COMFORTCASES.

\star 2023 ANNUAL \star

anotes cou

WW02 1805



FOSTERING FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

) SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (

6

THE COMUS FARM * DICKERSON, MD

DINNER · AWARDS CEREMONY · ENTERTAINMENT SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS · SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

\star MISSION \star



Comfort Cases'[®] mission is to inspire communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care.

 \sim

hank you for your support of Comfort Cases' ongoing focus on eliminating trash bags used as suitcases by children in foster care.

Whether it is attending the 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit, becoming a Bag Buster, holding a donation drive, volunteering in our center, hosting a packing party, serving as a sponsor, coordinating a fundraiser, delivering Comfort Cases, being a committed donor, or inviting someone new to volunteer, we see you and thank you with full hearts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For every **\$55 raised**, a Comfort Case will reach the arms of a child in foster care.

Make a direct donation to Comfort Cases from your phone.

Open the camera app on your mobile device and point your camera at the QR code. Your phone will recognize the code and take you to our donation page.



\star THANK YOU **\star** FROM THE SCHEER FAMILY



Rob & Reece Alex, Greyson, Amaya, Tristan, & Makai

hen I declared "THIS ENDS TODAY!" 11 years ago to my family, little did we realize the unimaginable journey we would start. The path to eliminate trash bags carried as suitcases by children in foster care has not been easy. It has been a voyage that continues to stretch over countless twists and turns. However, it is thanks to you, Comfort Cases' community, that our impact can be felt in the lives of youth in foster care while delivering dignity and hope.

The vision of Comfort Cases was put clearly into focus in 2012 after Reece and I experienced each of our children entering our lives through foster care clinging tightly to all of their belongings in a trash bag. Unfortunately, I could relate all too well. For you see, I could recall vividly *Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

the loss of dignity I experienced as a youth entering foster care being handed a trash bag to carry all I had to call my own.

It is with amazement that we kicked off 2023 assembling our 200,000th Comfort Case. Knowing Comfort Cases and Comfort XL duffel bags have reached the arms of children in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom, we are inspired and more driven than ever before to increase Comfort Cases' footprint. With each Comfort Case lovingly filled with meaningfully selected items of necessity and comfort, we are on our way to providing 40,000 Comfort Cases this year hand in hand with you.

To the thousands of volunteers, professionals serving in social services, government leaders, law enforcement personnel, first responders, reporters, generous donors, board members, and staff who impact the precious lives of children in foster care, my family and I are forever grateful to you. You exemplify what it means to go above and beyond time and time again. As we plan the many destinations ahead of us together with Comfort Cases' community, we feel a true sense of hope fostering focus on the future with you!

With love.

The Scheer Family





A little help can have a big impact

KPMG is proud to support Comfort Cases and their effort to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care through Comfort, Community, Character, and Compassion. The funds you raise today will help make sure children in foster care have a better tomorrow.

kpmg.com/us

\star our programs \star

COMFORT CASES

Comfort Case is a backpack or small duffel bag that provides comfort, hope and love to youth entering foster care. Each case provides a child in foster care with both essential and comfort items to ease the transition into a new environment. Items in a Comfort Case include pajamas, stuffed animal, book, coloring book with crayons (ages 3 to 10 years old), a blanket, a toiletry kit (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap/body wash, and a dental kit (toothpaste and toothbrush). Youth 11+ years old also receive deodorant and a journal with pens/pencils. Newborn infants to children age 3 are provided with pajamas, blanket, stuffie, diaper wipes, diaper cream, baby bibs, washcloths, and board book. In order to convey a message to youth in foster care that they are loved and valued, each Comfort Case is assembled with care and includes only brand new items. Comfort Cases come in nearly 50 possible gender and size (Newborn-3XL) and gender combinations with each intended to be individual and unique, like each child who enters foster care.

\star \star \star

COMFORT XL

Comfort XL is a large capacity duffel bag that provides dignity to youth entering foster care by eliminating the need to place their belongings in a trash bag. Comfort XLs are approximately 32" bags that are collapsible and compact. The size of Comfort XLs enable the person responsible for transitioning a child from a home to be able to keep these on hand in an accessible location - whether it is the trunk of their vehicle or a dedicated spot in their office. The key is for Comfort XL to reach the arms of children in foster care — not a trash bag. This seemingly simple intervention has a powerful impact on a youth entering foster care and brings that child a sense of support during an uncertain and traumatic time.

TAKE THE BAG BUSTER Challenge

SCAN HERE TO DONATE!

Become a Bag Buster by donating \$10 a month! Your \$120 annual donation will help ensure that 12 children in foster care receive a Comfort Case and/or Comfort XL. Use the QR code to commit today.



Spread the word! Ask your friends, family, and co-workers to join you. Using your favorite form of social media, share the experience that thousands of children have each year as they enter the foster care system. Remember to use the hashtag **#BagBusters** and tag us **@ComfortCases**.

#NOMORETRASHBAGS™ BECOME A #BAGBUSTER TODAY!



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AT: f (2) (2) @COMFORTCASES in COMFORT CASES, INC.

2023 ANNUAL BBQ BENEFIT 材

2023 ANNUAL BBQ BENEFIT ★ PROGRAM SCHEDULE ★

► THE COMUS FARM ★ DICKERSON, MD

4:00 PM	Registration & Mission Moment — <i>Rose Garden</i> Silent Auction Opens — <i>Gazebo & Covered Pavilion</i> Musical Entertainment featuring <i>The Como Brothers Band</i>
4:45 PM	Transition to Seating - Main Barn for Dinner & Program
5:00 PM	Welcoming Remarks ★ Laura Degnon, President of Comfort Cases' Board of Directors ★ Holly Morris, Emcee
5:15 PM	Dinner ★ Kendall Dalal, Special Vocalist from Bach to Rock Gaithersburg
	Childcare is optional and available for those under 10 years of age.Access the entry for childcare by exiting the back door of the main barn and turning left.
6:00 PM	Fostering Focus on the Future Program Gratitude & Introductions, Holly Morris , Award Winning Journalist & Co-Anchor of Fox 5's Good Day DC
	Keynote Remarks, <i>Kimberly Raff,</i> Founder & Executive Director of Foster Alumni Mentors

Presentation of 2023 Scholarships

- ★ Hope Scholarship Awardees
- ★ Elevance Health Scholarship Awardee
- ★ Scott Isaacson Scholarship Awardees

Live Auction, Max Wolf, Auctioneer

Impact Remarks, Rob Scheer, Founder of Comfort Cases

Bid from the Heart Auction, Max Wolf, Auctioneer

2023 Award Presentations

- ★ Milton S. Hershey Award: Childhelp
- ★ Kids Helping Kids Award: AnnaBella Brown
- ★ The Alice O' Sullivan Volunteers of the Year Award: KPMG
- ★ The Barbara Harrison Award: Jen Lilley

7:30 PM Raffle Announcements & Silent Auction Closes

Guests with sound sensory sensitivities, please step outside of the main barn prior to the end of the closing remarks.

Closing Remarks & Become A Bag Buster

Covanta, leader in sustainable waste management and proud Comfort Cases' partner, is overseeing the conclusion of tonight's Bag Buster moment.

- 7:45 PM Music & Silent Auction Checkout Begins
- 8:30 PM Event Concludes

Take home and enjoy tonight's favors of Crisp Apple Jalapeno Hot Sauce donated by Bushwick Kitchen and tote with DVD of 'Instant Family' from Paramount Pictures

$\begin{array}{l} \text{COMFORT CASES} \\ \star \text{ FOUNDERS } \star \end{array}$



ROB & REECE SCHEER

OB AND REECE SCHEER are the fathers of five children, all of whom they adopted from foster care. Their children entered their forever home carrying what few possessions they had in black trash bags. Growing up in foster care himself, Rob remembered feeling disposable as a child carrying a trash bag to his foster home, and he wondered how this could still be happening 30 years later.

Many youth in foster care will be moved from home to home multiple times, carrying their life's treasures in a trash bag. Armed with the conviction that all children should be provided with everyday essentials and the comfort of a few things to call their own, Rob and Reece started Comfort Cases with their family in 2013. This simple, but large step began a journey to improve the lives of children in foster care throughout the greater DC region. Subsequent news coverage about the Scheer family and the vision for helping youth in care resulted in global interest in Comfort Cases.

Comfort Cases has been given exciting exposure being featured in the documentary film 'Dads' directed by Bryce Dallas Howard and interviews on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, a viral video production viewed by over 100 million from Upworthy, and segments dedicated to Comfort Cases on The Today Show, Fox 5 News, NBC Nightly News, and CNN.

To date, Comfort Cases and Comfort XLs have now reached the arms of over 200,000 children in foster care in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom.

Rob is currently the CEO of Comfort Cases, traveling the

country to share his story and advocate for youth in foster care. He published his memoir in 2018: A Forever Family: Fostering Change One Child at a Time. In addition to his work as the Founder of Comfort Cases, Rob has more than 25 years of leadership experience in the financial industry. Rob is also a proud veteran of the United States Navy. Reece



plays an integral role in the ongoing impact and growth of Comfort Cases while also remarkably supporting the Scheer family as a stay-at-home-dad. Reece has a professional background in interior design. Rob and Reece reside with their family in Darnestown, Maryland.





HOLLY MORRIS, FOX 5 DC

OLLY MORRIS is an award-winning journalist and co-host of Fox 5's Good Day DC. She has worked in news ever since graduating from Duke with a Civil and Environmental Engineering degree. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Holly's news journey has included stints in Steubenville, Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky before landing in the nation's capital where she has been for the last 20 plus years. Her work has earned her numerous Emmy Awards and a pair of Edward R. Murrow Awards. When not working, Holly loves nothing more than being with her husband, Thomas Espy, and their 11-year-old son, Hayden.

Holly is a long-time supporter and friend of Comfort Cases who has helped generate awareness of our mission and hard work with children in foster care.



\star MUSICAL GUESTS \star



THE COMO BROTHERS

HE COMO BROTHERS, MATT AND ANDREW COMO, are musicians (singers, songwriters, and performers) from Long Island who are passionate about their songwriting, heartfelt lyrics, and recording original music. Combining a pop and rock easy listening sound with a blues vibe, they have written and recorded multiple albums and EP's of original songs. Their latest songs have been recorded with Grammy nominated engineer Kenta Yonesaka at Germano Studios in New York City. Matt and Andrew have had songs featured in TV shows such as E! Network's *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, MTV's *The Real World*, and Oxygen's *Best Ink*, and on global in-store playlists for H&M, Zara, and Pull Bear among others. As singer-songwriters, the Como Brothers have worked with industry legends such as drummer Steve Jordan (John Mayer, Saturday Night Live band, Late Night with David Letterman), keyboardist Andy Burton (Little Stephen & the Disciples of Soul), Aaron Sterling (Taylor Swift), and many more.

Matt and Andrew first performed at Comfort Cases' Gala in 2018. Since then, they have returned each year and are a special part of Comfort Cases' community.

\star KEYNOTE SPEAKER \star

KIMBERLY RAFF,

Founder & Executive Director of Foster Alumni Mentors



s a child, **KIMBERLY RAFF** moved from city to city, state to state, living in a home with drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, neglect, and physical abuse. Although she lived with relatives and friends when she was younger, she entered the foster care system at the age of 14. In 1995, Kimberly graduated high school, 3 months before turning 18. At that time, she was told to leave her foster home.

Kimberly was left to make it on her own in

Colorado. Working 3 jobs and struggling to survive, one of her employers made a suggestion that that changed the trajectory of Kimberly's life by asking, "Do you want to go to college?"

After attending Colorado Mesa University for 12 years, Kimberly was the first in her family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. She has gone on to work in child welfare, observing teens in foster care facing the same issues she had when she aged out.

Kimberly never mentioned to friends or co-workers that she had aged out of the foster care system due to the shame and negative views of "foster kids". When Kimberly finally shared her background with a colleague, they were shocked and surprised. This made Kimberly wonder what adults who had been in foster care were "supposed" to look like and become in life. Such a moment fueled inspiration, and Kimberly began searching for other adults with similar backgrounds growing up in foster care.

By connecting with many amazing foster alumni, like herself, she gained the confidence to pursue her dream to launch a nonprofit serving young adults aging out of foster care. Driven to make her vision a reality, in June 2017, Kimberly left her position in child welfare to start Foster Alumni Mentors (FAM). Through the support of many, Foster Alumni Mentors was launched in Mesa County, Colorado with a hope of expanding across the nation.

* 2023 * AWARDS AND ~~~~ REGOGNITION

★ MILTON S. HERSHEY AWARD ★ *Childhelp*

★ KIDS HELPING KIDS AWARD ★ AnnaBella Brown

★ THE ALICE O' SULLIVAN VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD ★ KPMG

> ★ THE BARBARA HARRISON AWARD ★ Jen Lilley

★ HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES ★ Trinity Utnage Aaliyah Henderson

★ ELEVANCE HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE ★ Charles Alderdice

★ SCOTT ISAACSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES ★ Cyrus Harshbarger Taylor Novak



MILTON S. HERSHEY AWARD

CHILDHELP

Milton S. Hershey believed that every person is "morally obligated to share the fruits of success with others". This philosophy is reflected in Milton and his wife, Catherine, making major contributions to their community and the world, including the establishment of The Hershey Industrial School (known now as The Hershey School). The Milton S. Hershey Award is given to an organization demonstrating a major impact in the community in partnership with Comfort Cases.

hildhelp is one of the nation's largest and oldest nonprofit organizations meeting the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of abused, neglected, and at-risk children. Childhelp has directly impacted the lives of more than 12 million children since being founded by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson in 1959.

With facilities in California, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arizona, The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline services all of the United States, its territories, and Canada. Childhelp is also known for the distribution of 'Speak Up Be Safe',





a school-based abuse and bullying prevention program.

Childhelp offers a wide variety of services, not only to abused and neglected children, but to treatment professionals, educators, parents, foster care families, the community and law enforcement professionals. Through various community outreach efforts, Childhelp has increased awareness about child abuse. In 2000, Childhelp established the National Day of Hope, which is observed annually on the first Wednesday of April.

Michael Medoro, receiving the award on behalf of Childhelp, is the Chief of Staff for Childhelp. The scope of Michael's nonprofit career has also included serving as a Director of a children's home in Guatemala; Chief Operating Officer of Easter Seals; and Executive Director of Project C.U.R.E. He is currently completing his next Master's degree in digital education from Seattle Pacific University and is on track to complete his Doctorate in Education from Seattle Pacific University in 2025. Michael is committed to helping advance learning and growth opportunities for children, enhancing community training, and working to improve wrap around services for foster families.

2023 Award Recipients

KIDS HELPING KIDS AWARD

ANNABELLA BROWN

Comfort Cases is exceedingly grateful for the support we receive from our junior volunteers and Ambassadors, who exemplify that 'Kindness Is Cool' by 'Being a Good Human'. The Kids Helping Kids Award is given to a youth who has gone the extra mile to support Comfort Cases' while reflecting remarkable character and compassion serving their peers.

nnaBella lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana with her parents and three younger siblings. She is currently a sophomore at Purdue University, studying Biological Engineering. She



Women's Club Soccer Team.

AnnaBella began working with Comfort Cases in 2018, when she was looking to become more involved and raise awareness for youth in

has a passion for involvement and collaborating with others and pursues this through her work on the Women in Engineering Program's Leadership Team, a member of Purdue Music Organization's choir Heart & Soul, and a part of the foster care. She had come across Rob and Reece Scheer on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' and was instantly inspired by their mission to support our youth. She later reached out with the hope of working with Comfort Cases to bring the organization's message to Indiana.

2023 Award Recipients

As a titleholder in the Miss America Organization, she shared Comfort Cases' initiative and became an ambassador for the organization within her community. From there she began to involve others in the mission such as the city of Fort Wayne and her school. In 2020, with the support and coverage from local news stations, newspapers, and media, her community raised close to \$10,000 for a packing parting which helped to assemble and supply nearly 600 Comfort Cases to local foster agencies. After working with government leaders, including Mayor Tom Henry of Fort Wayne, AnnaBella helped facilitate that February 7th is now Comfort Cases Day. Furthermore, the use of trash bags in a child's transition into foster care are to be removed from Northeast Indiana.

AnnaBella continues to support Comfort Cases' mission through her university's clubs. She raises awareness and educates others about the needs of our youth in foster care. AnnaBella advocates Rob Scheer's message, "Our community is not defined by the number of our zip code. It is our human race."

THE ALICE O' SULLIVAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR \blacktriangleleft

KPMG

Alice O'Sullivan was an advocate for the vulnerable. She was on the Community Engagement Committee of the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) and was a long-time volunteer with Comfort Cases. Alice passed away in April 2020 and was married for over fifty-one years to her husband Robert "Silky" Sullivan. The 2023 Alice O' Sullivan Volunteer Award is being presented to KPMG for their ongoing outstanding commitment of going above and beyond to serve Comfort Cases.

PMG is a global professional services firm that provides Audit, Tax, and Advisory services to our

clients covering all industries. Our multidisciplinary approach and deep, practical industry knowledge help clients meet challenges and respond to opportunities. We are very proud of our role in helping to protect the capital markets. With a worldwide presence, KPMG continues to build on our success thanks to our clear vision, maintained values, and our people. As a professional services firm, our people are our greatest assets. We are very focused on creating a strong work culture where everyone can bring their full selves to work and have a strong Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion community. KPMG is proud of our work to support our local, national, and global communities and our commitment to people, planet, and prosperity are supported by transparency around our culture, sustainable practices, and governance principles.

2023 Award Recipients

THE BARBARA HARRISON AWARD

JEN LILLEY

The Barbara Harrison Award is given to someone who is making a difference and bringing change in the foster care system. The award is named after Barbara Harrison, who was the first recipient of this special award at the inaugural Comfort Cases' Gala. Our 2023 recipient of the Barbara Harrison Award is a true champion for charities.

en has donated 100% of her music profits to create a neighborhood model of safe loving foster homes, and co-founded Christmas is Not Cancelled, Inc.: A marketing company that

te of es, as A

raises awareness and funds for amazing causes and nonprofits while giving

participants the chance to win huge prizes! Christmas is Not Cancelled proudly partners with Comfort Cases each summer to provide backpacks full of quality school supplies to thousands of children experiencing

foster care each summer, while also providing pajamas and blankets to

support Comfort Cases' mission.

2023 Award Recipients

A star on both the silver and small screens, including the Academy Awardwinning film THE ARTIST, NBC's iconic daytime series "Days of Our Lives," ABC's "General Hospital," and a regular leading lady on the Hallmark Channel, actress/singer/philanthropist, Jen Lilley has tackled countless roles throughout her illustrious career.

Jen Lilley's creative prowess does not end when the director yells cut, she is also a singer and songwriter. Her music exudes the same sultry ferocity of Twiggy and Jean Shrimpton, with Phil Spector's wall of sound treatment via Rosie Danvers and her 50-piece orchestra.

As a teenager, Jen garnered the

National Educators Award for her work in Guatemala. She is known for advocating children's rights and supports charities that focus on protecting children against physical and sexual abuse, human trafficking, and the world water crisis. Truly selfless. Jen is a foster and adoptive parent herself and is a celebrity ambassador for the child abuse and treatment organization Childhelp, Project Orphans, ECPAT, Olive Crest, The Dave Thomas Foundation. The Thirst Project, The Los Angeles Mission, Oneless, A21, Children of the Night, and the Innocent Justice Foundation. She also serves on the board of The Tulsa Girls Home and The Inner-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Congratulations to all of our Award and Scholarship Recipients!

very child deserves the chance for a bright future. Education is one vital way to increase opportunity. Approximately 26% of youth in foster care who finish high school will attend college. Astoundingly, less than 3% of youth in foster care will graduate from college. Comfort Cases' community is committed to changing these statistics. Through our scholarship program we aim to support youth as they navigate the challenges of college or trade school exploration, application, and development. Each of our five scholars will be awarded \$5,000 to help ease their financial burdens while continuing their education. All scholarship recipients receive a monthly Hope Box filled with essentials and treats. Ongoing mentorship is also provided to each scholarship awardee though Comfort Cases.

2023 Scholarship Recipients

SCOTT ISAACSON SCHOLARS

This scholarship is granted in memory of Scott Isaacson, Account Manager at Integrity Staffing Solutions who was tragically killed in 2019 due to workplace violence in Phoenix, AZ. Scott and his husband Kevin were huge advocates of foster care programs and proudly adopted their son from a foster program in Reno, NV. Integrity Staffing Solutions and Comfort Cases remembers Scott Isaacson while honoring our two 2023 Scott Isaacson Scholar recipients.

\star scholarships presented by \star

Christine Hahn-Proffitt

★ SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS ★

Cyrus Harshbarger Orangevale, CA Taylor Novak Vincennes, IN



ELEVANCE HEALTH SCHOLAR

Elevance Health, Comfort Cases' Premier 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit Bag Buster Sponsor, proudly presents one scholarship to honor the determination, dedication, and drive of a student in foster care pursuing their dreams.

★ SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED BY ★

Jessica Hubbell and Nolan Carr

★ SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENT ★

Charles Alderdice Fort Wayne, IN

HOPE SCHOLARS

Generous donors from the Comfort Cases' community have dedicated funds to the creation of two new 2023 scholarships to further open doors for our Hope Scholars.

\star scholarships presented by \star

Jill Ross

★ SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS ★

Trinity Utnage Tacoma, WA Aaliyah Henderson Hazelwood, MO

★ GRATITUDE ★ FOR COMFORT CASES' LEADERSHIP

At Comfort Cases, we are truly grateful for all who lead by example!

FOUNDERS:

Rob Scheer Reece Scheer

STAFF:

Aleks Schiff, Director of Operations Barrie Carr, Community Engagement Coordinator Trish Blake, Donor Relations Specialist Noelle Calfee, Executive Assistant to the Founder Kiven Williams, Shipping Manager Angelika Stablow, Volunteer Coordinator Krista Takai, Volunteer Engagement Specialist Amy Mancia, Production Assistant *Plus, the tirelessly dedicated team and volunteer leads who serve Comfort Cases

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Laura Degnon, *President* Andrew Lewis, *Treasurer* Elizabeth Luke, *Secretary* Bill Lynch Lisa Dallos

2023 ANNUAL BBQ BENEFIT PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS:

- Chrispian Brake Sharon Brent Meredith Dayhoff Tiffany Johnson Andrew Lewis Kirsten Lewis
- Jennifer Moss Katherine Nannes Steve Nannes Kimberly Nugent Roshni Patel Wylie Raab
- Jill Ross Deborah Ruddy Sumbal Sheldon Liz Slovenkay David Thalberg Margaret Young

Special thanks to Hunger Jergens, Nick Balestracci, and Amber Colleran **Plus, many more volunteers along with Rob & Reece Scheer*

★ SPECIAL THANKS ★ TO THOSE WHO MADE THE 2023 ANNUAL BBQ BENEFIT EXTRA SPECIAL



















DΔ









★ FOSTERING CHANGE ★ A FOSTER CARE COMMUNITY AWARD-WINNING PODCAST



Hosted by Comfort Cases' founder and CEO, Rob Sheer, Fostering Change has been ranked the #1 podcast for foster care and adoption issues for two consecutive years. New episodes are posted every Tuesday on major national and international podcast channels including YouTube, Spotify, iTunes, Google and on the Comfort Cases website.

In addition to foster care and adoption, our amazing guests also share original thoughts and ideas on other topics, including corporate social responsibility, mental health, education, LGBTQIA, financial awareness, parenting, recovery and entertainment. We want to share stories about "Good Humans", including positive stories about humankind.

Stay tuned for our Season 5 Premiere in September!.

For more information or to suggest a guest for Fostering Change contact:

David Thalberg — President, Stryker-Munley Group

dthalberg@strykermunleygroup.com ***** 917-952-2580

https://strykermunleygroup.com/







AT INTEGRITY, OPPORTUNITY IS EVERYTHING.

Our associate-first approach ensures the people we place are happy, productive, and thriving.

Temporary | High-Volume | Direct Hire

Compagnition .

In Senagety Stalling Setutions

\$ 1.831.AM.700

INDUSTRY

WWW.UBTI.COM

UBT OFFERS THE INDUSTRY'S ONLY 1 YEAR UNCONDITIONAL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE. THIS FLEXIBILITY IS PARAMOUNT TO MAXIMIZING YOUR MANAGED PRINT SERVICES SOLUTION.





SANDLERLAWLLC.COM

шh

Rene Sandler, Esq. and Sandler Law LLC congratulate Comfort Cases on another successful year fostering change and positively impacting the lives of so many.

THANK YOU for letting us be a part of that journey.



Relition | Chartelly | Generative | Memory | Leesborg | Manastak | McLean | Middleburg | One Leudoum | Rockelle | Vienta nwfcu.org | 703-709-8900 | Insured by NCUA

Helping to make everyone's journey better.

The All Wheel Drive Hyundai TUCSON

Everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their highest potential. That's why Hyundai is proud to partner with the Comfort Cases Organization to help bring hope to those in need. Making the journey ahead brighter for all.

It's your journey.

🕑 НҮШПОАІ

Works some och spring ignore works (Chargested Excepts and the property of the property of the second method beauty and the second method beauty of the second method beauty of

Mention This Ad Buy or Sell a home with us and we will donate \$1000 to Comfort Cases

Saydam Properties Group at Keller Williams Capital Properties

Services

We are a different kind of real estate team. In 2021, SPG sold nearly \$200M in real estate entirely by referral.

We service DC, Maryland & Northern Virginia and we believe in nothing less than extraordinary real estate service. But that is not all we do.

What makes us different:

- · Our Off-Market
- Division
 Pet & Childcare
- services
- Mission Driven

Change Agents

We are a mission driven company that has donated and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and volunteered countless hours to causes both local and international.

- · Child literacy & education
- Providing for the homeless
- Clean water in African villages
- Supporting the troops
- + IT education for
- underprivileged communities
- · and so much more



Estate Planning

Bridget Hill-Zayat, Esq. 4520 East West Highway, Suite 700 Bethesda, MD 20814 Practicing in MD, NJ & PA

301-961-6464 x3303 • B.Hill-Zayat@handlerlevine.com www.handlerlevine.com

Proud to Partner with Comfort Cases as a 2023 Hope Sponsor



★ THANK YOU ★ To our auction donors

Ace's Run Restaurant & Pub Adventure Theatre & ATMTC Academy Aimee Berger of Aimsley Management Group Artful Pickleball Academy Arthur Murray Dance Center of Gaithersburg Aurora Ristorante Bach to Rock - Gaithersburg **Bavarian Inn** Bill and Jane Phillips **Black Ankle Vineyard** Bombas Bretton Woods Golf Course Briggs & Riley **Busch Gardens Bushwick Kitchen** Calleva Inc **Caroline Polly Photography** CBS News CheezMD Chesapeake Alumnae Assocation of Alpha Xi Delta Chocolate Moonshine DC Chrispian Brake Cindv McCormack Classic Bakery College Counseling 4 U Como Brothers Band Copper Canyon Courtyard by Marriott Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center Dave & Buster's Deep Creek Lake Charcuterie

Delicious Gourmet Caterers Derek & Tiffany Johnson District Dance Dr. Ruth Westheimer Dustin Stearns Dutch's at Silver Tree Restaurant Ferguson Johnson Wealth Management Flying Buddha Studio Folger Theatre Ford's Theatre Friendship Star Quilters Funland - Deep Creek Lake Gavin Glakas Gemelli's Italian Market GLAMSQUAD Go Ape Foundation Green Meadows Farm Harlem Globetrotters **Hearst Media Production Group** It's a 10 Haircare Jen Lillley & Ale Boggiano - Christmas Is Not Cancelled Julie and David Bulitt JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort Kathy Smith Ketch Secor KPMG Kristin Johnston Laperaux: The Journeyman's French Bistro Laura Degnon

Continued on page 32

Continued From page 31 Liquor Lab Lisa & John Barlow Lone Oak Brewerv Lowe's Home Improvement Manor Hill Brewing Margaret Young Marisa & David Thalberg Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Mast & Boom Mattel MoCo Sign Gypsies My Big Finds Nick Balestracci Nicole Ryan & Morning Mash Up Team North Potomac Dentistry **Ocean Soul Jewelry** Old Medicine Crow Show Band **Olnev Theatre** Omni Nashville Hotel **One Ocean Resort & Spa Oriental Trading Company** P. Bucklev Moss Society Paisano's Pizza Paramount Pictures Pleasant Hills Farm Potomac Chase Women's Club Rampur Indian Single Malt Whisky **Red Door Escape Room Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City Rockville Little Theatre Rocky's Custom Clothes Roval Sonesta Harbor Court** Baltimore **Rvan and Tara Bissett** Sagamore Spirit Sakcloth & Ashes Scout Bags Sheraton New Orleans Hotel Signature Theatre

Soapbox Solkissed Swimwear Sophie Felts Floral Design Southern Strings - Crystal Jahnig Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard Suzie Friedman The Arts Barn The Baltimore Ravens Football Team The Bennett Family The Comus Farm The Comus Inn The Dayhoff Family The Gallavant Group The Great Zucchini The Grilled Oyster Co. - Kentlands The Gross Family The Johnson Family The Keegan Theatre The Lewis Family The Lubin Portrait Studio The Moss Family The Nannes Family The New Orleans Steamboat Company The Pearce Family The Scheer Family The Tolstyka Family The Women's Club of Bethesda The Young Family Todd Auerbach Tommy Starling TopGolf Total Wine & More **Turner & Addie** United Business Technologies Washington Nationals Whimsy & 'Whoa' Jewelry Wines for Humanity Wisp Resort Wylie Raab



VIP BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS TOWN & JEN LILLEY'S CHRISTMAS UNIVERSITY

Make the season merry and bright with this amazing raffle experience that will have you saying Happy Holi-YAYS!!! Raffle includes:

- ★ 1-Night Stay at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, VA, Virginia's Only AAA Four Diamond Condominium Golf Resort
- ★ 4 Single-Day Tickets to 2023 Christmas Town[™] in Busch Gardens[®] Williamsburg with:
 - 4 meal certificates
 - preferred parking
 - reserved seating to all shows
 - 4 souvenir hot cocoa mugs



Plus, celebrate the season with Christmas Is Not Cancelled (co-founded by Jen Lilley, who is also Comfort Cases' 2023 Barbara Harrison award winner). This Holi-YAY package includes through Christmas Is Not Cancelled:

Christmas University 2023: Interactive Celebrity Experiences + Christmas Themed Classes

- ★ Christmas Baker's Box
- 🕇 2 Christmas in July Bandanas
- **HINDSIGHT Album by Jen Lilley**
- ★ 2 Camp Canteens Autographed by Jen Lilley and Sticker Sets

Enter raffle here



\$35 = 1 ticket \$55 = 2 tickets \$75 = 3 tickets

★ THANK YOU ★ TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

BAG BUSTER PREMIER SPONSOR:

★ Elevance Health

COMFORT CREATORS SPONSOR:

★ KPMG

CHARARCTER CULTIVATORS SPONSORS:

- ★ Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
- ★ Hyundai
- ★ Integrity Staffing Solutions
- ★ Saydam Properties Group

COMPASSION CARRIERS SPONSOR:

- ★ Adventist HealthCare
- ★ Ferguson Johnson Wealth Managemen
- ★ SPS Consulting, LLC

HOPE HEROES SPONSORS:

- ★ Alarm.com
- ★ Constellation/Exelon
- ★ Stifel Investment Services

DIGNITY DRIVERS SPONSORS:

- ★ Covanta
- ★ Cruise Planners
- ★ Foster Alumni Mentors
- ★ Northwest Federal Credit Union
- ★ RBC Wealth Management

Thank you for sharing our belief that **every** child is adoptable.





Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Forever Families for Children in Foster Care davethomasfoundation.org



Alarm.com is proud to continue our commitment to improving the lives of children in foster care.

Our intuitive, all-in-one smarter security platform is always working to keep you safe and well.

of a particular





Front Door

Character & Still Mersons for successful

★ FACING THE FACTS ★ IN FOSTER CARE

ONE CHILD ENTERS FOSTER CARE IN THE UNITED STATES EVERY TWO MINUTES – THAT'S OVER 700 CHILDREN

ENTERING THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM EVERY SINGLE DAY.

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 400,000+ CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE. 10% of youth IN FOSTER CARE HAVE BEEN IN THE SYSTEM FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

25% of youth in foster care suffer from ptsd, meaning they are 2x as likely to be diagnosed with ptsd as combat veterans

ONLY **54%** OF YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL



COMFORT CASES IS COMMITTED TO POSITIVELY CHANGING THESE STATISTICS ONE CHILD AT A TIME IN FOSTER CARE.

LEADING THE CHARGE TOWARDS A CARBON-NEGATIVE FUTURE





Learn more: covanta.com



We are proud to support



John Krimigis Vice President/Investments

(202) 495-3550 john.krimigis@stifel.com www.krimigiswealthmanagementgroup.com

STIFEL

1776 | Street NW, 9th Floor | Washington, DC 20006

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated Member SIPC & NYSE [www.stifel.com



Dedicated to the well-being of our clients and communities



Melanie Folstad, CAP®, CFP®, CPFA™, CRPC®, MBA

Managing Director – Financial Advisor Senior Portfolio Monager – Portfolio Focus (301) 907-2729 | melanie.folstad@rbc.com

us.rbcwm.com/melanie.folstad



Investment and insurance products: - Not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency-Not a deposit of, or guaranteed by, the bank or an affiliate of the bank - May lose value

© 2023 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, registered investment adviser and Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.

23-WG-02131 (07/23)

Honored to join Comfort Cases in their commitment to serving youth in foster care.



AdventistHealthCare.com

Care. Compassion. Community.









With every purchase made, a 2-in-1 shampoo and body wash is donated to a child in foster care.



Unforgettable Adventures Await!

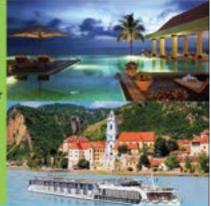
Let me design your travel docum

- Explore the World by Ocean, Sea & River
- Indulge in All-inclusive Luxury Resorts
- Customize Individual and Escorted Travel Packages

Contact Us to Plan Your Next Adventure

CRUISE **[®] PLANNERS**

Your Land and Cruise Specialist



Riza Laudin Travel Consultant T: (516) 897-2625 • C: (516) 642-8652 rlaudin@cruiseplanners.com • www.clublaudintravel.com facebook/cruiseplanners-riza



fosteralumnimentors.org



Proud to support Comfort Cases as a 2023 Compassion Carriers Sponsor

Ferguson Johnson Wealth Management www.FJWealthmanagement.com 51 Monroe St Suite PE 25, Rockville, MD 20850 • 301-670-0994

The Gallavant Group is proud to support Comfort Cases

We are a creative communications agency offering: MEDIA RELATIONS INFLUENCER MARKETING CONTENT CREATION SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT PRODUCT LAUNCH STRATEGY



To learn more about how we can support your brand, please contact amber@thegallavantgroup.com

THE GALLAVANT GROUP

Committed to bringing dignity and hope to youth experiencing foster care







ENTER THE SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN GETAWAY RAFFLE

Don't miss the chance to win our Un-WINE-d, Dine, and Recline Getaway at Comus Farm, the location of our 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit. The package includes:

- ★ 3-day, 2-night stay for up to 16 guests in the Comus Farm's stunning newly renovated historic farmhouse
- DIY breakfast kit, visits with the animals, hayrides, and views of the Sugarloaf Mountains at the Comus Farm
- Wine tasting and private tour for 6 adults at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard
- ★ \$250 gift certificate to dine at The Comus Inn

Winner to be announced during 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit Program, and does NOT need to be present at the event. Be sure to snag your raffle tickets for this un-WINE-d, dine, and recline relaxing escape valued at over \$2,000!



\$35 = 1 ticket \$55 = 2 tickets \$75 = 3 tickets

For every \$55 raised, a Comfort Case will reach the arms of a child in foster care.





TABLE NUMBER

2023 COMFORT CASES' LIVE AUCTION