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About Kristi House, Inc. Children's Advocacy Center for Miami-Dade

Kristi House Children's Advocacy Center was founded 11 years ago to address a large and growing problem in Miami-Dade County: child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is difficult to identify, verify, prosecute and treat. It is an insidious form of abuse as perpetrators are often beloved family members. Their betrayal leaves psychological scars not only on the child victim, but on the child's mother and siblings. Compounding the problem is that a large number of sexual abuse cases remain unreported. Research indicates that three-quarters of children do not disclose within a year of the first incident. The children remain silent because of confusion, guilt and the fear of family upheaval that comes with disclosure.

National research continues to find that one out of three girls and one out of six boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18, and 30% of children who are sexually abused are under the age of 6. As startling as these statistics are, these numbers do not capture the magnitude of the incidence of sexual abuse with the unknown number of undisclosed occurrences.

Kristi House operates the only facility in South Florida that collocates and coordinates with community partners to ensure that all emotional, physical and legal needs for child victims of sexual abuse are provided under one roof. Prior to the agency's first organization in 1994, child advocates discovered that many children who were victims of sexual abuse in our community were slipping through the cracks of the social service system and were not receiving the services needed to recover from the trauma of their abuse. The children were undergoing multiple interviews in numerous locations, which only served to compound their trauma, being forced to relive it with every retelling. The system of care, rather than helping victims, was deterring families from seeking help.

Today, Kristi House provides wrap-around case coordination services to address a multitude of family needs. Therapy, medical examinations, transportation, emergency client assistance, support groups and comprehensive assessments are among the array of services provided by Kristi House. Partners in the Child Advocacy Center include the State Attorney's Office Child Sexual Abuse Unit, Department of Children and Families, UM Child Protection Team, Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center, law enforcement and Guardian ad Litem.

Kristi House is centrally located on the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital campus at 1265 NW 12th Avenue. A satellite office for therapy services is located in south Dade at 152nd and U.S. 1. Tel: (305) 547-6800 www.kristihouse.org

Mission Kristi House provides a healing environment for all child victims of sexual abuse and their families, regardless of income, through prevention, treatment and coordination of services with our community partners.

Vision Kristi House strives to end the epidemic of child sexual abuse in Miami-Dade County by healing those who have been victims and breaking the cycle of abuse for future generations.

Values Kristi House is dedicated to respecting, protecting, and healing the children and families that pass through its doors.

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