



Media Contact:  
Christina Daigneault / Orchard Strategies  
917-207-4686

## **Family Resource Center of South Florida Distributes Thanksgiving “Gratitude Baskets” To Local Foster Care & Adoptive Families**

### **Celebrating the Community’s Unsung Heroes Throughout Thanksgiving**

Miami, Florida -- September 18, 2013 –Family Resource Center of South Florida is pleased to announce the continuation of its Thanksgiving food delivery program benefiting local families with foster care and adoptive children. This program, now in its 5th year, has consistently provided abundant, healthy meals for families during the Thanksgiving holiday season.

This year, FRC’s food delivery will take the form of “Gratitude Baskets” and, in addition to providing nourishing holiday meals, foster care and adoptive families will receive a “thank you” letter for lovingly creating homes for children in need. By offering “Gratitude Baskets,” FRC will be taking this wonderful time of the year, Thanksgiving, as an opportunity to recognize the many unsung heroes who make a profound difference in our community.

“Thanksgiving is the perfect time of year to recognize and give thanks to the extraordinary work of foster care and adoptive parents,” explained Dr. Oren Wunderman, Executive Director of Family Resource Center. “The delivery of our Gratitude Baskets, including personal thank you notes, is just one small way to celebrate the invaluable contributions foster care and adoptive parents make in the lives of children in need.”

Many community members, both individuals and organizations come together to make these deliveries possible. Last year, the lead supporters included Diversified Biologicals, Cherry Bekaert, Miami Senior High School, Noven Pharmaceuticals, and FIU’s School of Social Work.

### **Thanking A Local Hero – Angelica Torres**

For over five years, Angelica Torres, has been a licensed foster care provider in South Florida. In addition to caring for four foster care children at a time, she adopted one child through the public system. Angelica feels blessed not only by the loving family she has established with her foster care children and adoptive child, but also by her biological family who have been exceptionally supportive in her quest to build a loving environment for children in need. She has one biological adult son, and a sister who lives next door.

Angelica believes that every child deserves to be given a chance for a full and productive life. True to her philosophy, she has never turned down the placement of a child in her home, day or night, including children with difficult behaviors and other challenges.

## **Giving Thanks to Jolie Bogorad**

Over the span of twelve years, Jolie Bogorad, 60, has been an exceptional example of kindness and maternal devotion. She has fostered over thirty children, many of them adolescents.

Being a teacher by profession, she has provided the needed support, guidance, and consistency to help foster youth prepare for independent living. She is also temporarily helping a child who aged out of the system by allowing him to still remain in her home while he continues to go to school.

In addition to serving as a foster care mother, she also adopted three children and has biological adult children that reside with her. They support their mother in her devotion to fostering FRC's children. Jolie firmly believes that our children are our future and she will do everything possible to reach out to them to help them achieve their potential.

Angelica and Jolie are two shining examples of the many extraordinary foster parents who will be given a Gratitude Basket this holiday season. If you would like to meet Angelica (Spanish speaking) or Jolie (English speaking), attend the Gratitude Basket delivery, or learn more about FRC, please contact Christina Daigneault at 917-207-4686 or [Media@OrchardStrategies.com](mailto:Media@OrchardStrategies.com).

## **About Family Resource Center**

Family Resource Center of South Florida (FRC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by a group of concerned community leaders. Its mission is the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect by strengthening families. The agency provides integrated care for children in the foster care system, parent education classes, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, adoptions, and aid in the licensing and oversight of foster homes. In the last year, FRC provided services to more than 2,500 children, adolescents, and adults.

FRC has been recognized by *Florida Trend* magazine as one of the top 100 BEST PLACES TO WORK in the state in both 2010 and 2011. Business Leader Magazine also recognized the agency as one of the Top 20 Small Businesses in South Florida for both 2010 and 2011.

**FRC Executive Director Dr. Oren Wunderman** has worked in non-profit child welfare or mental health centers for most of the last thirty years. He is licensed as a Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor. He earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Miami. He has taken continuing education coursework in non-profit management from Harvard Business School and the Florida International University School of Business. For the past 15 years, he has been a yearly guest lecturer in the subjects of Child Abuse and Forensic Psychology at the University of Miami, Departments of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, Miami Children's Hospital and several local Community Mental Health Centers.

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