



## HIBISCUS CHILDREN'S CENTER COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Taking Care of Our Community's Children & Families



**SafeCare** is an evidence-based training program for parents who are at-risk or have been reported for child abuse and neglect. SafeCare services are targeted to families that have one or more risk factors, including families with substance abuse or domestic violence issues, teenage parents, parents of special needs children, single parents, and low-income families through at-home parent education and training. The goal of the SafeCare Program is to ensure that the children's safety and health are a priority and the parent-child interactions are appropriate and reduce the stress and challenges for both of them. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, SafeCare has been providing services to meet the needs of our families through TeleHealth to ensure the safety of everyone involved. The program is a collaboration between Hibiscus and Behavior Basics, Inc. and serves St. Lucie and Indian River Counties.



### Supporting Families in Crisis

is a voluntary prevention program provided by Hibiscus Children's Center to assist families in St. Lucie County. The Supporting Families in Crisis Program (SFC) addresses whatever crisis a family may be experiencing that if not addressed, could cause their children to be removed by the State. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, SFC has been continually helping families through these challenging times and utilizes TeleHealth to ensure the safety of everyone involved. SFC has a **100% success rate** in keeping children out of the child welfare system during and one-year after services.

Recently, SFC provided a much-needed car to a former resident of Hibiscus Children's Shelter. "Hibiscus changed my life and helped me become the woman and mom I am today". This car was donated by a generous local supporter.

### Parents As Teachers Program

Parents As Teachers is a parent education home-visiting program. The goal of the program is to provide parents with child development knowledge and parenting support, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness. This community program provides services to children and families in Okeechobee County and has also utilized TeleHealth during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

### Florida's Children

This is a snapshot of the average weekly cases of child maltreatment reported during the month of May, 2020 from the Florida Abuse Hotline:

- 1,140 cases of **inadequate supervision of children**.
- 927 cases of **household violence threatening children**.
- 709 cases of **physical injury**.
- 230 cases of **sexual abuse / molestation**.

Although these numbers reflect a decrease in the abuse cases reported to the Hotline during the Covid-19 Pandemic, they are extremely disturbing. Children are not being seen by teachers, coaches, neighbors, grandparents and even, pediatricians. Even though reports are down, social isolation and the stress and financial burdens that families are experiencing causes great concern for the welfare of children.

**Hibiscus Children's Center has been part of the solution to prevent child abuse and help children recover from the trauma of abuse for 35 years.**

- Abuse prevention services are provided to almost **1,000 children & families** annually through the SafeCare and SFC Programs.
- **375,000 nights of safety** and over **3,000 children & youth** have received life-changing services since 1985.
- **Over 200 children** served annually in our residential programs, Tilton Family Children's Shelter and Hibiscus Village.
- **Specialized Sexual Abuse Treatment** for children affected by sexual abuse and human trafficking.
- **Trauma-informed care** for all children in our care.
- Professional Mental Health services to **over 850 children** annually.



### Why consider making a monthly gift to Hibiscus Children's Center?

"I am a Sustainer because I want to do as much as I can to support the good work of Hibiscus. And by spreading my gift out over the year I can make a larger gift. And Hibiscus knows they can count on my support each month which allows for better planning of programs", Michelle King, Sustainer Society Member.

Become a member of **Hibiscus Children's Center's Sustainer Society**. As a Sustainer, you are working to achieve the mission of Hibiscus - To maintain a safe shelter for children who are abused, abandoned and neglected by providing prevention, early intervention, and advocacy in quality residential, assessment and recovery programs.

Each month Hibiscus experiences a gap of **\$34,000** between what it actually costs to provide the opportunities our children deserve and what the reimbursement from our contract provides. Hibiscus provides residential services to approximately 55 children and youth each month. Each child's situation is unique and we provide the individualized services to help them heal from circumstances that brought them into our care. Your monthly commitment would directly address that gap and allow us to provide those needed programs to help our children grow and thrive.

**Joining our Sustainer Society is easy**. We are currently promoting our **\$35 for 35 Campaign** as we celebrate 35 years of keeping children safe. But any monthly amount qualifies you as a Sustainer Society member. Just visit here and fill in the appropriate amount and information to make your secure, confidential donation: <https://hibiscuschildrenscenter.org/35-for-35-campaign>

Thank you for considering to join our Sustainer Society today. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Michelle King, Chief Development Officer, at (561) 452-5791 or [mking@hcc4kids.org](mailto:mking@hcc4kids.org) to learn more.

