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Hero Awards gala honors community leaders

BY DAVID UDOFF

With a record fundraising year, the Family Resource Center brought in \$73,000 at their fifth annual Children's Hero Awards Gala at the Conrad Miami.

This is the first year the agency honored three individuals for their outstanding community leadership including: Harve Mogul, CEO of United Way of Miami-Dade; Alan Abramowitz, executive director, Florida Guardian ad Litem Program; and Katherine W. Ezell, a partner with Podhurst Orseck, P.A.

"The Family Resource Center is a combination of a foster care agency and a community mental health center. We work with children and families who have been referred to us either by the Department of Children and Families or the Dependency Court," Dr. Oren Wunderman, executive director, FRC, said.

Once a particular family has been identified where their child is abused, neglected or exploited, the FRC often places the child in the home of a relative.

"We try to rehabilitate family's functionality and that can take anywhere between 12 and 18 months. We return two thirds of the



David Wahlstad and 2013 Children's Volunteer Award winner Katherine W. Ezell.

children safely back in the family origin," Wunderman said.

The Florida Guardian ad Litem program helps provide a voice to children who have become a ward of the state. These are responsible adults who speak up for the child's best interest.

Business Leader Magazine recognized the agency as one of the Top 20 Small Businesses in South Florida in 2011. The Family Resource Center of South Florida champions the rights of children to grow up in a healthy and safe environment.

For information about the Family Resource Center visit, www.FRCflorida.org or call 305-374-6006.