Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

2012 Annual Report

Leaders in helping families help themselves

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Who does Adopt-A-Family serve?
- Homeless families with children
- Income-challenged, working families at risk of homelessness or in search of affordable housing opportunities in Palm Beach County
- Families in crisis, putting them at risk of homelessness

Why support Adopt-A-Family?
Adopt-A-Family offers a holistic approach by providing all-inclusive programs that empower families and offers solutions for self-sufficiency. Families are carefully screened and work with a family advocate on a Family Action Plan until the family reaches self-sufficiency.

Our Mission
Adopt-A-Family is dedicated to restoring families in crisis to stability and self-sufficiency by providing access to all-encompassing services to families and their children.

Adopt-A-Family is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 1983 by three Palm Beach County women who recognized the need to help families who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to a financial hardship, illness, divorce, death or other extenuating circumstances.

The agency’s mission and core activities center on the belief that a family’s basic needs must be met before systemic change can occur within the family or individual. To achieve this we provide physical housing units, rental assistance, and supportive services to families in crisis.

The generosity of funders, foundations, businesses and individuals, allows us to be a local leader in helping families help themselves.
For a sixth consecutive year, Adopt-A-Family was awarded a four-star rating by Charity Navigator. Only three percent of the charities Charity Navigator rates have received at least six consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Adopt-A-Family outperforms most other charities in America.

This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Adopt-A-Family from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

According to Charity Navigator, “Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.”
Family is homeless. Through The Lewis Center, they receive:

- Housing
- Comprehensive Assessment
- Diversion Services
- Mainstream Benefits
- Health Clinic
- Ancillary Services

Family has a place to live, but needs supportive services.

- Homeless Prevention
- Comprehensive Case Management

Project Safe
84% of residents increased or maintained their income.

Serviced Enriched Housing
85% of residents increased their wealth by depositing money into their escrow account.

A Place Called Home
88% of the residents paid their rent on time during the fiscal year.

PBC Homeless Families Come Through Here

Adopt-A-Family
The Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

When A Family In Crisis Knocks . . .

Hope Begins With A Home
Family is homeless. Through AAF, they find a home.
- Project S.A.F.E.
- A Place Called Home
- Wiley Reynolds Garden Apartments
- Bridges To Success
- NSP2 (Rentals)

Project Grow
An afterschool & out-of-school program customized to meet the unique needs of formerly homeless children ages 5 to 12.
*This program is open to all AAF families

Family has gained self-sufficiency, and is ready to be homeowners.
- Service Enriched Housing
- NSP2 Program
  - For Sale Units
  - Affordable Rentals

The Lewis Center
In the first three months that the Center has been open, 497 families in crisis were assessed by a navigator. 188 homeless families were placed in permanent affordable housing.
Housing Stabilization Program

Our Housing Stabilization Program (HSP) assists households in crisis that are in danger of becoming homeless or have recently become homeless. The crux of the program is the provision of financial assistance and supportive services to eligible households to ensure that families become stably housed. Potential participants will be screened by The Lord’s Place, and if a family is determined to be eligible, they will be linked to the Senator Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center and HSP. A complete psychosocial assessment of the family with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) will be conducted utilizing the Self Sufficiency Matrix assessment tool, a HUD recognized promising practice. A case manager, who will follow the family until case closure, will be assigned once the assessment with the LCSW is complete and an Action Plan has been developed based on the presenting needs from the Matrix. Ancillary services such as mental health counseling, financial literacy, employment training, substance abuse treatment, job readiness, benefit navigation, and other services identified by the family will be provided by partner agencies and linkage to the services will occur through the family’s case manager.
Project Grow

This after-school and out-of-school program is for children ages 5-12 who are residing in Adopt-A-Family’s housing programs and the Lake Worth community at large. The program is customized to meet the unique needs of homeless and formerly homeless children. Project Grow focuses on building the children’s social, emotional and educational skills to not only address their specific needs, but also instill the self-confidence necessary for a healthy childhood. The children are offered fun, supervised activities with their peers and homework help from their teachers, in a safe and stable environment.

Additional Services

In addition to our core programs, Adopt-A-Family offers other services to the community. They include a reduced-rate bus pass program, free school supplies through the Community Back to School Bash, gifts during the holidays through Santa Shoppe and the Holiday Adopter Program, and disaster assistance (i.e. hurricane) when necessary.
**Project S.A.F.E. (Stable Able Family Environment)**

The oldest housing program of Adopt-A-Family, Project S.A.F.E. provides homeless families the opportunity to reside in safe, permanent, affordable housing. Residents are referred to Project S.A.F.E. from the various emergency shelter programs located in Palm Beach County, and have often spent time living in uninhabitable situations prior to entering this program. The head of household must have a disability which impedes their ability to live independently. To address the barriers and challenges the families are encountering, intensive support services are offered – including case management, advocacy, budgeting, mental health counseling, access to education and job training, financial literacy, and childcare – all designed to help clients become self-sufficient. All families must either be attending school and/or working while in the program.

**Service Enriched Housing**

Adopt-A-Family’s Service Enriched Housing (SEH) is a residential program comprised of families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, who are on the path to homeownership. The program consists of 28 two-bedroom apartment units located adjacent to the agency’s Family Resource Center in Lake Worth. Rent is calculated at 30% of gross income, but families residing in SEH pay a base rent of $500, while depositing the remainder of the 30% into an escrow account. The residents then use their escrow account to clean up their credit or save for a down-payment for a home. Originally a two-year transitional housing program, Service Enriched Housing has operated as a permanent housing program for the last four years. This change reflects the difficulties that were encountered in finding suitable housing for families exiting the program after two years.

**Rapid Re-Housing Program**

This program assists persons experiencing homelessness to be quickly stabilized and re-housed into permanent housing. Priority is given to households residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing. A key goal of Rapid Re-Housing is to shorten the family’s length of stay in a shelter. Individuals and families that can benefit from this program are homeless; employed or have other sources of income; and earn less than 50 percent of the Area Median Income ($35,000). Once accepted to the program, participants immediately begin working with a housing specialist in an effort to identify safe, affordable housing. They also work closely with a family advocate who helps identify any barriers to their sustaining self-sufficiency. The ultimate goal is for families and individuals to “time-out” of the program and be able to maintain housing on their own.
**Wiley Reynolds Gardens Apartments**

Wiley Reynolds Gardens Apartments is our nine-unit housing project with two and three bedroom apartments. Eligible homeless families have the opportunity to live in safe, quality affordable housing, while also being able to access supportive services that will help them reach self-sufficiency. Rent for these families is limited to 30 percent of their gross income. The coordination of social services for these nine families is provided through Project Connect – a collaboration between Adopt-A-Family and Families First of Palm Beach County.

**Community Land Trust Program (CLTP)**

This program acquires and develops housing for the purpose of keeping it affordable for families in need. The land remains the property of Adopt-A-Family, while the homes can be sold or rented. This provides affordable, permanent housing opportunities for families earning less than 50 percent of the Area Median Income ($35,000). Case management and other comprehensive support services ensure the success of the families served.

**NSP2 Program**

Our Community Land Trust Program, in partnership with the Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency, was one of only 56 awardees of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) national grant competition.

Over the last two years, Adopt-A-Family has been purchasing and rehabilitating 41 units of foreclosed properties within Lake Worth, and renting/selling the homes to income-qualified households. Homebuyers who purchase through the NSP2 Program may be eligible for financing and subsidy assistance, and will also be offered supportive services through Adopt-A-Family.

The NSP2 program will enhance Adopt-A-Family’s housing stock significantly, and increase the total number of affordable housing units operated by the agency to 136.

**A Place Called Home & Bridges to Success**

A Place Called Home is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded program that is in its first year of existence. It is a permanent housing program for persons with disabilities. Families are placed in houses or apartments located in Lake Worth. The program enables special needs families to live as independently as possible. Families receive intensive in-home case management and supportive services. There are eight families being served by the program. Bridges To Success is a HUD funded program located in Belle Glade. Adopt-A-Family collaborates with Families First of Palm Beach County to administer this housing program.
27th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

More than 220 guests kicked off the holidays by attending Adopt-A-Family’s 27th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration. Guests were serenaded with holiday songs performed by The King’s Academy Choir as they arrived for the evening cocktail reception and silent auction, featuring one of the area’s largest selections of live orchids and holiday gifts. A gourmet dinner and live auction followed. More than $301,000 was raised that evening to support programs that help families in crisis get back to stability and self-sufficiency. Former client, Ricky, now a college graduate, spoke of how the Project Grow Program played a positive role in his life.

Congratulations to chairman Penny Heller, and her co-chairman, Alice Tarone and their dedicated committee on a fabulous and very successful evening! We would also like to recognize the event’s Grand Benefactor, the Lawrence J. and Florence A. De George Charitable Trust. A special THANK YOU to all the companies, businesses and individuals that supported the event through underwriting, sponsorships and contributions to the auctions.

Santa Shoppe & Holiday Adopter

More than 300 children visited with Santa and received a personalized present from him at our annual Santa Shoppe.

Santa Shoppe is a fun, holiday celebration for our families and for the many volunteers who make it possible. The children, ages newborn to 13, shop for presents for their family members, which volunteers then beautifully wrap. Families get to enjoy various activities, including face painting, arts and crafts, and lunch.

Through our Holiday Adopter Program, 180 families (current clients of the agency) were “adopted” by donors (individuals, families, companies and organizations) and provided a Christmas, which the family would have otherwise not had.

THANK YOU to all our donors and volunteers who make Santa Shoppe and Holiday Adopter Program possible. We could not do it without you!
Golfers Swing Into Fun to Support Adopt-A-Family

More than 80 golfers teed-up in May to support Adopt-A-Family through the First Annual Sandhill Crane Invitational which took place at Old Marsh Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens.

Special thanks to the golf committee - comprised of Sean Bresnan, Tom Frankel, Gary Pohrer, Frank Bresnan, Joe LaRocca and Joe Caron – for all their planning for a fabulous tournament. Adopt-A-Family also recognizes the many sponsors whose support helped make the day a success.

Congratulation to the winning team – Jeff Preston and Jebb McCraken!
Cutting edge, innovative and transformational are just some of the words that describe the work of Adopt-A-Family. I joined the board in 2006, and the organization continues to inspire and amaze me. Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches has long been on the front lines in the fight to make families self sufficient. Despite tough economic times, Adopt-A-Family continues to provide top-quality service to families in crisis throughout Palm Beach County.

Last year, Adopt-A-Family served 1,497 families in Palm Beach County. Despite limited resources and an overwhelming need for our services, Adopt-A-Family continues to be a leader among nonprofit agencies not only in Palm Beach County, but nationally. We are thrilled that Adopt-A-Family was awarded with two prestigious “Promising Practices” designations from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for our Rapid Re-Housing program.

One important role of Adopt-A-Family is the vigorous pursuit of creating opportunities for affordable housing in Palm Beach County. We understand the role of safe and affordable housing as a vital part in stabilizing families and our communities. Through the United States Housing and Urban Development’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2), Adopt-A-Family is renovating, and in some cases rebuilding, foreclosed homes in Lake Worth, and providing low to moderate income families with a fresh start in a new home.

On the fiscal and financial side, Adopt-A-Family received its sixth consecutive, four-star rating from Charity Navigator for our agency’s sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

The Leadership and Staff of Adopt-A-Family are to be commended for their hard work and commitment to serving our community’s families in crisis. Although the challenges to reducing homelessness in Palm Beach County are high, the staff of Adopt-A-Family proves that it is not impossible. This past year, Adopt-A-Family collaborated with Palm Beach County & Goodwill in the monumental task of helping to launch the Senator Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center located on 45th Street in West Palm Beach. Adopt-A-Family is the designated provider for homeless families in need of services. In the first 90 days of operation, The Lewis Center staff has conducted full assessments for 361 homeless families.

I am honored to serve as the President of the Board of Directors, and even more honored to serve with the most talented and committed professionals in our community. Our board is comprised of lawyers, CPAs, bankers, business leaders, and community advocates. ALL of our board members have a passion to serve the children and families that seek Adopt-A-Family’s assistance.

On behalf of the Board of Directors…

- We are very grateful for the generous support of our funders, community partners, volunteers, donors, and many supporters!

- Thank you for the opportunity to serve each and every family that comes to Adopt-A-Family.

- To the families that we serve -- thank you for allowing us to be part of your family.
“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

President Barack Obama

Change in 2011-2012 occurred on many levels for many people. The economic crisis, The Great Recession, has affected the lives of many Palm Beach County residents. Families experiencing unemployment and foreclosure drove the homeless and poverty rates to unprecedented levels. Poverty rates in Palm Beach County soared to 15.9% and the number of homeless households climbed to 2,325. Additionally, homeless students, as reported by the Palm Beach County School District, rose to more than 1,100.

Change had to happen in 2011-2012. We had to be the change that we sought in the fight against homelessness, and as a result, Adopt-A-Family and our many partners, committed to making Palm Beach County’s first Homeless Resource Center, the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center a reality. Streamlined and centralized intake, assessments and case management, are occurring as a result.

Additionally, the data that is being collected through the Lewis Center will provide valuable information about the homeless population in our community, and will lead to future solutions that will end homelessness in Palm Beach County.

Adopt-A-Family continues to be a leader in housing for homeless and income-challenged families. In 2011/2012, the agency opened another eight units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families in the Lake Worth area; renovated 41 units of previously foreclosed properties in Lake Worth through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; and stabilized more than 200 families through homeless prevention services.

The economic forecast for 2012-2013 remains bleak, but with the continued support of our generous donors, funders, board members and staff, we remain hopeful that change will continue to occur for families who are homeless or facing homelessness.

Thank you for supporting Adopt-A-Family and the hundreds of families we serve. Without you, without all of us, we would still be awaiting the changes that have made an impact for so many in our community.
Adopt-A-Family is proud to be a partner agency in the Senator Philip D. Lewis Homeless Resource Center that opened in July 2012. The 36,000-square-foot complex on 45th Street is part of the County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness that was adopted in 2008.

The Center serves as the single point of access to connect homeless individuals and families to assessments, services, referrals and housing. Three key agencies are spearheading the work at the Center — Adopt-A-Family is working with families, Goodwill Industries is working with singles, and The Lord’s Place is doing the initial navigation with the clients and providing job placement and training. Many other local agencies have also stepped up to help in providing services to the individuals and families coming to the Center for assistance.

Adopt-A-Family is using its nationally recognized Rapid Re-Housing Program to assist families. Each family that meets program criteria will receive a comprehensive assessment by a case manager who will identify supportive services appropriate for that case. A family action plan will be developed jointly by the family and the case manager. A safe, affordable rental unit will be secured, and a gradually declining rent subsidy program will be implemented. Safe, affordable rental units will have been approved by a housing specialist, a certified home inspector who can ensure that all units meet the requirements outlined in federal guidelines.

In the first three months the Center has been open:

- 497 families in crisis went through the navigation process with The Lord’s Place
- 361 families were fully assessed by Adopt-A-Family
- 188 families have been assigned to an AAF case manager, and have either been placed into safe, affordable housing or are in the process of finding housing.
Who does Adopt-A-Family serve?

- Homeless families with children
- Income-challenged, working families at risk of homelessness or in search of affordable housing opportunities in Palm Beach County
- Families in crisis, putting them at risk of homelessness

Why support Adopt-A-Family?

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