



Hibiscus Children's Center

Saving Children Since 1985

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS CHANGE THE
LIVES OF FAMILIES!**



SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS HELPS STRUGGLING FAMILY THROUGH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Hibiscus received a call from a family with two children seeking financial assistance. The family got behind on their bills due to both mom and dad undergoing medical treatments for very serious health issues, which is preventing them from being able to work. The dad is receiving disability, but it is not enough to pay the household bills due to the higher increase of living costs. The dad also must travel out of the area for medical treatments which creates an extra burden on their financial situation.

ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH!

The first step the **Supporting Families in Crisis** Family Advocate took was to address the family's financial issues by setting up long-term and short-term goals. The Family Advocate worked on a monthly budgeting plan with the family and had them track their weekly spending. Supporting Families in Crisis was able to assist with funds towards the family's rent and utilities to prevent eviction or having their electric disconnected. The Family Advocate also connected the family with local resources for additional financial assistance and necessary items they needed. The Family Advocate provided weekly case management to help the family stay independent, achieve their goals, and to be prepared for future challenges they may encounter.

We are pleased to report that this family is on the right track with their budgeting, which will allow the parents to focus on their health and their children's safety and well-being. The **Hibiscus Supporting Families in Crisis Program** is here for families in crisis who need our assistance. The ultimate goal is safety for the children and helping to strengthen families.

YOUR DONATION CAN CHANGE A LIFE!

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS PROGRAM (SFC)



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

SFC is a voluntary child abuse prevention program serving St. Lucie County. The program helps families resolve crisis situations, develop tools to address future crises and grow stronger.

A specially trained Family Advocate is assigned to the family. Services include financial aid to avoid evictions, help with domestic violence and substance abuse, in-home counseling, stress management tools, job applications and interviews and budgeting skills. Services typically range from 8-12 weeks, but the program is flexible should families need more assistance.

In addition, families can get food, basic household items and baby supplies from our food pantry and clothing and household items from our thrift store.

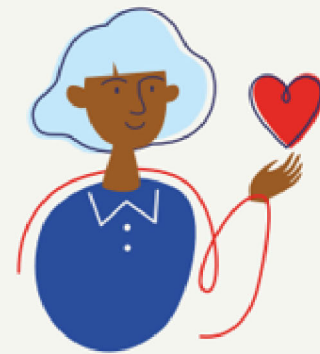
THE SFC PROGRAM MOTTO:
"ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF
STRENGTH"

100% SUCCESS RATE
annually for keeping children
out of the child welfare system
during services.

Learn More - SFC Program

Help communities *you*
care about by
donating your
Walgreens Cash rewards.

myWalgreens



SHOP AT WALGREENS & HELP KIDS!

We're participating in the myWalgreens donation program! You can donate your myWalgreens cash rewards to Hibiscus through November 30th. At Walgreens, you'll earn unlimited 1% Walgreens Cash rewards when you shop and you can choose how much to donate. It's that easy. Whether you'd like to contribute \$1, \$5, or more of your Walgreens Cash rewards you'll be making a big difference. It really adds up! **Enjoy shopping and help the Hibiscus kids!**

2 ways to enroll in myWalgreens

Customers can join for FREE in seconds at myWalgreens.com or on the Walgreens app to instantly unlock exclusive membership benefits.



1. Sign up at
mywalgreens.com



2. Or on the
Walgreens app

Click link mywalgreens.com
OR
download the Walgreens mobile app.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Messages from our Co-chairs

Kate Mikkelsen and Carolynn Strom

Carolynn

As a former practicing Registered Nurse and Certified Diabetes Education and Care Specialist, I would say that roughly 50% of patients suffer from some type of mental health disease. Taking care of your mental health is just as important, if not more, than taking care of your physical health. This is only one of the reasons why I decided to get involved with Hibiscus Children's Center. Mental disorders begin in childhood and research shows that adverse childhood experiences have a direct impact on mental health. Without a safe and nurturing environment, these adverse conditions can lead to serious change in how children learn, behave, and cope with their emotions. The fight or flight response, becomes a child's survival mechanism, and further impacts not only mental well-being, but physical well-being. The Hibiscus Children's Center offers these children hope, healing, and a safe place to learn how to positively cope. It may be the first time that these children will have memories in the making of a nurturing and loving environment.

As a parent, we want what is best for our children. I volunteer, like all of my fellow volunteers on the Hibiscus Children's Center Guild, because it is with our community's support, that we are able to help at risk children have a chance to navigate life that is already difficult enough with a loving Mother and Father. **Without our community's help, the Hibiscus Children's Center would not be able to offer our own neighbors' children a sense of hope, a sense of importance, a sense of love, which is imperative to thrive in life.**

Kate

I have been volunteering with Hibiscus since the 9th grade. I was a Freshman at Martin County High School when my mother, Linda Schwaderer, encouraged me to volunteer after school. I loved playing with the kids on the playground and helping them with arts and crafts. I knew this was a wonderful organization. My mother had recently started the Martin County Women's Guild and I was able to witness first hand, the number of women that were passionate about helping the children.

Fast forward 20 years and I am back in Stuart where I live with my family and work as a Financial Advisor. I was excited to join the Women's Guild that my mother helped start. Not only do I get to work side by side with my mother, but I get to make a difference in the community I love, for a cause I am passionate about. I chaired the Luncheon in 2019 and 2020, led the Teddy Bear Campaign in 2021 and 2022, was President of the Guild in 2021 and am now the co-chair of the Gala in November, with my childhood friend, Carolynn Strom.

If you would like more information about the Martin County Guild, please contact Kate at: Kate.Mikkelsen@edwardjones.com.

For more information about our event, please click the link: **[A Night of Southern Elegance Casino Night](#)** (Saturday, November 18th at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart)

GIVINGTUESDAY

11/28 Global Giving Movement

Join the giving movement and support
Hibiscus children!

Hibiscus Children's Center *Sustainer Society*

Your monthly gift allows us to better
budget and prepare for unexpected expenses
and ensure children are experiencing a
full life while living at the Village and Shelter.

Donate to the Hibiscus Sustainer Society on November 28th
or donate anytime to help support Hibiscus children!

BECOME A SUSTAINER

JOIN OUR TEAM!



HIBISCUS IS HIRING!

Hibiscus is looking for **Caring, Committed and Compassionate** individuals who want to be part of a great team helping children! **Hiring Bonuses!** (See details)

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Martin County Casino Night | Willoughby Golf Club
November 18, 2023

Indian River Candlelight Ball | Oak Harbor Club
December 2, 2023

Indian River County Wine & Dine | Grand Harbor Golf Club
February 3, 2024

Martin County Jo Covelli Luncheon | Sailfish Point Club
March 4, 2024

Blue Ribbon Luncheon & Fashion Show | Oak Harbor Club
April 3, 2024

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

**Contact for more
information:**

Indian River County
NPerez@hcc4kids.org

Martin County
LSwift@hcc4kids.org



For more information about how you can get involved to help kids, please contact
Michelle King, CDO | mking@hcc4kids.org | 561.452.5791

Visit Our Website

[Unsubscribe](#)

Hibiscus Children's Center

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