

Voices for Children's BE A VOICE Gala

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Gala Guide Admin

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Jessyca Gonzalez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Roberto Gonzales, VFC President and CEO Kadie Black, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rene Garcia

Voices For Children Foundation hosted its 26th Annual “Be A Voice Gala” at Mandarin Oriental, Miami with support from its honorary chair sponsor, Shipley Foundation, Inc. This year’s signature fundraiser saw a record-breaking raise of over \$1.1 million with the participation of more than 400 Miami-Dade County elected officials, community leaders, philanthropists and citizens.

“It is my honor to lead Voices For Children Foundation and continue the organization’s legacy in Miami-Dade County. At our gala, community leaders, volunteers and champions mobilized to support the 1,500 children in care,” said VFC President and CEO **Kadie Black**. “We are thankful for the unwavering support from the Miami-Dade community. It is because of their generosity that we can continue the critical work of raising awareness and providing resources for children in foster care.”



Members of the Board of Directors for VFC, Brad Meltzer, Vince Castro, Kira Grossman, Jay Shapiro, Alberto Jaen



Stan Mckay



Stan Mckay and his Family



Council Woman for Village of Pinecrest, Anna Hochmatter, County Commisioner Eileen Higgins (District 5), Courtney Whitney, Maggie Fernández, Joe García



Dr Shirley English, Baldwin English



Mayor of the City of Coral Gables Vince Lago & Olga Lago

During the gala, participants learned the impact that Voices For Children (**VFC**) makes in the lives of many in and out of the foster care system by listening to inspirational stories told by allies and people formerly affected by the system. Foster parent **Stan Mckay** delivered a touching story about the experiences and obstacles he faced in foster care and now as a foster parent that inspired many during the **Give from the Heart** part of the night. **Miami-Dade County Mayor and VFC co-founder Daniella Levine Cava** also delivered a moving speech about the life-changing work VFC does and the organization's important origin story.

Throughout the night, professional auctioneer Jason Alpert conducted a live and silent auction that mobilized participants to contribute to VFC's purpose by bidding on unique items and experiences that were donated by local members of the community.

True to the night's theme, **"Making Dreams Come True,"** VFC and its supporters work to grant the dreams of children in the dependency system and their caregivers by funding assistance to the necessities and experience that provide children with a sense of normalcy and stability during this difficult period of their lives.



Stan McKay and children



German Valencia, Yolanda Valencia, Alirio Torrealba, Mayor of Doral Christi Fraga, Vince Lago



Jessyca Gonzalez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Roberto Gonzalez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kevin Cabrera



Rene Garcia & Kadie Black



Ron Goncalves, Gabriela Ibarra , Sophia Bahad, Tatiana Abello



TWU Local 291 President Jeffery Mitchell, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Roberto Gonzalez, Jason Smith



VFC team, Tania Rodriguez, Jeta Krasnikji Kadie Black, Beverley Blue, Melanie Margolese, Crystal, Steve Siegel

Additional sponsors for this year's gala included *Stearns Weaver Miller, Yolanda and Jeff Berkowitz, Senator Rene Garcia, Bertha and Paul Pino, Akumen, Fort Family Foundation, Galleria Farms, Grossman, Lemontang, De la Fuente, Kaufman Rossin, Take Five Oil Change, Ziff Family Foundation, Amazon, Ellen & Ronald Block Family Foundation, Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, FPL, Kandall, Kandell & Petrie, KPMG, Nomi Health, Maria Maloof and Marile Lopez, Two Roads Development, USI Insurance Services, Mandarin Oriental, Brickell Magazine and Alto.*

About Voices For Children Foundation

Voices For Children Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that raises funds to help ensure that abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Miami-Dade County each have a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem and that financial assistance and other resources are available for their health, educational, and social needs. Guardian ad Litem volunteers are trained, court-appointed adults who serve as a child's representative voice in dependency court proceedings. Currently, 100% of Miami-Dade's 1,500 children in foster care have representation through a Guardian ad Litem. For more information, please visit www.BeAVoice.org.