



Family & Children's Place  
Building brighter futures.

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*You are making a powerful difference in the lives of our community's children!*

Join us for a campus tour by contacting Micah Jorrich at  
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## Leaning on compassion after tragedy in Orlando

In the span of but a few days, the fabric of America, of our lives has been torn apart.

One week we celebrate Muhammad Ali, a man whose legacy - as a human and as a Muslim - was about strength, peace, compassion and love, and the next we mourn the deaths of 50 men and women, gunned down in an Orlando, Fla., club, by a man suspected of harboring extremist Islamic views.

We struggle to understand, to make sense, and we struggle to hold onto our humanity, to not lose footing and begin the slide down the slippery slope of intolerance, xenophobia - hate. In this senseless loss of life, there is no room for hate, only for sadness and sympathy, and most of all support. For the friends and families of the lost, the family of the gunman

who undoubtedly struggle to make sense of his actions, and for one another, as we all, daily, need friendship, fellowship and love to navigate our lives.

Louisville is a compassionate city, and Family & Children's Place is a signatory of that charter. Today, as we all mourn, let us lean on that compassion and its lessons of love, mercy, understanding and grace to get us through.



# Family & Children's Place

## We CAN because you ARE!

### Katya Estes, agency champion, wins national award

**C**ongratulations to Katya Estes, who received the Volunteer Leadership Award from the National Children's Alliance for outstanding work on behalf of the Family & Children's Place Kosair Charities Child Advocacy Center (KCCAC).



The alliance, which accredits the more than 770 children's advocacy centers across the United States, honored Estes during an awards presentation at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated perseverance and dedication to a children's advocacy center, and through the recipient's efforts, the viability of the CAC has been appreciably affected.

willingness to use her horrific story of abuse at the hands of her grandfather is nothing short of inspirational. She is a champion for children and a spokesperson for victim's rights."

The nomination also cited her work to create Stomp the Silence: Taking Steps Toward Healing, a 5k run/walk to raise money for the KCCAC, appearances in videos promoting the agency and a presentation to staff during an agency retreat.

Upon learning of the award, she posted, "Together we will rise. My mission doesn't end here. I will further my work into raising awareness for child abuse and neglect among us. Hear me roar, because I'm only going to get louder."

In nominating Estes for the award, Family & Children's Place stated, "Katya's passion to help victims of child sexual abuse and

All of us at Family & Children's Place are happy and proud to have been and be a part of Katya's journey and we congratulate her on her award and thank her for her help and support to ensure we can continue to provide a place of hope and healing to children and families hurt by abuse.

## Women's Reception a great event



Thank you to everyone who attended the most recent Family & Children's Place Women's Reception. Lt. Bridget Thomerson of the Crimes Against Children Unit of Louisville Metro Police, spoke to the group on the realities of child abuse in our community and what we, as women, can do to protect our community's children.

Thanks, too, Sherry Steinbock, for opening your home, hosting this event and raising awareness about the integral role Family & Children's Place plays in keeping kids safe.

## Thanks for helping Drive Out Child Abuse!

On Friday, June 10, Family & Children's Place hosted its annual Drive Out Child Abuse Golf Scramble at the Persimmon Ridge Golf Club.

We'd like to thank the teams who came out to support our work to end and heal child violence,

abuse and neglect, and our sponsors:

**Presenting Hole In One Sponsor:** Humana  
**Sustaining Sponsor:** Brown-Forman  
**Eagle Sponsor:** A Arnold World Class Relocation

**Birdie Partners:** Riverpoint Capital  
 Tri Arrow Aluminum Hall Contracting  
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 Bingham, Greenebaum, Doll  
**Putting Green Sponsor:** DMLO

Thank you!



## Rahkyilah: From a rough start to real responsibility

Rahkyilah comes from a large family. As the oldest girl, she takes care of her younger brothers and sisters, handle chores and keep up with her student responsibilities. She has had a rough start and understands her family lives in poverty, leading her to behave defensively and sometimes feel the need to fight to stand her ground.

When she began in the program, she received numerous referrals and in-

school suspensions. She got into arguments or fights with others she thought were making fun of or discriminating against her, leading to a negative image by other students and staff.

Over time, Family & School Services (FSS) staff has worked deliberately with her to manage and control her demeanor, reactions and responses. This year she will graduate eighth grade and has a much-improved outlook on life.

She has been an integral part of the Healthy Families program, and has volunteered time every Tuesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to serve students and their families Healthy Families Dinners.

Rahkyilah is working on her professionalism and leadership skills and has improved significantly since sixth grader. She plans to participate in the FSS summer program to help and facilitate lesson plans for her younger peers.

## Graduation reflects Dakota's successful path

Dakota, a senior in high school who will graduate soon, went through the Family & Children's Place after-school program (Family & Student Services, FSS), between fifth and eighth grade. However, following graduation from the program, he came back to volunteer and help students facing similar issue to those that confronted him.

Dakota comes from a large family, and his siblings have all been in the program as well. Dakota struggled with his parents' divorce, and a house fire, which led the family to move frequently throughout his middle school years.

As the eldest child, Dakota helped care for his younger siblings, and he struggled with social issues.

Throughout the FSS program, staff provided him tools and resources he needed to be

successful. Today, his family still reaches out to ask for advice and services, invitations to events and to share updates. His mom called recently to invite staff to his graduation knowing that seats are limited and that they have a large family!

