

STAR

SHINING A LIGHT ON CHILD ABUSE



Children's Network of Hillsborough's Second Annual STAR Gala was an out-of-this-world success! The sold-out celebration on Friday, April 11, 2025, drew supporters, local leaders, and child welfare advocates from across the community. Together, we enjoyed a stellar evening of fellowship, food, and fun with the special purpose of Shining a Light on Child Abuse.

The proceeds exceeded our original goal, and every dollar raised will directly make a difference for our youth.

Thank you to everyone who attended to celebrate all that CNHC has achieved so far – and to look toward an even brighter tomorrow for our children and families.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

A highlight of our 2025 STAR Gala was the inspiring participation of students from the University of South Florida's PEARLS program. This powerful initiative supports USF students who have lived in foster care, guiding them toward a flourishing future. The successes of these young scholars provide undeniable proof of the life-changing power of foster care.



CELEBRATING FOSTER PARENTS

Foster parents are the cornerstone of our care system, providing safe and loving homes for children when they need it most. CNHC was proud to have representatives of our exceptional Hillsborough County foster parents at the event, and we were deeply moved by their stories shared in testimonial videos. Their unwavering compassion and dedication to changing lives inspired us at the gala, just as they inspire us every single day. Several PEARLS members graced the gala and shared their moving stories of transformation. The successes of these young scholars provide undeniable proof of the life-changing power of foster care.



STAR OF THE YEAR

Our second annual STAR of the Year award was bestowed upon a truly deserving individual: Julianne Holt. Recently retired after decades of dedicated service as Hillsborough County's Public Defender, Julianne is a steadfast champion for children and families in our community and beyond. We are deeply grateful to have her as our Board Vice Chair at CNHC and were honored to recognize her as our STAR of the Year.



SEE YOU AT STAR 2026

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported our STAR Gala and contributed to its resounding success. As our vital work on behalf of our children and families continues, we eagerly anticipate our next dazzling event on April 17, 2026!



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