

Friends of
**JOSHUA
HOUSE**
Foundation, Inc.

Joshua House
CONNECTION

WWW.FRIENDSOFJOSHUAHOUSE.ORG

— WINTER 2024 —

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FOJH - FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DeDe Grundel
Executive Director

At Joshua House, every day is filled with activity, care, and a deep sense of purpose. With five homes sheltering children aged 6 to 17, spread across 11 acres, and buildings nearing 32 years old, maintaining and improving our infrastructure is no small feat. But what truly fuels our hearts is not just the work, but the moments—welcoming new residents who arrive with little more than a torn paper sack, creating enriching activities that light up our children's faces, and planning bittersweet farewell parties as they prepare to move on. This is the work that defines us, that drives our small but mighty team. We rarely think of it as work when it's about the children and teens we care for; it's our joy and our mission.

This passion is also what makes our HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE so vital. It's not just about one special day; it's about sustaining the warmth and care we provide throughout the year. Yes, Christmas is important, but the success of this drive fuels our ability to support initiatives that span the entire year. It helps us welcome children like Jake, an 8-year-old boy who arrives with little more than a need for love and a fresh start—greeted with a new Lego set, clothes, and a fresh pillow. It allows us to comfort Ella, a 16-year-old girl nursing a broken heart, with the perfect fluffy blanket to wrap herself in. And it empowers us to celebrate milestones, big and small, with the children who call Joshua House home.

We can only imagine the pain of moving from home to home, sometimes within days, sometimes within weeks. We can only sympathize with Grayson, a 12-year-old boy who finds solace on a lonely playground swing, lost in his music as he tries to escape the pain of a mother who chose drugs over him. That's why, when we have the chance to bring joy, instill hope, and provide new opportunities, we seize it—because we must. But we cannot do this alone.

From Christmas onward, we need you. Our services are 100% supported by friends like you in the community. Please join us in making a difference for foster children and teens like Jake, Ella, Grayson, and so many others. Consider making a holiday or end-of-year contribution to Friends of Joshua House Foundation. Your gift will not only support our work—it will transform lives. Wishing you peace, joy, and blessings this holiday season and in the new year.



FOJH - FROM THE CHAIR



Tracy Falkowitz
Chair

Fall is finally here. Our kids are back in school after a fabulous summer of fun and exploration. It is now back to classes, tutoring, and the continued hard work of healing from their trauma. The residents of Joshua House not only have the stress and challenges of schoolwork but also being around classmates who have the stable and loving family that they wish for more than anything else. Through the support, therapy and activities of Joshua House, we hope to give them the tools to succeed in life with joy and meaning.

At this time of year, we reflect on the extraordinary generosity of our donors that have allowed us to care for foster children since 1992 and to continue to do so far into the future. Friends of Joshua House Foundation could not have restored Joshua House to continue serving these children without this community support and partnerships. Your support allows these children to heal and find hope for a future beyond foster care.

Friends of Joshua House Foundation will continue to provide services to the foster children on our campus and those in our community in need of support. We hope that you will continue to donate your time, talents and treasure to our efforts. We will share success stories of our children so you may celebrate with them. Please keep all foster children in your heart, your prayers and your thoughts throughout the holidays.

Tracy M. Falkowitz



NEW YEAR & NEW BEGINNINGS!

Nanci March, Resource Manager, AKA Head Elf

Our Back-to-School collection drive seemed a bit different this year. A tropical storm delayed the delivery of many of the basic school supplies, but, as usual, our community of thoughtful and generous donors came through for our kids in a big way! All our Joshua House kids - plus over 300 more foster and at-risk youth - had the supplies they needed for the first day of school. We were also able to stock our shelves for all the children & teens who will arrive at Joshua House during the year. We are thankful for every person and business that contributed to this important collection drive. We would like to specially recognize Appolidon, RAD Diversified Services, Dana Philp, Jan Rubel, and Melanie & Carolyn Long who made sure our kids had the specific clothes and shoes they wanted!

Our goal is to always serve the current needs of our residents, and that means helping teens on track for their GED, addressing literacy issues for foster youth significantly behind, and improving virtual school and home school services. Thanks to the dedication and passion of Fostering Hearts, we now have a full-time teacher at Joshua House working with up to 15 of our children and teens.

The future is brighter for our foster children, and we cannot express how much all of your support means!



Donation from Floridacentral Credit Union.



Donation from Foot Locker.



Zach Davis delivered the Back-to-School donations from Starlight Homes

LIFE ENRICHMENT

Laura Calco, Life Enrichment Program Manager

A Japanese author, poet, and philosopher once said, "I believe the EXPLORATION and ENRICHMENT of the human spirit determines our very humanity." This quote has been my constant companion, a reminder of our profound mission at Joshua House.

Here, we have the incredible privilege of shaping the lives of every child who walks through our doors. This summer, we formed exciting new partnerships within our community that offered our youth opportunities for deeper self-exploration and growth.

Our Enrichment Programs are more than just activities—they're transformative experiences that provide a haven where children are encouraged, celebrated, and validated. These programs are crucial in nurturing confidence, compassion, courage, and empathy in our youth. They open doors to worlds our children have never encountered, helping them grow through the excitement and challenges of trying something new.

This summer at Joshua House was nothing short of AMAZING! Our children immersed themselves in a variety of activities, both on and off campus, pushing their boundaries and discovering new passions. They sewed their own projects, including small pillows, and we witnessed an unprecedented number of boys engaging in sewing—an incredible sight! The fun continued with water balloon dodgeball, creating magnets from fuse beads, tie-dying t-shirts, art exploration, coding classes, and birthday celebrations.

One of the highlights was a special invitation to Wentworth Golf Club, where our children learned to swing a club from the Golf Pro, participated in a putting competition, and enjoyed a delightful lunch. We capped off the summer with a Root Beer Float Party—an experience many of our children had never had before.

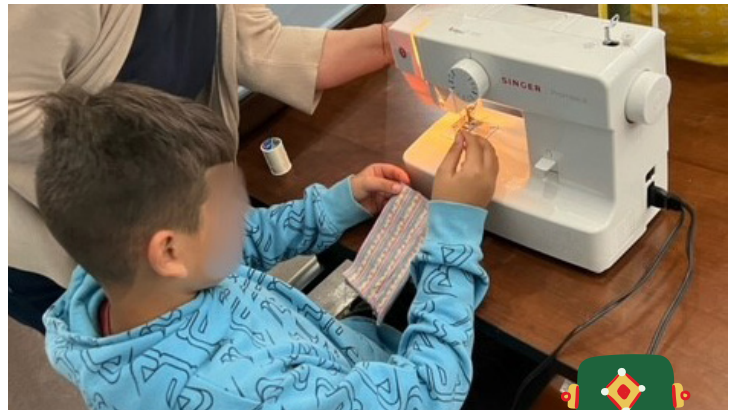
Life Enrichment is a cornerstone of our work with foster children, and an integral part of their healing. We are committed to providing innovative, exciting, and FUN activities for the residents who call Joshua House "home."



A fun day at the Wentworth Golf Course.



Art class, letting the inner talent bloom.



Learning to sew, a good life skill to have.



Learning to code, such a great opportunity.



Yummy Root Beer Float Day, enjoyed by all.





HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE 2024

Help bring the magic of Christmas to a foster child!

Joshua House, a therapeutic residential shelter in Lutz, FL, provides a haven for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and teens. We support foster children not just in our homes, but throughout our Tampa Bay community.

We rely on this **ONE GIFT DRIVE** to collect enough gifts for **ALL** our children, not just for the holidays, but also for birthdays, special occasions, new arrivals, and everyday play throughout the year. We fulfill the Holiday Wish Lists of **hundreds** of other foster and at-risk children in our community.

Your generosity brings comfort, joy, and a sense of being remembered to these children. Thank you for making a difference!



If you would like to help by purchasing specific gifts that are on a **WISH LIST OF A CHILD**, please click: [BIT.LY/2024HGDSIGNUPGENIUS](https://bit.ly/2024HGDSIGNUPGENIUS)

You can **"SIGN-UP"** for specific gifts and then deliver the unwrapped items by **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH** to one of the Drop-Off Locations.



Or shop directly from **AMAZON** and have the items shipped directly to Joshua House:

[BIT.LY/2024HGDAMAZONWISHLIST](https://bit.ly/2024HGDAMAZONWISHLIST)

Please include the child's **name** and **code** on the gift receipt when using this option. Thank you!

DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOP?



To make a monetary donation please visit [BIT.LY/2024HOLIDAYGIFTDRIVEDONATION](https://bit.ly/2024HOLIDAYGIFTDRIVEDONATION) and we will use these funds to bring joy and happiness during the holidays and throughout the year!



DROP OFF LOCATIONS

UNWRAPPED GIFT DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

Please deliver your unwrapped gifts to one of these locations by **Tuesday, December 10th**. Need more details, call our Head Elf, Nanci March at 813-728-3165.

FLORIDACENTRAL CREDIT UNION

All Hillsborough, Pinellas & Pasco locations
www.floridacentralcu.com/connect/locations-atms.html

JOSHUA HOUSE DONATION CENTER

1515 Michelin Ct, Lutz, FL 33549
M-F: 10am – 4pm, or by appointment

SCRAPORIUM

16518 N Florida Ave, Lutz, FL 33549
M/W/F: 10am - 3pm
T/R: 10am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Closed Sunday

HAND & STONE MASSAGE AND FACIAL SPA

13129 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite E
Tampa, FL 33618

1664 Bruce B Downs Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

1664 Bruce B Downs Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

12865 Citrus Plaza Dr
Tampa, FL 33625

M-F 9am – 10pm
S/S 9am – 9pm

ACCOUNTANTS WEALTH NATIONAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

28050 US Hwy 19 N #300
Clearwater, FL 33761

M-F: 9am – 5pm
S/S Closed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHILDREN!

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HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE 2024



Every year, the children and teens at Joshua House and other foster children in our community look forward to receiving gifts that bring them joy and comfort. Here are some of the most requested items all year long:

MOST REQUESTED GIFTS

- Gift cards: Visa, Target, Walmart, McDonald's, Hot Topic, AMC Movie, etc.
- Hoodies! Nike, any anime or anything from Hot Topic—junior and adult sizes
- Graphic t-shirts: Nike, any anime, cartoon, etc. in junior and adult sizes
- Anything anime/manga: clothing, books, posters, etc.
- Video games & controllers for XBOX, PS4 & Nintendo Switch
- Gaming headsets – RBG, etc.
- LEGO sets: Star Wars, super hero, cars, etc.
- Crocs – adult sizes & the jibits, too!
- Make-up & nail kits – Ulta, Urban Decay, etc.
- Fragrance sets: Bath & Body Works, AXE, Victoria's Secret, etc.
- LED lights for room decorating
- Super hero comic books for all ages
- Books/book Series for teens/pre-teens: graphic novels, joke books, popular YA novels

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Gift cards: Walmart, Target & Publix
- Laundry & dishwasher pods/sheets
- Bath towels & wash cloths
- Extra soft throw blankets in fun colors/patterns – for teen boys/girls
- Ethnic hair care items
- Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D & 9 Volt
- Plastic food containers
- Twin size comforters for teens (*Very low on styles for teen boys*)
- Other items can be found on our Amazon Wish List (*link on opposite side*)

FOOD

- Canned vegetables
- Dry pasta & assorted pasta sauces
- Name-brand, kid-type cereal
- Brownie mix, cake mix, frosting
- Chick-fil-A sauces, BBQ sauce, hot sauce
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Individually wrapped snacks: cookies, chips, etc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHILDREN!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



JULY 1, 2023 –
JUNE 30, 2024

MAJOR GIFTS & GRANTS

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Brianne & Rob Swezey
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Patricia Taylor
Taylor Financial
Taylor White Accounting &
Finance Placement
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TGH Nurse Practice Council
The Drapery Company
The Flag Company
The Gabriel & Jeanne Shaheen
Family Foundation, Inc.
The Learning Experience
The Progressive Insurance Foundation
Gemma & James Thomas
Titanium Designers
Todd & Bev Sumner Fund
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Milanya Torres
Natalie Torretti
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Lisa & Mike Trentalange
Trey Curry Foundation, Inc.
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Matthew Truscello
Mary Trzcinski
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Unity of Tampa, Inc
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Yvette & Craig Urquhart
Lauren Valiente
Janice Valle
Scotti Vaughan
Lavinia Vaughn
Amy Vaughn
Natalie & Sean Veilleux
Larry Vickman
Councilman Luis Viera
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Lisa Walker
Wanda Walker
Kathie Ward
Carolyn Warren
Sharon & John Warren
Waterford Properties
Misty Waters
Donna Weaver
Milad Webb
Bill Weeks



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Lisa & Paul Weinberger
Julie & Steve Weintraub
Brian Werkstell
Tish & William West
Michael Westafer
Dennis Whalen
Mary Anna White
Jamie Whitehurst
Barbara A. & David E. Wilkie
Jill Wilkins
Suzannah Wilkins
Sean Wilkinson
Kathy Williams
Arlene & Dan Williams
Amanda Williams
Jenny Wilwant
Tim & Lisa Wolf
Laurie Wolf
Woman's Club of New Tampa
Melanie Wong
Chloe Wood
Toni Ynes
Maxine Young
Kristen Yousey
Edward Zbella
Joanne Ziegler
Stacey Ziegler
Deb Zimkus
Diana Zubrowski

BOUNDLESS ENERGY HEROES

Deena Barlow
Barbara Blue
Rose Calco
Lisa Cisler
Kay Cunningham
Paige Erwin
Vanessa Glover
Sue Hunter
Ian Kahn
David Kimpland
Chris LaFave
Ronnie Mallack
Chef Ciro Mancini
Benjamin March
Karen Matchus
Casey Meigel
Joy Moore
Carolyn Musselman
Glenn Packard
Lou-Ann Packard
Veturia Preston
Debbie Scott
Eileen Smith
Loralei Spataro
Chef Doug Wanek
Jill Whelton
Mary Ann White
Dan Williams

LIFE ENRICHMENT HEROES

Accusoft
ASI Landscape Management
Celebrate Birthdays
D.R. Horton Tampa - North Division
Grace Family Church
Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa
Highland Canine Connect
Honey's Mini Therapy Adventures
Idlewild Baptist Church
Kappa Delta Sorority, Inc. - USF
Keller Williams
Krewe of Agustina de Aragon
LAMPLighters, Inc.
Yvone Marrone with Gunnar
Mia Marshall with Poshly & Steamy
Metro Inclusive Health
RAD Diversified
Radiant Church
Robins & Morton
Rotaract-USF Chapter
Rotary - New Tampa Rotary/
Satellite Club of Wesley Chapel
Rough Riders - 1st U.S. Volunteer
Cavalry Regiment
Signode Industrial Group LLC
Southern Eaze Bar & Grill
Sun Yoga Studio
The ACT Foundation
Krewe of St. Brigit
Paws for Friendship
USF Tutor-A-Bull Program
Computer Coach Training Center/
Tech Series Workshops
Bay Hope Church
Reading Buddies Program
Isabel Escobar
Ella Hasty
Amy Rosenthal
Crystal Hoeker
The Drapery Company
Wentworth Golf Club
Casey Meigel
Project P.R.O.M.I.S.E.
FLIK Independent School Dining

WISH LIST WARRIORS

2 Kings 4
Christine Airey
Maya Akhter
Waleska Albino
Norm Allen
Grace Family Church - Lutz
Katlyn Amieva
Brittany Anair
Danielle Angel
Brandi Argote
Atlantic Mechanical
Timothy Ball
Claire Bankus
Camery Barden
Barlas

Karen Barnett
Stephanie Barton
Brittany & Jason Baruch
Bob Bauman
Bayfront Hospital
Katty Beard
Tiffany Beck
Susan Bergstrand
Judy Bilek
Glenyia Bixby
Joshua Blanco
Charlene & Robert Bleakley
Katarina Bobinac
Juan Borrás
Richard Borrego
Ariana Borysora & Rebecca Kreeger
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Tampa District
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DiCara Family
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Amanda Dugger
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Eurell Family
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Mack Feldman
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Cheryl Fisher
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HUB International
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Alicia Johnson
Kevin David Johnson
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Nicoele Karas
Kevin Kaskel
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Montessori Academy Of
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Ash Ketchum
Lysette & Mark Ketterer
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Carrie King
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• Linda Heatherly
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Louise Wallace
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and neglected children throughout Tampa Bay.

P.O. Box 2451
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SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY JANUARY 20, 2025

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

MJH GOLF CLASSIC

CARROLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
3903 Clubhouse Dr, Tampa, FL 33618

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2025

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS BENEFIT

THE GATHERING ARMATURE WORKS
1910 N Ola Ave, Tampa, FL 33602

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2025

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

PIN PARTY

PIN CHASERS VETERANS
5555 W. Hillsborough Ave, Tampa, Florida

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

JOSHUA HOUSE GALA

THE MOTOR ENCLAVE
6500 Motor Enclave Wy, Tampa, FL 33610

Check our event website to see monthly added events friendsofjoshuahouse.org/events
Contact Dannielle Roque Franza for event sponsorship, charitable giving,
and gifts from the heart at droque@joshuahousetampa.org.



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