinecrest Branch Library.

Kristi House added additional Reading Circle locations, at Doral Public Library and the Homestead Cybrarium in the fall.

Prevention Education Programs Extend Reach



Kristi House Prevention Education presents:

SEXTING & INTERNET SAFETY WEBINAR
Monday, August 15, 2022
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Parents should stay involved in their children's digital world, know their apps, use parental controls where possible, and block and report people who make them uncomfortable. Learn about how your child can stay safe while enjoying online apps, games, and more by registering for this important webinar.

REGISTER NOW
KRISTIHOUSE.ORG/INTERNET2022

[QR CODE](https://KRISTIHOUSE.ORG/INTERNET2022)

[@KRISTIHOUSECAC](https://KRISTIHOUSE.ORG/INTERNET2022)

KEEPING KIDS SAFE FROM ABUSE
KRISTI HOUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION
Free Upcoming Trainings
September 2022

TWO BEST PRACTICE TRAININGS THIS WEEK:

September 20 (2 - 4 pm ET)
What Every Adult Needs to Know About Child Sexual Abuse

September 22 (12 - 2 pm ET)
Stewards of Children

Continuing Education (CE) credits now provided for select courses!

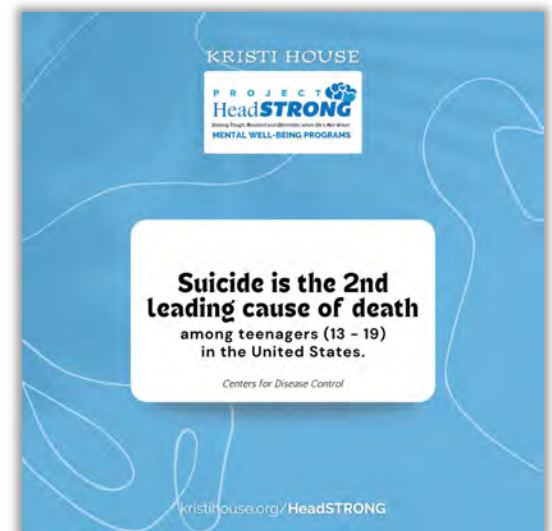
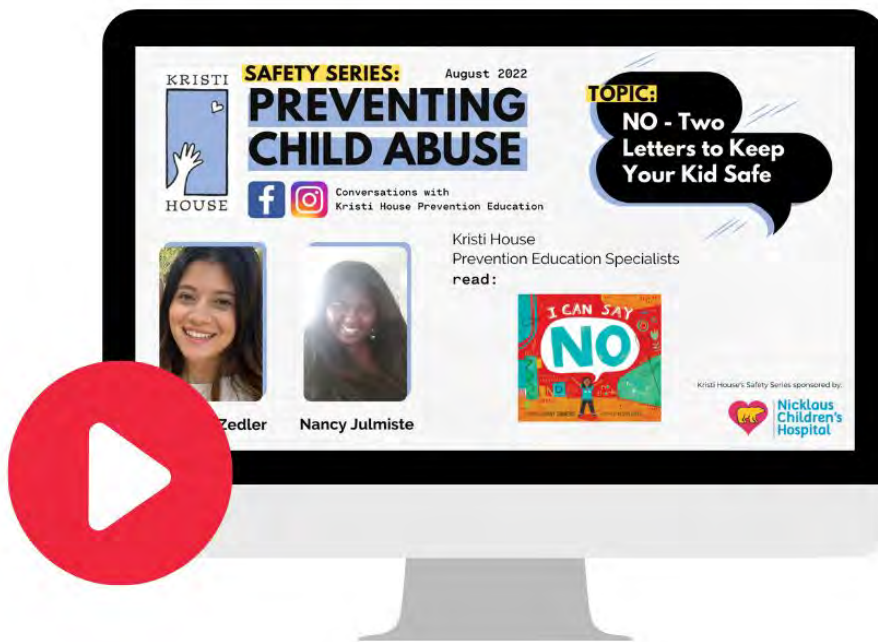
[REGISTER: KRISTIHOUSE.ORG](https://KRISTIHOUSE.ORG)



January 2022 – ongoing

Kristi House continued to present its education and outreach programs as webinars and in-person trainings. Over the summer, Kristi House offered specialized programming for summer camps and added new offerings for students, teachers, and parents, including *Sexting & Internet Safety*.

Community Awareness through Social Media & Online Events



January 2022 - ongoing

Kristi House continued to maintain an active presence on social media, providing tips for parents and kids on how to cope in days of uncertainty, unrest and fear. We linked to important resources and ways the community could help our most vulnerable families and children who have been victimized.

The Kristi House Prevention Education continued its electronic editions of *Safety Series: Preventing Child Abuse* with episodes about *Mental Health* ([link](#)), *Pride* ([link](#)), *Child Sex Trafficking & The Internet* ([Link](#)), and *NO – Two Letters to Keep Your Kid Safe* ([Link](#)).



Community Support for Back to School



August 2022

Kristi House received school supply donations to prepare clients and their siblings for the upcoming academic year. Kristi House volunteers packed hundreds of backpacks filled with age-appropriate supplies which were picked up at Kristi House and delivered by our amazing transportation team.



Community Support for Clients, Operations



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January – March 2022

Kristi House received donations for clients of food, pantry items, household supplies, grocery gift cards, therapy care packs, teen care boxes and other needed goods. Groups like Home Depot Foundation, Period Miami, Holtz Children's Hospital, and the Coral Reef High School Students Against Sexual Assault Club participated in collecting essential items for children and families.

Community Support for Clients, Operations



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April – June 2022

Kristi House received donations for clients of food, pantry items, household supplies, grocery gift cards, dignity items and other needed goods. Groups like Boxy Charm and Little Acts of Love collected essential items for children and families.

Community Support for Clients, Operations



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July – September 2022

Community partners participated in various beautification projects to improve the experience of children and families at Kristi House. The Power of 10 introduced the Little Free Library. Dade County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority enhanced the gardening in our atrium. Team ISS decorated our lobby and hallways for the summer.