

## News & Updates

### FLITE Center's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Journey" Heroes Luncheon

**Happy New Year!** Many of us are still experiencing the memories of the holidays. We hope you were able to take time to celebrate the bounty of the fall harvest, share great food, reconnect with family and friends and reminisce about the last year.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Journey" Heroes Luncheon** at Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale Beach. FLITE Center celebrated with over 350 guests who joined our CEO, Christine Frederick, and the Board of Directors to honor FLITE Center's partners, funders and frontline staff from collaborating organizations who support and dedicate their lives to impacting youth in Broward County's Transitional Independent Living (TIL) System of Care. Honorees included:



**TIL Collaborator of the Year:** Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center, a subsidiary of Broward Health

**Ultimate Acts of Kindness:** ITS4THEKIDS Foundation

**TIL System of Care Impact Award:** Florida Housing Finance Corporation and Sandra Veszi Einhorn

**TIL System of Care Hero Award:** Bank of America

**The Albert and Beatriz Miniaci - Lifetime Heroes Award:** Marsha and Alan Levy; and Judge John Frusciante

**The Gore Family Memorial Foundation YouMatter Award:** Kendra Salerno and Matthew Korshoff, SouthState Bank



**TIL System of Care Unsung Heroes Awards:** April Garcia, Camelot Community Care; Jeffrey Bryant, ChildNet; Gilline James, ChildNet; TaKisha Dupree, Children's Harbor; Fred Funderwhite, FLITE Center; Edner Emmanuel, 4KIDS of South Florida; Nicole Lampley, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services; Taryn Howe, HANDY; Michael Dieurestil, Harmony Development Center; Tevin Hogarth, Henderson Behavioral Health; Linda Taylor, H.O.M.E.S. Inc.; Atravia Hill, Memorial Healthcare System; Nicole Richardson, PACE Center for Girls; Maleka Smith, S.O.S. Children's Villages; and Gabi Tabib, SunServe

**A special thank you to our sponsors:** Alfred and Rose Miniaci Family Foundation, SouthState Bank, Akerman, Becker Lawyers, Broward Health, ChildNet, Clicktrics, Comcast, The Cornerstone Group, GrayRobinson, Broward College, Memorial Healthcare System, Northern Trust, Pinnacle, Print E Solutions, Encore, Express Public Adjusting, Downtown Photo, JetBlue, Royal Caribbean Group, Rock N Roll Tequila, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits and Tito's.

To see the photos from our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Journey Heroes Luncheon, [click here](#).



### FLITE Center's Annual TIL Holiday Party

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, FLITE Center hosted our annual Transitional Independent Living (TIL) System of Care **Holiday Party**. Over 190 youth attended. Our young adults danced with Mickey Mouse, took pictures with Santa Claus, ate delicious BBQ and enjoyed numerous activity stations. We also surprised our youth with beautiful holiday gifts.

**Special thanks** to Becker Helping Hands, the Weintraub family, Do It for David committee, Ladies Fish Off, National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), Broward State Attorney's Office, PB and J Projects, Karinne Bernstein and friends, Irma Doerfler, Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale and DJ Nyco for supporting FLITE Center and spreading the holiday cheer!



### Giving Hope for the Holidays

Thanks to your support, we raised over \$6,000 in our year-end campaign, **Give Hope for the Holidays**. We continue to fund programs and services, including a satellite health clinic that is set to open onsite in February.

[You can still make a \\$25 donation today.](#)

Our young adults count on us to provide them with the program and services that allow them to reach their full potential. We devote every dollar collected to our programs and services for the young adults enrolled at FLITE Center.

Last year, we provided 2,372 (unduplicated) young adults in the Transitional Independent Living (TIL) System of Care and their children access to services all under one roof. Youth receive services from multiple departments as many times as they need, without limits.



[Click here](#) to view our impact chart (October 2020 - September 2021).

### FLITE Center's CEO Christine Frederick recognized by South Florida Business & Wealth Apogee Awards as Non-Profit Sector Leader

The **Apogee Awards** is a unique program created by South Florida Business & Wealth (SFBW) Magazine to recognize distinguished C-Suite leaders whose dedication to their industries and communities deserves recognition. The Apogee Awards selected Christine as the **non-profit sector leader in Broward County**. The awards ceremony took place on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at MAD Arts.



### FLITE Center awarded contract to expand Human Trafficking Services as an Open Doors Outreach Network Provider

*Sex trafficked youth will receive trauma-informed care across four counties*

**Voices for Florida** announced that FLITE Center was awarded the contract to provide **Open Doors Outreach Network** services to sex trafficked children and young adults ages 10 - 24 in the Gold Treasure Coast region (Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties). FLITE Center anticipates it will begin accepting referrals this month.



Voices for Florida's Open Doors Outreach Network is the state's leading 24/7/365 network for helping sex trafficked children and young adults. Victims are supported by a team of professionals, including survivor-mentors, regional advocates, clinicians, and victim services coordinators that work together to provide emergency stabilization, individualized wellness plans, ongoing support and more to help victims heal.

Florida is a hot spot for human trafficking, ranking third in the nation for reports to the National Human Hotline. There were 896 reports of human trafficking in Florida to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019, the latest statistics available. Most of the reports (640) were for sex trafficking and 172 reports involved minors. In 2019 there were 48 verified child sex trafficking victims in Broward County, 14 in Palm Beach County and 8 in St Lucie County. Broward County consistently ranks in the top 5 of counties for prevalence of verified victims.

If you or someone you know needs support, please contact Ayesha, our Director of Health and Wellness, at [ayesha@flitecenter.org](mailto:ayesha@flitecenter.org).

### Shop & Support FLITE Center with AmazonSmile

Did you know that every time you shop on Amazon, you can give back to FLITE Center? Choose "Fort Lauderdale Independence, Training & Education Center" as your charity on AmazonSmile, it's easy! [Click here](#) or on the Amazon Smile button to shop now.



### Take a Tour in 2022

Interested in taking a tour to learn more about FLITE Center's programs and services?

To schedule your tour, please contact Grace Ugalde-Wolpert at [grace@flitecenter.org](mailto:grace@flitecenter.org) today!

We are excited to create new memories with you in 2022 and continue to provide much needed programs and services to our Transitional Independent Living (TIL) youth.

