

KRISTI HOUSE, INC.

Growing to Meet Community Needs

Three capital projects are in the works by Kristi House, Inc., a leading human services 501(c)3 organization in Miami-Dade County founded in 1995. Kristi House serves in an exclusive role as the **nationally accredited Children's Advocacy Center** responsible for cases in Miami-Dade involving child sexual abuse, sex trafficking and other forms of child trauma.



Kristi House **coordinates the agency-partners** from law enforcement, medicine, mental health and social services involved in cases to seek healing and justice. Kristi House also provides **wraparound, specialized services** for child-victims and their families, **100% free of charge**, a founding commitment to ensure cost is never a barrier to a child getting help.

3 Projects for Communities in Need

Each of these projects represents Kristi House's **answer to the call** in vast Miami-Dade County for services where need outpaces supply. • Each project was undertaken to **make specialized services more readily accessible** so that abuse and other traumatic experiences do not forever define a child's life. • Each project strives to **fill gaps in our community** and is undertaken with thoughtful deliberation and with the support of key partners who share our vision and dedication to children.

#1 Renovation & Expansion of Kristi House's Main Children's Advocacy Center to Co-Locate Partners from University of Miami Child Protection Team
1265 NW 12 Ave, Miami • In the heart of the Health District



#2 Acquisition of Property in Homestead, Florida, to Serve Residents in Deep South Dade
240 & 250 N Krome Avenue • In the commercial hub regarded as Homestead's "Main Street" • In the midst of revitalized downtown
• Bringing in other service providers to one service center campus



#3 Property Renovation to Serve Girls and Boys Overcoming Human Trafficking
• In the central Miami neighborhood of "Little Haiti"
• This property is directly across the street from Kristi House's Project GOLD Drop-In Center program, nationally acclaimed in the U.S. for services for sex trafficked kids



#1 Renovation & Expansion of Kristi House's Main Children's Advocacy Center to Co-Locate Partners from University of Miami Child Protection Team (CPT)

- 1265 NW 12 Ave, Miami
- In the heart of the Health District

The Cause

WHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI needed the Child Protection Team's space for another department in its medical school and was looking for a new home for this vital partner, Kristi House seized on the opportunity to make room for CPT at its main Children's Advocacy Center location.

Renovation of the Center will enable the 20 pediatric doctors, nurses and psychologists responsible for the forensic medical examinations of all abused children to provide services in one location, co-located with Kristi House's specialists, the prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office, and Guardian Ad Litem attorneys. This co-location aligns with the best practice model followed by the nearly 1,000 Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide and will create a truly one-stop location for families in crisis.

The Construction

KRISTI HOUSE'S CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER was constructed in 1998 and opened in 1999. The Center provides a child-friendly, homelike setting, with a beautiful open atrium at its center. It was designed – and the renovation will maintain – a welcoming and comforting atmosphere for families who are often traumatized by revelations of abuse. Nearly all the 21,000 square feet is being reworked and redone to accommodate two medical suites and more office spaces for the Child Protection Team, made possible by large areas previously devoted to paper files no longer needed with today's electronic records storage, and oversized offices no longer required for personnel with remote and hybrid work schedules now in place. The cost of this project is \$1,590,000 with work underway in 2024 and 2025.

The Community

KRISTI HOUSE SERVES CHILDREN UP TO AGE 18 who have experienced sexual abuse, trafficking and other forms of child trauma. Their families are usually in a state of crisis, anxious and fearful, in emotional turmoil and often teetering on financial calamity. Kristi House's wraparound services, including evidence-based mental health treatment, address the myriad challenges children and their families face to provide a lifeline to healing and restoring lives.





#2 Acquisition of Property in Homestead to Serve Residents in Deep South Dade

- 240 & 250 N Krome Avenue, in the commercial hub regarded as Homestead's "Main Street"
- Bringing in other service providers to one service center campus

The Cause

KRISTI HOUSE'S LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT to women, children and families who have experienced abuse, violence and other trauma is shared by another organization also serving in Miami-Dade County for three decades. MUJER is a One-Stop Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, one of two certified rape crisis programs in Miami-Dade County. Like Kristi House, MUJER has an outstanding track record for exceptional services, strong management, community leadership and deep stakeholder trust. MUJER's deep roots in the Homestead community made them ideal partners to join with Kristi House to establish a permanent, shared service center site in southernmost Miami-Dade that coordinates services for victims.

The site is centralized and accessible and will bring services to a one-stop location for victims of violence and abuse, greatly needed for fast-growing Deep South Dade. This property will enable the partners to expand their services while also providing space for prevention education and training to break cycles of abuse, as well as activities to celebrate the cultural assets of the community. Such a site will serve as a beacon of healing for residents in a region of our large county that has been historically underserved but with tremendous needs.

The Campus for the Healing Sanctuary

THE PROPERTY UNDER CONTRACT for this project is located at 240 and 250 N. Krome Avenue. Along with 25,000 square feet of office/classroom space in two connected buildings and two parking lots sitting on two acres of land, the signature building on the site is a 7,000-square-foot church building, "The Sanctuary."

The Sanctuary's roots date back to the early days of South Florida, before incorporation of Homestead and Miami-Dade County, when a church was first built at this location in 1912. While the building itself and its uses have changed from the original wooden structure, its spiritual roots run deep, with potential for healing power persevering over time. This site is a fitting home location for this collaboration, *The Healing Sanctuary*, and ideal for the community to be served.

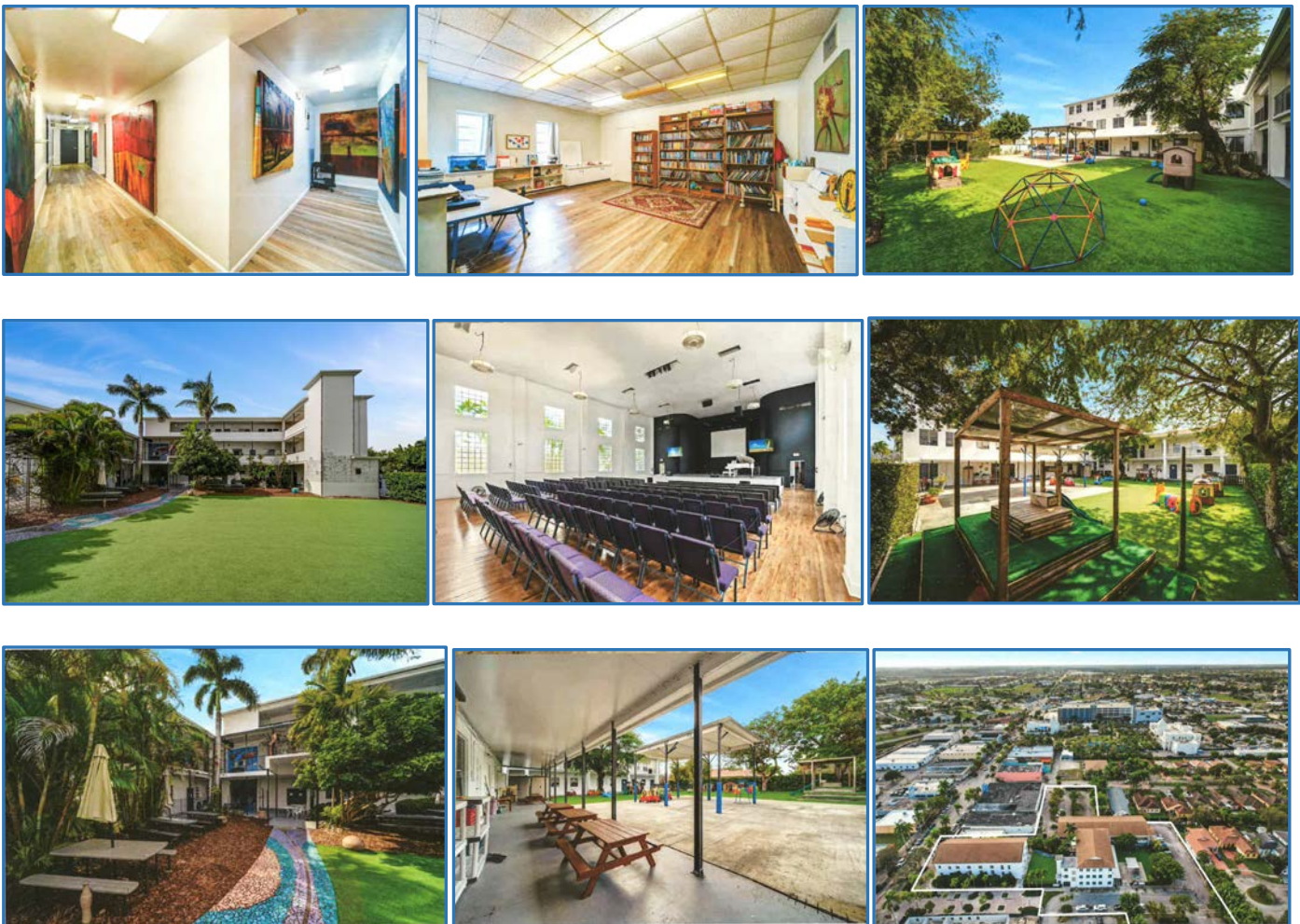
The Community

DEEP SOUTH DADE is a mix of suburban, urban and agricultural communities. It includes Homestead, Florida City and unincorporated Naranja and Leisure City, encompassing six zip codes, 33030-33035. The population of some 210,000 urban and rural residents represents many backgrounds, infusing the area with rich cultural and linguistic diversity. Travelers to Deep South Dade seek its authentic Mexican

food, locally grown fruits and vegetables, historic and cultural landmarks and activities. A visitor will hear English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and indigenous dialects of Mexico and Central America. Deep South Dade's dominate racial/ethnic groups (67% Hispanic; 24% Black) place great importance on family and community, both favorable factors for child and family safety and development.

But while much of Deep South Dade is burgeoning with growth and Homestead's central core is experiencing a revitalization, many people in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the area struggle with poverty, lack of affordable housing, and high unemployment. Limited personal transportation and the sheer distance from Miami-Dade's central core present serious challenges to accessing services. Along with socio-economic challenges, disproportionately high rates of crime plague pockets throughout the area.

The Healing Sanctuary site and the alliance of MUJER and Kristi House have the potential to transform a community in great need and with great promise.



#3 Property Renovation to Serve Youth Overcoming Human Trafficking

- In central Miami neighborhood of “Little Haiti”
- This property expands Kristi House’s Project GOLD Drop-In Center program, nationally acclaimed in the U.S. for services for sex trafficked kids



The Cause

KRISTI HOUSE’S PROJECT GOLD program for girls and young women overcoming sex trafficking is unique in Florida. All services take place in a “Drop-In Center” in a neighborhood home location exclusively for program participants. When the property across the street came up for sale, donors stepped up so Kristi House could purchase it and expand its program to serve more teens and young people escaping human trafficking, including boys. This second property will double space available for group enrichment programs, therapy, education, tutoring, life skills training, career planning and job prep.

The Construction

CURRENTLY A DUPLEX, the renovation plan reworks the entire interior of 2,444 square feet, creates a welcoming front façade and adds landscaping to the 7,200 square foot lot. The site will provide space for group enrichment programs, offices and study areas for program participants. The kitchen will be designed to facilitate a nutrition education program incorporating hands-on culinary skill development. The project plans are awaiting permits from the City of Miami as of September 2024. Once underway, construction is expected to take six months.



The Community

NESTLED IN THE LITTLE HAITI NEIGHBORHOOD just north of Wynwood, Kristi House’s Project GOLD serves girls and young women from all over Miami-Dade County. Project GOLD is the first Drop-In Center in the state and continues operating the only one in South Florida offering safe space and individualized wrap-around services exclusively for youth who identify as female who have experienced or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

Those who choose to participate in Project GOLD become “members” and are empowered to develop their strengths in a non-judgmental, trauma-informed environment. They are domestic girls, mostly from low-income households in under-resourced neighborhoods. They are supported by staff who provide mentoring, advocacy, therapy, career coaching and academic support. Most members are involved with child welfare, abandoned by parents and/or an overburdened dependency system of care. Many members need help catching up in school and identifying goals and dreams. They need advocates who help them find a better path and future. All have experienced unthinkable abuse and trauma. •

