

HEALING, HOPE & Home

Gratitude

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Giving Matters

Siblings TOGETHER

Tutoring

Next STEPS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD



As we reflect on the many lives we have impacted, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and commitment to help some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It truly has been and continues to be a wonderful journey!

wife, family, and friends all came out to make sure that the children felt cared for and safe. Additionally, we had hundreds of volunteers assist with debris clean up, preparation of meals, and donations of food and money to assist with the replenishment of perishable items.

We began the year with the continuation of the development of our Board which began in 2016 with growth from just twelve members to twenty-five; and for the first time we have an SOS alumnus who joined the Board. He came to SOS as a 7-year-old with his sisters, and it is wonderful to see how his life has blossomed as he is now a husband, father, and detective with Broward Sheriff's Office. This young man is a testament to the work that we do and how lives can be transformed.

The responsibility of caring for children is a huge one, and requires many people selflessly coming together for the greater good of our girls and boys. We are very proud of the staff who are so loving and caring, and always put 150% into everything they do to ensure that our children are safe, well cared for, and loved.

In 2017 we received funding of \$4.5 million with private sources comprising \$2.7 million. Total expenses amounted to \$4.0 million, producing an increase in net assets of \$500,000. In addition, our endowment fund has grown to a fair value of \$1,123,474 from which we received five percent this year. Our development team continues to work to ensure that our outlook toward 2018 is promising.

2018 is the 25th anniversary of SOS Children's Villages Florida and we hope that each of you will join in celebration of this special year. We have several opportunities to become involved and add your personal mark to this special time in SOS history. Please consider getting a commemorative brick paver, forming a Steps for SOS 5k Run/Walk team, or attend the 25th Anniversary luncheon in the Fall. Visit our website at www.sosflorida.com to learn more about these and other activities and events.

September was nothing short of chaotic as we lived through and recovered from Hurricane Irma. Our children were safe, and the Village sustained only minor damages. The children and their house parents were in shelters until the day after the storm, but we were unable to have everyone return to the Village because our electricity had not been restored. Through the generosity of a Board member, all 70 of our children enjoyed several days at his home where his

A heartfelt thank you to each of you who have helped provide the necessary resources to give our children the life that every child deserves.

Kristina Stein
Kristina Stein
2017 Board Chair

Jillian Smath
Jillian Smath, MSW
Executive Director

WE HAVE THE BEST VOLUNTEERS!



- Over 1000 people volunteered
- 500 hours spent on volunteer projects
- 25 mentors provided friendship and guidance
- Over 100 volunteers came to our rescue following Hurricane Irma
- 125 volunteer projects and activities with the children
- Value of total volunteer hours totaled \$14,484



2017 BY NUMBERS



- 187 children served
- 39 reunifications with family members
- 6 aged out at 18 years
- 21 sibling groups resided at the Village (largest number since we opened!)
- 2 sibling groups returned when placement with family members fell through
- 80 young adults were active in our Next Steps program which offers support when a child ages out of the foster care system at age 18
- 20 non- SOS young adults are thriving in the Next Steps program as a result of a program expansion grant
- 24 of our young adults in the Next Steps program are enrolled in college
- 1 graduated from college
- 1 in law school

