



Voices for Children  
of Palm Beach County

[voicesforchildrenpb.org](http://voicesforchildrenpb.org)



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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

A close-up, high-angle photograph of a young girl's face. Her eyes are closed, and she has a gentle, hopeful smile. The lighting is soft and warm, highlighting the texture of her skin and the curve of her lips. The word 'Hope' is written in a white, serif font, enclosed in red curly braces, positioned in the upper left corner of the image.

{ Hope }

## This is Our Home. These are Our Children.

# Our Children

At first glance, it's simple: we live, work and play in one of the richest and most privileged places in the country – Palm Beach County. We are the fortunate few – enjoying an envied life in a fabled place.

But it's never that simple – and the truth is never that pretty. We live with a growing and critical child-care crisis. Foster care children from newborns to the age of 18 and beyond are living on the edge – pushed there by a continuing and rarely interrupted cycle of abuse, poverty, neglect and abandonment.

Take a moment to digest some of the statistics on the insert to the left. The facts aren't pretty. But the facts are the facts.

The odds are that most of this doesn't affect you. *Your* kids are fine. *Your* neighborhood is safe. *Your* family is secure.

Which is why we ask you to take a moment and consider a simple idea: what if the kids that make up those statistics were your kids? What if that homeless, uneducated, unemployed, uninsured 19-year-old was your child? What if that child diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder were *your* child?

What if it were your children who were victims of violence? Would you be outraged? Would you want others to be?

# We Believe

This is What We Believe.

Despite its best intentions, the State of Florida continually underserves our foster youth – and the foster care system is in trouble. The truth is, the funds simply aren't there.

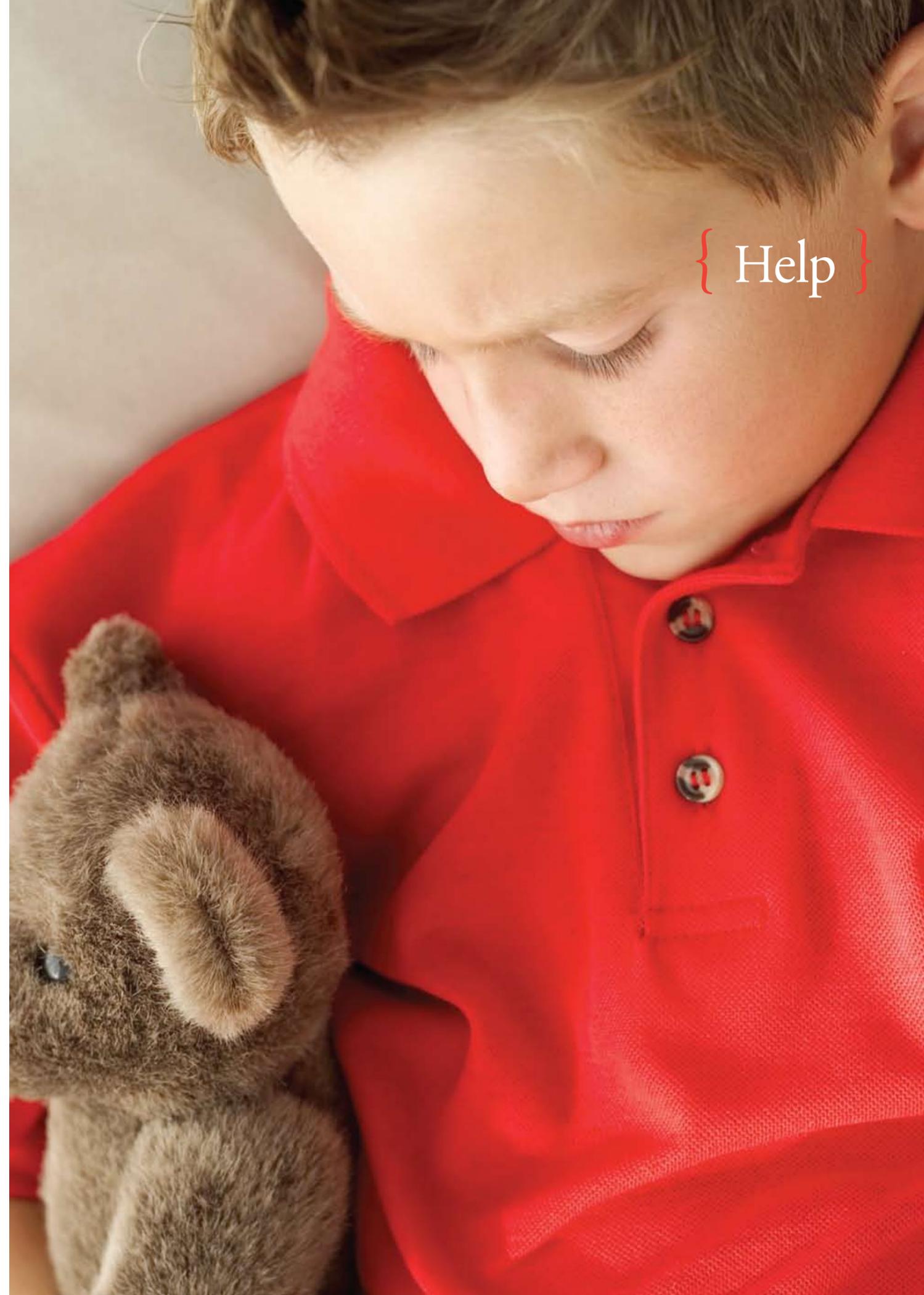
Children who are abused, neglected and abandoned are ignored at the most vulnerable points in their lives – because many of the resources that should be there to help them are not.

VFC believes that the single most important resource in Palm Beach County is our children – all of them – and that children deserve more than to be regarded as statistics – or as someone else's problem. We believe that they deserve a fighting chance to be happy, successful and productive adults. We believe that intervention at any stage of the process with these troubled children has the potential to break the cycle; the circular process of dependency that the children and their parents live in – the cycle their children will eventually be caught in if something is not done.

VFC believes that the best way to make sure that kids who need help get it is to look to ourselves to give it. We do this through advocacy, direct service programs of our own and helping like-minded non-profits who do a great job on a daily basis.

*We can't do it without you.*

Why do we want to help? Because if it were our child, we'd do it in a heart beat. And because the fact is, it is our child. Every single one.



{ Help }

“Voices for Children supports the interests of the abused, neglected and abandoned children of Palm Beach County.”

neglected and abandoned


 { Act }

## What we intend to do about it.

# intend to do

Voices for Children partners with select community organizations whose projects will help to fill the gaps in the foster care system; the gaps that exist due to the lack of government funding.

We realize we can't be all things to all people – or all organizations. We are making a difference with some of them. In fact, we make a big difference by conducting the fundraising efforts needed to provide the capital to operate these programs. We make a difference through our direct service and advocacy.

We invite you to join us.

The opportunities to participate are varied:

- Become a Benefactor to one or more of our projects.
- Donate your time or money.
- We have a variety of fundraising events throughout the year and we need you there.
- We participate in programs that require volunteer services – we'd love to have you join us.
- We are always interested in collaborating with people with special skills and experiences that can be put to good use.
- Become a sponsor for one of our fundraisers.
- Consider including VFC in your will or estate plans.

Go to our website to find more information about specific programs we're involved in, as well as additional background on the challenges we face. And while much of it isn't pretty, the facts are the facts. It's a reality that affects us all – but one that we can change.

*So...how can you help us?*

Simple: Make our mission your mission. Be a part of helping create a new set of facts. A better reality for our kids.

*Your kids.*



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**Please make contributions to:**

Voices for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 198

West Palm Beach, FL 33402

561.676.8025

For more information or

to donate online visit our web site

[voicesforchildrenpb.org](http://voicesforchildrenpb.org)