

family matters

children's home society OF FLORIDA

spring 2005 southeastern edition

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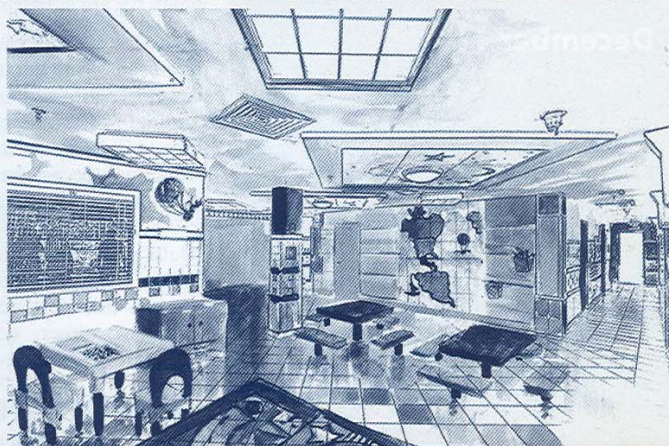
“PROJECT OF LOVE” Children’s Centers To Get Themed Makeovers

Children in need will soon enjoy delightful surroundings as the Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) undertakes extensive renovations of three children’s centers in Miami. The effort, dubbed “Project of Love”, will give McLamore Children’s Center, Phoebe Morse Day Care Center and Family Visitation Center fresh new looks.

Local interior designer Maria Elena Holguin, owner of the Holguin Design Group (HDG), is spearheading the effort. Recently, the company elected to help children by donating a portion of the proceeds from every job to local charities. “Project of Love” fits perfectly with the firm’s new philanthropic vision.

“This project has really humbled me and it’s taught me how much these kids really need,” says Maria Elena Holguin. “I’m thrilled that I can bring just a little bit of happiness to their troubled lives.”

Of course no project of this scope can be completed alone. HDG is securing support from other companies as well as donating 75% of their design fee. “When I first started getting bids, I asked all the vendors to make donations and so far every single vendor has donated something,” continues Ms. Holguin.



McLamore’s dining room will include a kid-friendly map of the world

“I’ve really been blown away by the generosity of this community.”

Participating vendors include: Carolina Rey, Doral Financial Group, Fabric Gallery, Caliper Design, Designer Graphic Services, Precision Kitchen & Bath, American Society of Interior Designers, Kravet Fabrics, Quilts for Kids, Upholstery USA, Nelson Ochoa, Ximacaf Design Enterprise, Nancy Pettinato, H & A Flooring, Duralee Fabrics & Furniture, Addison House Furniture, Castle Artistic Finish, Pan American Hospital/Club Generaciones, Henredon

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CHS Focuses Awareness on Prevention

Each year, community leaders, activists, children’s advocacy agencies and concerned citizens join forces to raise awareness of child abuse during April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Children’s Home Society of Florida, the state’s oldest and largest non-profit, nonsectarian provider of services to children and families, was an active participant.

“Our most important resource is our children and too many in South Florida face abuse and neglect,” says Jackie Gerstein, Executive Director of CHS Southeastern Division. “We always take the opportunity of Child Abuse Prevention Month to focus our efforts on promoting programs that seek to break the cycle of abuse and strengthen the family unit.”

CHS has five programs that promote family preservation, including: parenting skills training, problem solving, infant care, child development education, and child health monitoring. The goal is to provide support, outreach and services to prevent the cycle of abandonment.

“Healthy Families is one of our most successful prevention programs,” says Ms. Gerstein. “In fact, it recently received the highest outcomes in the state for effectiveness in preventing abuse and breaking the cycle of violence.”

“It is our hope that, through these programs, we will significantly improve and enhance the lives of the children and families we serve,” says Ms. Gerstein.

