

The Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust Donates \$3 Million to Sarasota's All Star Children's Foundation

SARASOTA, FL – All Star Children's Foundation announced a \$3 million donation from the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust. The generous gift will contribute to the construction and operation of its five-acre campus currently underway at 3300 17th Street in Sarasota.

“The focus of the Flanzer Trust is to invest in transformative non-profit ventures. All Star is a standout example,” said Dr. Dean Hautamaki, a Flanzer Trust trustee. “We are proud to be part of this visionary mission designed to heal children and families from the pernicious impact of trauma and, ultimately, impact the way foster care is approached on a state and national level.” Hautamaki went on to say, “We were drawn to participate in this important work because the business model of All Star combines science, innovation and compassion in a way that will be transformational.”

Partnering with leaders across the child welfare system, All Star has tapped best-in-class partners to assist in their mission. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) is providing critical clinical advice as well as serving as the lead research entity. The Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, a major catalyst for improving the lives of the less fortunate in the community, has joined forces with the mission. And, All Star was invited by Casey Family Programs to participate in a national work group focused on how child welfare can be improved in this country. Casey Family Programs is the largest operating foundation in the country focused on foster care.

All Star will begin treating children this month on an out-patient basis and begin accepting children into their family foster homes in late fall. Some 225 children will be treated in the first operational year.

The All Star campus is comprised of:

- A 13,000, square-foot clinical treatment building, where, in collaboration with JHACH, All Star will embark on a mission to use brain science research to expand the boundaries of neuroscience while using evidence-based, trauma-informed care to change the outcomes for children in foster care. Children will receive trauma-focused therapy and be offered ancillary support therapies such as pet, art and music, to further their healing process. The building will also house a beautiful children's boutique.
- Six, single-family, licensed foster homes. Each home will accommodate 5 children, keep siblings together, and feature on-site foster parents. In addition to state mandated requirements, All Star foster parents will receive 8 weeks of trauma-focused training educating them on how to meet the needs of a traumatized child while strengthening the parent child relationship.
- The Clubhouse, the heart of the All Star community, is where children and their families will gather to play, talk, learn and celebrate. It features a multi-purpose social room, and tutoring lab with computers.
- A playground, a tricycle trail, a community garden, picnic area and outdoor movie theater.

All Star founders Graci and Dennis McGillicuddy are the catalyst for changing the face of foster care in Sarasota and beyond. “The addition of the Flanzer Trust to our community collaborators is going to be so impactful to our work, both in the short and long term. Dean and Eric Kaplan, a co-trustee of the Flanzer Trust, fully understand the consequences of childhood trauma on the life trajectory of our most vulnerable children,” says Graci McGillicuddy. “They recognize the role that trauma plays in the mental

health of our children and families. In addition to providing valuable funding, Dean has accepted our invitation to join our board. We are so excited to have his scientific and medical expertise.”

For more information about All Star Children’s Foundation, visit www.allstarchildrensfoundation.org.

Sidebar:

Foster Care Facts:

- There were just under 700,000 children in the foster care system in the United States in 2017. * That number has increased every year for the past several years.
- Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties have had a 200% increase in the number of children removed from their homes from 2013 to 2016.
- 100 additional foster homes are needed in our local area.
- Children in foster care are 7 times more likely to be involved in crime and 7 times more likely to have drug and alcohol addiction.
- By age 21, 25% of foster children are homeless and 80% have mental health issues.
- 50% of foster children won’t finish high school by the age of 18.
- 50% of sex trafficking victims were in the foster care system at some point during their childhood.

About the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust

The Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust was created in 2005 to be the vehicle for the Flanzers’ charitable activities that are focused primarily upon Sarasota and the greater Suncoast area. While Louis and Gloria passed away in 2013 and 2015, their work continues on in advancing social services, medical and other important initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of others.

About All Star Children’s Foundation

All Star Children’s Foundation is a public, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to healing the effects of child abuse and transforming foster care through innovation, science, and compassion. This project has been partially funded under an agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families. A donation today can change a child’s future. For more information, visit www.allstarchildrensfoundation.org; call 941-349-2770; or email KateR@ascf.care.

*Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2017 data (most recent data available.)