



CAUSE AN EFFECT

An eNewsletter connecting those
in need with those who can help!



Welcome

September 2007 - No. 13

Dear Neighbor:

Summer is almost over and kids are back in school. For most of us there is a return to routine and anticipation of holidays spent with family and friends. Two months ago I received an email from Sgt. Mychosia Nightingale, a soldier stationed in Iraq. She is asking for DVDs and CDs to create a video and music "library" in her camp. A request so simple, but it can make life a little better for the men and women in Iraq. Please read below for how you can help and to see photos of Sgt. Nightingale and others.

Lynne Cameron

Executive Director
Neighbors 4 Neighbors

Our Neighbors' Voice



We're starting a Community Voice section, and we would like to hear from you. [Click here](#), to tell us what you think is our community's greatest need?

Helping Our Soldiers

Sometimes it's the little things that bring comfort. These soldiers are requesting DVDs and CDs, bath and body products and sports equipment. To see a request list and mailing information, [click here](#).



40 Years, 40 Families



Fresh start for the Odom Family

The last few weeks have tested the Odom family.

On August 3rd an electrical fire left the family of eight not only homeless, but without any of their possessions. Their beds, school clothes, pictures and basic necessities were all destroyed in their East Perrine Gardens home.

Luckily, Diane Odom and her seven children made it out alive.

"I just look at my kids everyday and I just say I am so grateful," said Odom. "I was grateful before, but now I am super blessed to have all my children alive and well."

The Red Cross provided the family with a temporary shelter at the Ramada on North Kendall Drive, while they found them a new house. But, days later, when the Odom's moved in, they realized they had nothing to cook with, nothing to sleep on and practically nothing to wear. **CBS4's Neighbors 4 Neighbors** helped out with getting them the new home to live in. You can read about their home [by clicking here](#)

Rather than video games and toys, Diane's children were asking for basic necessities to get their lives back in order, "all the stuff supposed to be in your house."

That's when the Ramada Inn allowed the family with a few extra nights at no charge, buying time while they figured out a plan. In the meantime, **CBS4's Liv Davalos** covered the family's story hoping to get them help from the community.

Little did the Odoms know, help would be there fast. Just one week after they lost everything, **CBS4's Shannon Hori** surprised the family with some good news; they were El Dorado 40 years, 40 families winners of the week.

With tears in her eyes and a look of shock on her face, Diane thanked everybody, "Thank you El Dorado, thank you Neighbors four Neighbors--for a new beginning." To see the video, [click here](#). To nominate a family, [click here](#).

Heroic Teen

The pain comes every once in a while," said Baquisha Willis, 17, lying in a hospital bed with burns covering most of her body.



She was at home with her two brothers and sisters when she smelled gas.

"I heard a lot of noise and saw a big bright light." She's describing her apartment at Town Park Plaza buildings, located in the 500 block of NW 17th St. in Overtown, which was destroyed by an explosion and fire on August 30th.

Baquisha raced to get her younger brothers out the building, who were also burned.

"So once my brother opened the door, I pushed the door open because something from outside was blocking it."

Her younger sister was upstairs, but Baquisha could not get to her since the fire was overwhelming. Her sister jumped from the window into the arms of a Good Samaritan.

Baquisha recalled, "We ran to my friend's house and that's where we were all screaming that we were burning."

While all this was happening, their mother was at work, grateful her oldest daughter acted so bravely. Wanda Porter said, "She's a blessing."

City of Miami officials say the family should have a place to stay once they're out of the hospital, though there are many other families who still don't know where they'll go after their temporary hotel accommodation ends.

In addition to losing their home, the children also lost their dog who died in the fire. To see the video, [click here](#).

If you'd like to help, click here for [Neighbors4Neighbors](#), or call (305) 597-4404.

Are your kids safe online?

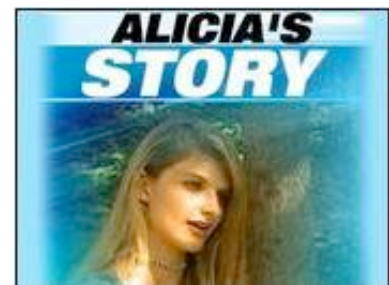
A Pittsburgh college student has teamed up with Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum to begin an Internet Safety program that teaches children about the dangers of online chat rooms and internet predators.

It's a topic Alicia Kozakiewicz knows very well because when she was just 13 years old, Alicia was abducted and tortured by a Virginia man she met online. **Think you know what your teen is up to online?**

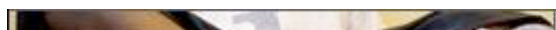
[Take our Internet Lingo Quiz!](#)



Baquisha Willis, 17, Saved Her Brothers And Sisters In Miami Apt. Explosion.
CBS



A Voice for the Children, Become a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)



You can change the life of a child by speaking out for



them. The Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program (GALS) is a partnership of community advocates and professional staff providing a powerful voice on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children.

FACT: There are more than 5,000 neglected/abused children in Miami-Dade county system alone

FACT: There are only 450 GALS to look out for them.

The mission of the Guardian Ad Litem Program is to advocate for the best interests of children who are allegedly abused, neglected or abandoned and are involved in court proceedings. If you are interested in becoming a voice for a child, please visit there website:

www.guardianadlitem.org or call 1-866-341-1GAL (425). You don't need to be an attorney to help these children. Volunteers are greatly needed.

Read for the Record

Each year, a third of U.S. children begin school with underdeveloped literacy skills that affect their ability to learn. To raise awareness of this issue and to support early education opportunities for all children, Jumpstart is kicking off their annual Read for the Record campaign.



On Thursday, September 20, hundreds of thousands of children and adults will read the same book on the same day with the goal of creating the world's largest shared reading experience. Here in South Florida, campaign sponsors like the Hyatt Regency Miami and Hyatt Regency Bonaventure are holding reading hours at local elementary schools, and there are several ways you can share the joy of reading as well.

Whether it's organizing your own reading event, joining a scheduled event, participating in a book drive or donating a copy of Read for the Record's official book *The Story of Ferdinand*, you can directly affect the lives of children in our area. To learn more about how you can become involved, visit www.readfortherecord.org.

Support Back to School with Guy Harvey



It's Back to School time and we've got a fashionable way for you to help us supply needy kids with new uniforms and school supplies. In return for a donation of \$25.00 or more, you can select an exclusively designed cap or t-shirt by renowned marine life artist, Guy Harvey. [Click here](#), for details and to make a donation. Hurry, be the first to get your Guy Harvey cap or t-shirt! Supplies are limited.

Helping Hands

[Legal Helpline](#) Need some free legal advice, but don't know where to turn? The Dade County Bar Association is offering a monthly toll-free legal helpline. Read details [here](#).

[Hurricane Season 2007](#) Hurricane season is close at hand--are you prepared? Neighbors 4 Neighbors has some helpful information to help you have a safe hurricane season.

[Freecycle](#) Your trash could be someone else's treasure! Find out [how](#).

Help is only a phone call away for a Neighbor in a crisis!

[Miami-Dade 3-1-1 Switchboard of Miami](#) 305-358-1640

[Broward County Commission 2-1-1 First Call for Help of Broward](#) 954-831-4000

The Wish List

The following organizations are looking for the item below:

Organizations	Wishes	Contacts
AYUDA, Inc	Age-appropriate Educational Software	Luis de Jesus
Alliance for Families with Deaf Children (AFDC)	Volunteers and Filing Cabinets	Jennifer Jones

What can you donate? See what else is needed [here](#).

Have you made a connection through our eNewsletter? We would love your feedback. Please e-mail [Lynne Cameron](#) and let her know your results. We would like to post some of the **Cause An Effect** connections on future eNewsletters.

SUPPORT N4N

The Neighbors 4 Neighbors Family Fund helps families with anything from emergency food to making a dream come true. Your support can change a family's life



Volunteer Organizations

There's nothing more rewarding than volunteering!

Miami-Dade

[Hands on Miami](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

Broward
[Volunteer Broward](#)

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!



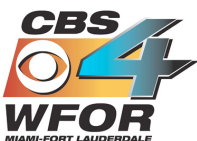
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Neighbors 4 Neighbors is a non-profit organization 501 (c) 3 originally created by CBS4 in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. As South Florida recovered, CBS4 made a commitment to make Neighbors an integral part of its community service program. Using the power of television to reach people who want to help and by forging relationships with important community and business leaders, Neighbors has evolved into a valuable resource for individuals and families in our community facing critical needs.

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