The Board is Growing

Meet LifeNet’s two newest Board Members!

Michael L. Feinstein, Esquire, Michael L. Feinstein, P.A.
Mr. Feinstein brings over 40 years of complex business, real estate, and litigation experience to our Board. When asked what attracted him to LifeNet4Families, he shared that he and Board Member Les Campbell were both members of Rotary International and he “had been fortunate enough to be able to use [his] legal skills on behalf of Rotary to produce very favorable results with regards to a couple of complicated legal matters that [he] was able to resolve.” He looks forward to utilizing his expertise and relationships built in this important community to extend the reach of LifeNet4Families in the future.

Natalia Mahabir, Synovus Bank
Mrs. Mahabir has a great reach in the local community given her extensive banking and relationship-building experience in Broward County. On joining our Board, she was most impressed that LifeNet4Families not only feeds those less fortunate, but provides a safe place to help individuals get a new start on life. She added: “The many programs the organization offers can truly provide the guidance needed to help our community thrive in times of need. Let’s lead by example to teach the next generation what truly matters with the power of community.”

Looking forward to a new decade of progress ahead, together.

A Note of Appreciation

As 2019 comes to a close, we would be remiss if we did not thank Meredith Tucker, our outgoing Board Chair, for her extraordinary leadership, positivity, and strategic forward-thinking. Her ability to stay balanced, provide dedicated support, and proactively helping move our vision forward has been a blessing. She was conscientious, always looking out for staff needs, and a long-standing Board Member and Chair in multiple cycles. Lifenet4Families President and CEO, Dr. Melanie Geddes, added: “I appreciate everything that Meredith did to ensure we had the right tools to move this organization forward. On a personal level, I owe a significant part of my professional growth here at LifeNet to her remarkable leadership. It has been a true pleasure working together.”

#APD2020 Nears

The 18th Annual Andy’s Family Pasta Dinner will be held Sunday, February 16th, 2020, 4pm - 7pm, at Signature Grand. This is an enjoyable event for adults and children to raise money for LifeNet4Families. There will be scrumptious Italian food, fun-packed games and activities for kids, exciting silent auction items, and much more. Being part of helping people and giving back has never been more rewarding! Visit andyspastadinner.com to get the family involved:

- Sponsor a table, many levels to choose from
- Buy individual tickets for a fun family outing
- Donate items for the silent auction
- Sign up for yoga and meditation at Yoga for Life event
- Get the youth involved as a Junior Chef

Here are some of Junior Chefs helping at LifeNet ahead of APD:

Team-Build with Us

LifeNet relies on 20-30 volunteers, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Interested in holding a team-building event with us? Email us at volunteer@lifenet4families.org or call 954-314-9815.

Broward Latin American Association of Insurance Agencies

JP Morgan Chase
A Season of Giving

In November, we had extraordinary support from our community partners to help countless families in need have a memorable Thanksgiving meal at home. Thank you for your support!

Tunes on the Terrace

Select LifeNet clients enjoyed a private performance by Steven Jay and Joseph Sacher. It was such a treat to witness the sultry acoustics, and even some original compositions!

Full of Holiday Spirit

Recognizing the importance of social responsibility, Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits sponsored our New Year’s Eve Dining Experience. The team worked side-by-side to create a festive holiday dining experience for hundreds of clients without a place to go; while creating synergy with team spirit.

Congrats, Graduates

LifeNet recently held a ceremony for graduates that completed the first Project Hope Job Readiness Program Cohort, funded by the Jim Moran Foundation, and/or our Retool4Work Financial Stability Program, funded by The United Way of Broward County. A special thanks to our Program Development Team for helping see 14 of our students inching closer to their next phase in life, and look forward to a new cohort this winter.
Miracle on 33rd Terrace – An Event Like No Other

On December 11, 2019, the LifeNet4Families Dining Room was transformed into a five-star dining experience for our annual Miracle on 33rd Terrace event. For this, 36 of our homeless clients were invited to LifeNet’s “Staff Holiday Party;” as a pretext to provide them a beauty makeover, 5-star meal, essential supplies, transportation, and hotel stay at the end of the evening. This was quite an undertaking, and it could not have happened without an army of support:

- **The Title Sponsor** (Prefers to Remain Anonymous)
- **Gillette** (Hygiene, Clothing, and Gift Cards for Baskets)
- **Chris Powell** (Videographer)
- **JT’s Cuts Academy** (Haircuts)
- **Florida Academy of Health and Beauty** (Hair and Makeup)
- **Chef Eduardo and Chef Helene** (Fine Dining)
- **Kevin Dibert** and NSU University School Students (Servers)
- **Incoming Board Chair Scott May** (Gift Cards)
- **Board Member Laura Geary** (Gift Baskets)
- **Anand Event Services** (Drapery and Decor)
- **MK Music and Events** (Dinnerware and Chairs)
- **Leonor Thomas** (Violinist)
- **Red Carpet Inn Fort Lauderdale Airport** (Accommodations)

We would like to thank everyone that helped create a memorable experience for those most in need, including the LifeNet Team and volunteer that lent a hand for this event.

We have been flooded by client feedback in the weeks since the event about how lovely it was to enjoy simple pleasures they had long forgotten, and how this motivates clients to push forward.

Speaking to **Peter and Jodi Rice**, two of our guests at Miracle, shared they were “…absolutely blown away by the whole event. It made us feel that we were headed in the right direction. Being homeless is hard, and having such a memorable evening such Miracle was such a blessing; and it is now a part of our journey.” Three days after Miracle, both Peter and Jodi thankfully gained access to temporary housing, continue working with our Program Development Team, and look forward to what 2020 has in store for them; with a strong sense of faith and optimism.

We function as a Village of Hope for Broward’s food-insecure, 365 days a year; but Miracle is a testament to what happens when our tight-knit community bands together to lend a hand, celebrate small victories, and help change lives forever.
A Panthers' Christmas

The Florida Panthers Foundation funded LifeNet4Families with a $25,000 grant in 2019 to help ensure equitable, educational, and social opportunities for homeless and low-income youth. As part of initiative, LifeNet was able to fund Christmas gifts for a number of local youth, who had an opportunity to submit their own Santa wishlist. The LifeNet Program Development Team ordered amazing gifts and, on December 18, 2019, were joined by Board Member Chris Ambs and the Leadership Team to distribute toys with holiday decor, music, and cheer.

Annual Toy Drive

We were filled with love and gratitude, thanks to the numerous community partners that donated wonderful toys for our Annual Christmas Toy Drive. Among other donors, this event would not have been possible without Jeannie Almeida (500 toys) and Kris Hopkins, Assistant VP of the Seafarers International Union (Gulf Coast Region) and VP of the Maritime Trades Greater South Florida (175 toys and 10 bicycles). Thank you for helping youth that may not have been able to secure toys otherwise.