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We are delighted to introduce our newest sponsor, Merquis Morel, also known as "Lola," the passionate owner and groomer of Fuzzy Paws Mobile Grooming. Lola's journey in the world of pet grooming began in 2014, and since then, her dedication and love for animals have driven her to provide exceptional grooming services.

Lola's expertise in grooming extends to all breeds, ensuring that each pet enjoys a top-notch experience. Alongside her grooming skills, Lola is a certified Animal Reiki practitioner and holds an AKC S.A.F.E. certification, emphasizing her commitment to the well-being and safety of every furry client.

Notably, Lola's philanthropic work with local rescue groups showcases her deep compassion for animals in need. Through her efforts, she aims to make rescued animals look beautiful and confident, increasing their chances of finding their forever homes. Lola's personal connection to rescues is enhanced by her own rescued companions, Kisha and Angel, who have brought immense joy to her life.

Driven by her desire to provide personalized, one-on-one experiences for pets and their owners, Lola established Fuzzy Paws Mobile Grooming. Her goal is to create a trusted and enjoyable grooming environment where pets feel like champions and clients have confidence in her skills.

We are honored to have Lola as a sponsor of *Stroll Admirals Cove*. Her expertise, dedication, and love for animals make her an invaluable addition to our community publication. We invite you to discover the exceptional services offered by Lola, knowing that your furry companions will be in the best hands.













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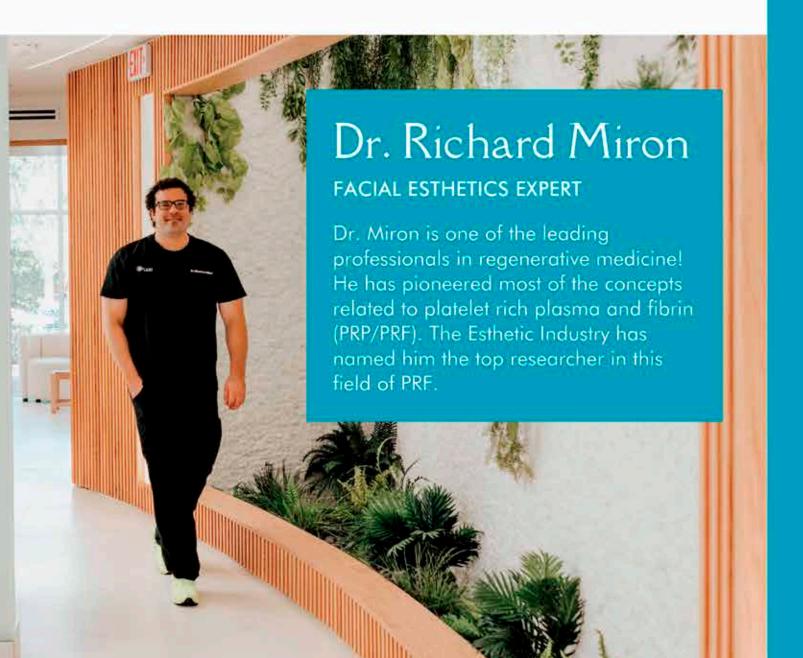


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nce upon a time, in the enchanting medieval town of Visby, on the picturesque island of Gotland, a love story unfolded that would captivate the hearts of all who witnessed it.



STROLL sat down with Patti and Russell Stern after they returned from Sweden for their son's wedding in June. They wanted to share a little about this lovely young couple and the beautiful wedding they had planned. Along with quite a few notes from the Stern's son and daughter-inlaw, we're delighted to tell you about the blessed event. Here is their story:

Once upon a time, in the enchanting medieval town of Visby, on the picturesque island of Gotland, a love story unfolded that would captivate the hearts of all who witnessed it. It all began with the meeting of two souls destined to, one day, speak their vows amidst the cobblestone streets and ancient walls of this fairytale setting.



Upon returning to his family's home in California after traversing the globe, Harrison Stern

and Hannah Busch, a woman raised in both Germany and Sweden, found themselves drawn to one another through the whimsical power of the internet. Their connection grew through playful puns and witty banter exchanged through text messages, with Harrison's humor capturing Hannah's heart. Intrigued by each other's personalities, they soon arranged a coffee date followed by a delightful dinner. And so, their adventure began.

Harrison, having just returned from his extended trip, offered to be Hannah's tour guide as she yearned to explore the wonders of the west coast of the United States. Together, they embarked on short trips and hiked through breathtaking landscapes, ensuring that Hannah experienced everything she desired during her time in America.

Meanwhile, Hannah had secured a remarkable job in her home country of Sweden, knowing that at some point, she would have to return. The couple agreed that Harrison would have his turn to explore Hannah's side of the world once the time was right.

As fate would have it, the time for Harrison to make his journey to Sweden arrived sooner than expected. Patti and Russ were preparing to make the move to Florida. Ever the supportive son, Harrison assisted his parents in their relocation and then continued his own journey eastward with all his belongings in tow.

Two months later, the pandemic descended upon the world, casting a shadow of uncertainty over the lives of countless individuals. For some, it was a time of fear and isolation, but it became an unexpected blessing for Harrison and Hannah. The pandemic compressed several years of "getting to know you" time into a much shorter span, allowing

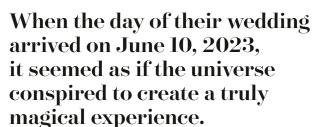


the young couple to deepen their connection and discover the depths of their love.

When the day of their wedding arrived on June 10, 2023, it seemed as if the universe conspired to create a truly magical experience. The guests gathered at the openair church within Visby's historic walls, where they were serenaded by Andrew Stern, Harrison's talented brother and best man. Andrew had learned to play songs selected by the Priest on the guitar overnight when Harrison and Hannah couldn't locate the recordings beforehand. As this wasn't the original plan, and Andrew didn't bring along a guitar, Patti and Russ sprung into action and headed into town to purchase one just for this special day.

After the couple exchanged vows, Patti couldn't help but be taken aback by the melodious voices that filled the air. She turned to see a quartet of Hannah's friends singing in perfect harmony, their voices echoing off the ancient chapel's stone walls. The ethereal melody elevated the day to new heights, transforming it into a living fairytale.

After the ceremony, as Hannah and Harrison walked out of the church, the guests rose to their feet, cheering and showering them with handmade confetti. The couple had spent hours cutting the heart-shaped confetti from leaves, a labor of love that added a touch of whimsy to the celebration. As the couple embarked on their photoshoot, the guests continued the festivities inside, where they enjoyed



champagne, shared stories, and engaged in some playful distractions unique to traditional weddings.

As the photographer stole away the couple to capture their love on film, several handmade versions of well-known games were rolled out for everyone to enjoy. Laughter filled the air as guests played an oversized Jenga made from sections of two-by-fours and a giant Connect 4 that Harrison had skillfully crafted using 3D printers in a local workshop over five weekends. The distractions proved to be a delightful surprise, keeping everyone entertained while Hannah and Harrison were held hostage by the lens.

Once the couple returned from their photoshoot, it was time to head to the next venue for the reception. The guest's stroll through the village towards the waiting motorcoaches was nothing short of enchanting. The cobblestone streets glistened beneath their feet, and some local residents, captivated by the joyous atmosphere, joined the procession. The scene felt straight out of a storybook, with laughter and camaraderie filling the air as the wedding guests made their way out of the city.

The reception took place at Salthamn, a venue with a rich history. What was once one of Europe's largest mink farms had been transformed into a haven for private events, boasting stunning water views and a commitment to sustainability. Most of the food served at Salthamn was grown in their own gardens and greenhouses, adding a touch of freshness and local flavor

to the dishes. As the guests arrived at the venue, those wishing to offer the couple a toast were directed to Hannah's friends, Abraham and Anna, the designated Toastmasters. Several people who were given time to speak stood to offer their congratulations, including Patti, Andrew, Hannah's father and grandmother, and a few of the couple's friends. Russ took his time "on stage" to describe the event as "different in





every positive way." He, like Patti, was struck by the fairy tale atmosphere that the destination offered and the wonderfully unique elements the young couple included that were a refreshing change from many other weddings. His words resonated deeply with Hannah and Harrison, as this was exactly what they wanted to impart. However, the most memorable toast of the evening was Hanna's sister, who relayed a story that left the audience speechless.

When Hannah's sister was nine, she drew a cartoon and story for a school project. She came up with the adventures of "Humla Hannah" and "Humla Hari," which translates to bumblebee Hannah and bumblebee Hari in Swedish. What was odd was that Hari (or Harrison) is not a common name in the Swedish culture, and she didn't know any Haris at the time. She saved the cartoon and didn't think about it again. Some years later, around the same time Harrison arrived to visit with Hannah, she came across it again and thought to hold onto it just in case the couple's relationship developed. Of course, it sounded like a sweet story that might not have been entirely factual until the image of the cartoon was projected up onto the wall that had, up until then, been photos of Hannah and Harrison over the past several years.

As the night wore on, the music beckoned everyone to the dance floor, where the room came alive with rhythmic movements and uninhibited joy. But the true highlight awaited everyone's anticipation. Hannah and Harrison made a quick wardrobe change and took center stage. With synchronized steps and radiant

smiles, they wowed their guests with a breathtaking dance routine to the infectious beat of Earth, Wind & Fire's "Let's Groove." The crowd watched in awe, their eyes sparkling with delight as they witnessed the magical union of two souls dancing as one.

And so, with love, laughter, and a touch of whimsy, Harrison and Hannah embarked on their happily ever after. Their wedding day in Visby will forever remain a cherished chapter in their love story, filled with memories that will sparkle in their hearts for eternity. As their tale concludes, we are reminded that love has the power to transcend borders, conquer obstacles, and weave its own fairy tales wherever it may roam

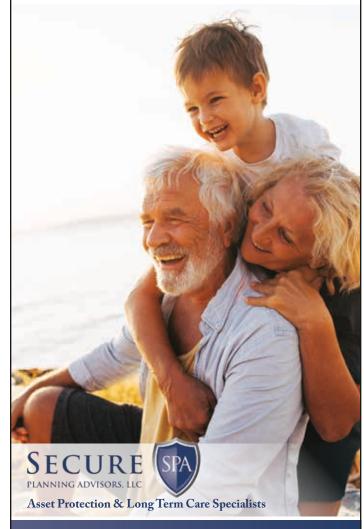
The end.

Visby's origins date back to the 12th century. The city is filled with cobblestone streets, surrounded by a well-preserved 2.17-mile-long medieval ring wall. Many of its original towers are still intact and were initially built to protect against foreign enemies and ne'er-do-wells from the Swedish countryside. One of its claims to fame is that Visby was used as the backdrop for the Pippi Longstocking movies of the late 1960s and early 1970s.



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FINANCIAL FITNESS

Financial Wisdom for the Future

BY SHAUNA OSBORNE, NATIONAL EDITOR

Financial well-being is a goal that resonates with everyone, and the path to achieving it begins with a strong foundation of knowledge. To help navigate the intricacies of money management, we have curated a list of the best personal finance books from the last several years. Whether building wealth, gaining financial independence, or just enhancing money management skills, these carefully selected publications are powerhouses of wisdom, offering invaluable advice, practical tips and inventive strategies to empower readers in their journey toward financial success.

Cashing Out: Win the Wealth Game By Walking Away by Julien &

Kiersten Saunders In Cashing Out, financial experts Julien and Kiersten Saunders guide readers in designing a life that prioritizes personal fulfillment while building wealth. Drawing from their own experiences paying off debt and quitting highstress jobs, the authors offer insights on setting career goals for early retirement and implementing pragmatic strategies to increase income without sacrificing time and energy.

Finance for the People by Paco de Leon

Author Paco de Leon offers a refreshing approach to money management that goes beyond skills and behaviors. With a focus on examining beliefs and experiences around money, this book combines practical exercises, mindfulness, and over 50 illustrations to make complex concepts accessible.

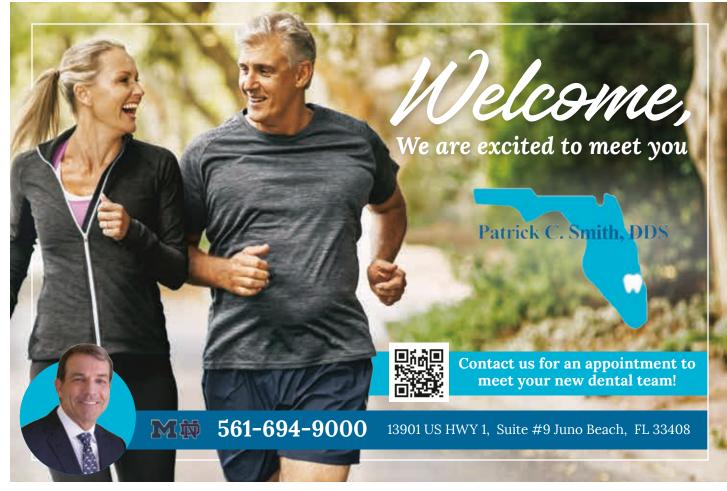
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Nautical

HOME MATTERS

Nostalgia

Capture the essence of the ocean with these step-by-step instructions for creating stunning seashell-adorned picture frames that will beautifully display your cherished memories.

BY SHAUNA OSBORNE, NATIONAL EDITOR

As the summer sun begins to set and memories of travels far and wide linger, it's the perfect time to capture those moments with a personalized end-of-summer project. Whether you choose vibrant colors or natural hues, handpicked shells or carefully selected store-bought ones, this seashell-adorned picture frame offers endless possibilities for customization, showcasing cherished summer remembrances in a frame that reflects your own unique style.

Materials

- Shells (a few large and many smaller ones

 whatever shape or color desired)
- Plain wooden picture frame (in your preferred size)
- Hot glue gun or tacky glue
- Acrylic craft paint (in your preferred color for the frame) and paintbrush
- Newspaper or other protection for work surface

Optional

- Fake pearls
- Glitter
- Pebbles
- Sea glass

Steps

1/ Prepare the crafting area with newspaper. Be sure to remove glass and backing from the frame before beginning.

2 / Using acrylic craft paint and brush, paint one side of the frame. Allow it to dry completely before flipping it over and painting the other side. If needed, apply an additional layer of paint to the frame to achieve the desired effect. You also may choose to paint some or all of the shells for an extra touch of creativity.

- 3 / Once the paint has dried, play around with different arrangements of shells on the frame. Shells can be organized randomly or in a pattern, overlapping or not. Smaller shells, pearls, pebbles and other optional materials can fill the gaps between larger shells.
- 4 / When you find a composition you like, begin gluing the shells onto the frame, starting with the largest ones. Only apply glue to the parts of the shell that will be touching the frame. Let the glue dry for a few hours or overnight.
- **5** / Replace the backing and glass on the frame, put a memorable photo inside, and enjoy!





If you're a fan of WPBF25, you may be excited to learn that one of Admirals Cove's own, Lindsey Fine, is playing a behind-the-scenes role in bringing you the news this summer. As a rising senior and journalist-in-training at Syracuse University, Lindsey is interning at the station, and she is making the most of this opportunity to expand her broadcasting skills.

Lindsey's interest in journalism began at a young age, and she has been developing versatility in the field since middle school. Her academic resume includes stints as a junior high yearbook committee member, a high school news announcer and newspaper team member, a Northwestern University summer program participant, and a college broadcasting staffer.

Last summer, she made her first foray into professional journalism waters when she completed an internship at a news station near her university's campus. Though she was interested in repeating the experience this year, she knew her prospects would be limited, as her priority was to

spend her last college summer at home. Thanks to divine intervention - in the form of a helpful pal and some great timing - she was able to do both.

Lindsey's friend, who happened to be employed by WPBF25 at the time, told her about the station's internship opening and spoke very highly of the position and the company's culture. Lindsey immediately submitted a resume for the role and, thanks to her friend's connections, was able to reach out to the hiring team directly. "Journalism internships are interesting things. A lot of places will just ghost you, but I got lucky," she says of the quick response she received from the station's internship director.

Her first conversation with the director was a bit of a comical mixup, as Lindsey didn't realize it was an official interview. "I thought we were just having a conversation because she wasn't the news director; [she] ran the internship program," she remembers, adding that the call ended with her interviewer indicating she would initiate a follow-up conversation with her boss. Three weeks passed,

and Lindsey was still uncertain of her application status, so she crafted a follow-up email and scheduled it to automatically send a specific number of days after the position listing closed. Coincidentally, exactly five minutes before her email was programmed to go out, she received the news that she had landed the job.

Though she's only a little over a month in at this point,
Lindsey's knowledge base is already expanding, thanks in large part to the station's commitment to making sure the internship is grounded in hands-on experiences rather than inconsequential tasks. "The girl I interviewed with literally said, 'If they ask you to bring them coffee, come tell me because that's not okay," she recalls.

As for what she hopes to learn this summer, Lindsey says her sights are focused on the ins and outs of producing, as her current career goal is to become a news producer. Specifically, she wants to improve her writing, learn how to be creative with shows, and she is keen to observe how





different producers tell their stories and the various strategies they use.

When her internship wraps up, Lindsey will return to Syracuse to start her senior year. She is looking forward to continuing her role on campus as a tour guide, something she and her roommate enjoy doing together. She will also pick back up her job with the university's admissions department, interviewing prospective students (a fitting gig for a future journalist who likes to hear other people's stories). When asked where she will take her talents after she receives her diploma, Lindsey says she plans to stay in the realm of local news rather than seek a national platform. "...They really are two different worlds, local news and national. I like the journalism in local news ...you get to do more... You can't be as creative in network news."

Whether her local station dreams will be realized at WPBF25 post-graduation remains to be seen, but, for now, Lindsey is happy to just

focus on the opportunity at hand, and she is thankful to be living out the experience at a network that has always meant a lot to her, even from an early age. "I grew up watching this station," she says, adding that she still has a very vivid memory of her starstruck, twelve-year-old self meeting a very gracious Felicia Rodriguez at a community event. "She encouraged me. [It was] the typical little girls wanting to be on ty schtick."

It's a full-circle outcome, certainly, and there's no doubt Lindsey will remain dedicated to continuing her broadcasting evolution. In a few years, she may very well be the one giving a pep talk to a teen interested in broadcast news, and we're sure her creative producer talents will help her find all the right words to inspire the next generation. Best wishes on your journey, Lindsey! Admirals Cove is rooting for you!



TEDDY BEAR

BY MADLYN FAFARD, 1979

Teddy bear, Teddy bear
Oh where have you been!
Mommie threw you out
Way before I was 10!
A lifetime and many more
Have gone by in a blink
To that day I cried so hard
And threw myself on the floor!

I never dreamed you'd be the measure
Of many memories
And pleasure!

Mom left me a miracle
A vision of color and light.
In a darkened world
She proved there was light!

Teddy Bear
Teddy Bear
I forgot that day of tears
Til my husband died suddenly
And now I faced new fears
Alone in the world
Family grown thru the years.

Teddy bear, Teddy bear
Suddenly appears in
New clothes from a treasured shirt
Husband wore thru the years!
Tears!





This teddy bear was made by an employee and presented to Madlyn. It was constructed from a shirt that belonged to Howard, Madlyn's husband of 46 years, who passed in January 2021.





And Then Came Brady

BY ERIN EVANS • PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DR. RICK GOLDENBERG ADDITIONAL PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER O'HARA PHOTOGRAPHY



pon observing the photo of Brady nestled between Judy and Rick on the Goldenbergs' golf cart, he appears to be the perfect dog for this family. This is true, and he is lucky to be the latest in a long line of perfect dogs for the couple. Before Brady, the Goldenbergs raised several Golden Retrievers. There have also been a German shepherd, an Afghan hound, a Jack Russel, and a Poodle. Dogs have played the role of a third wheel in this couple's relationship since they first started dating at 19 years old, and perhaps that is one of the secrets to their lasting, happy marriage.

While the couple loved their Golden Retrievers, the breed can be prone to cancer, so when searching for their new puppy, they decided to mix up the gene pool and try out a Doodle. They looked up reputable Goldendoodle breeders and found Moss Creek Doodles in Tampa. Here the dogs are each personally known to the family that breeds them

and enjoy several acres to roam and play. Since the facility does not allow strangers near the young puppies, the Goldenbergs chose their new pup from pictures and descriptions and were sent videos each week as they watched him grow to 9 weeks old and become ready for adoption. When the big day came, Rick and Judy hopped in the car and drove to Tampa to pick up Brady. The excitement of bringing home their new puppy was barely dampened by the fact that he threw up in the car.

The Goldenbergs raised their children in Rhode Island and, as such, are New Englanders. When deciding on a name for their pup, who else could they name him after but the favorite Brady of all New Englanders? Especially considering the fact that their number-one quarterback followed them all the way to Florida! Judy claims Tom Brady had to come out of retirement because their dog Brady couldn't quite nail down a spiral and

wasn't ready for the NFL. We'll take her word for it.

Both Rick and Judy have always been dog lovers. Raising dogs is in Judy's blood as her father bred and showed hunting and gun dogs-such as pointers and setters-as she was growing up. Each of their dogs has had his own personality and quirks, and Brady is no exception. While they usually have invested a great deal of time into training their dogs, Judy admits that with Brady, she has been a bit "lackadaisical-probably because he's so darn cute." This is also because Brady just has a naturally polite and good-natured personality. He listens to basic commands and rarely strays from the couple. Brady gets along with everyone, but he definitely has his favorites. It may be a coincidence, but his favorites generally have a treat or two in their pocket. One such favorite is Dawn, one of Jay Alpert's paramedics. When he sees her, he will gently take



his leash out of Judy's hand and carry it in his own mouth to run up and see his friend. Taking his leash and walking himself is also a Brady move at *Lush Dog* Resort when he goes to doggy day camp. The staff there is just as happy to greet Brady, and an employee pulled Judy aside one day to tell her that Brady sensed she was having a bad day and feeling depressed and responded by placing his paws on her shoulders and cheering her up with kisses. Brady loves his weekly playdate there and can usually be found playing in the bone-shaped pool-at the shallow end, of course. While he loves the water, Brady likes to keep his paws on the ground. You can't blame him for wanting to be in the water to cool off, living here in South Florida, but not every body of water is ideal for a dog. The canal by the Goldenberg's home is off-limits to Brady, but that doesn't mean he won't try to sneak a quick dip. When Rick and Judy play fetch with him near the canal, Brady will take the ball in his mouth and walk over to the canal's edge, where he "drops" it down the embankment. As his ball rolls toward the water, being the good boy that he is, of course, he jumps at the chance to go retrieve it himself, and in the course of this good deed, his paws may just slip into the water. Any parent-including myself-who has ever had a child near a body of water that is offlimits can relate to witnessing this charade of Brady's. They always seem to find a way to get their feet wet.

Another favorite activity of Brady is riding in the golf cart. He refrains from any shenanigans while on



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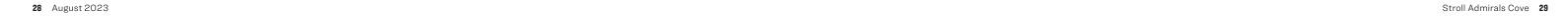
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board so as not to put this privilege at risk. Judy hops on the cart each morning, often with Rick, and she and Brady ride through New Haven in Abacoa to the 20 acres to trails nearby where he can chase his ball and run. Aside from the occasional rabbit chase, Brady always stays close by and enjoys this morning's adventure.

Of all the dogs Rick and Judy have had together, Brady is their first to fear thunderstorms. He senses the drop in barometric pressure, and his change in behavior alerts the couple of an incoming storm well before the sky darkens. Brady will move away from any windows and find the most comforting spot in the house, which generally happens to be next to Rick. Brady also is wary of any unfamiliar objects being brought into the house, like the gardener's equipment or even a delivered box that appears in the living room. He will leave a wide berth around the suspicious object if it is in his path or even hide in the bedroom, peeking his face out of the doorway to watch for when the coast is clear. And speaking of doorways... Brady has another unusual quirk when it comes to walking through doors. He will not go through unless the door is completely open. Judy believes there may have been an

accident involving a door and his tail when he was a puppy since he uses this extreme caution. While Brady may feel uneasy, he does not show it by barking or running away. He will simply lie down and patiently wait for the conditions to meet his standards before proceeding.

Brady also shows this patience if guests are over for dinner. Never a beggar, he will find a spot conveniently close to the dinner table to lie down and wait. Again, Brady's patience pays off, as few dinner parties have gone by without a guest surreptitiously offering him a treat. His manners also pay off when he stops in the MPOA office. All he has to do is pop his paws and head up to the counter to be greeted with pets and treats.

Everyone seems to love Brady, and the feeling is mutual on his end. You'll know you've spotted him when you see a golf cart roll by with a Goldendoodle sitting in between and a head above his two happy owners. When Rick and Judy picked out a puppy, they said they didn't want an alpha. They were looking for a middle-of-the-pack, easy-going kind of guy. Either the breeder really knew her dogs or Rick and Judy provided just the right environment. Ultimately, they got exactly the dog they were looking for.









SPEAK UP FOR KIDS



BY BARBARA SCARLATA, COLEEN LACOSTA & TRACI SIGEL ISRAEL • PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SPEAK UP FOR KIDS

In Palm Beach County, a county filled with compassion and a deep commitment to protecting its vulnerable children, Emily's life took a tumultuous turn. At just four years old, she found herself caught in the relentless grip of her mother's drug addiction. Neglect and fear became her constant companions until one fateful day when the authorities intervened and made the heartwrenching decision to remove Emily from her home.

With tear-streaked cheeks and trembling hands, Emily was placed into the arms of a compassionate social worker. That social worker reached out to *Speak Up for Kids*, a local organization dedicated to supporting children in foster care.

Speak Up for Kids is known for its unwavering commitment to ensuring that children in the foster care system receive the essentials for a normal childhood. Upon receiving the call, Speak Up for Kids immediately sprang into action, mobilizing their resources

to make Emily's time in foster care as nurturing and comforting as possible.

Recognizing the trauma that Emily had endured, *Speak Up for Kids* rallied their network of supporters and volunteers. They sourced a loving foster family, the Johnsons, who had a reputation for providing a safe haven for children in need. The Johnsons welcomed Emily into their home, committed to providing her with the love and stability she had been denied.

Understanding the importance of familiar surroundings, *Speak Up for Kids* partnered with the Johnsons to transform Emily's new room into a haven of comfort. The walls were adorned with colorful posters, a cozy bed, soft blankets, and stuffed animals awaiting Emily's tired little body at the end of each day.

But *Speak Up for Kids* didn't stop there. They recognized that beyond the physical comforts, Emily needed emotional support to heal the wounds left by neglect. They arranged for a child therapist, Maria, who specialized

in trauma-informed care, to work closely with Emily. Maria became a beacon of hope in Emily's life, providing a safe space where she could express her fears, sadness, and confusion.

Knowing the importance of maintaining a sense of normalcy, Speak Up for Kids ensured that Emily had access to education and extracurricular activities. They paid to have her enrolled in a local preschool where caring teachers, aware of her unique circumstances, embraced her. Emily's days were filled with laughter, learning, and forming friendships with other children.

Recognizing that birthdays can be especially challenging for children in foster care, Speak Up for Kids orchestrated a magical celebration for Emily's fifth birthday with their Gift-A-Birthday Program. With the help of volunteers, they transformed a community hall into a wonderland of balloons, streamers, and sweet treats. The room buzzed with laughter and joy as Emily was showered with love

from the foster family, friends, and a supportive community that had rallied around her.

Through dedication and commitment, Speak Up for Kids became the voice of hope and advocacy for Emily during her darkest days. Speak Up for Kids' efforts ensured that she experienced a childhood that was as normal and nurturing as possible, filled with support and opportunities to grow.

As Emily took her first steps on the path of healing and resilience, she carried with her the profound impact of *Speak Up for Kids* and the reminder that even in the face of adversity, there are organizations and individuals willing to speak up and fight for the rights and well-being of innocent children like her.

Emily is just one of the 1,400 foster children in Palm Beach County. *Speak Up for Kids* is here to help all these children, but it takes a village.

Speak Up for Kids champions bestinterest child advocacy, breaking the cycles of abuse, violence, and crime one child at a time. Our unwavering dedication is rewriting the futures of children in Palm Beach County's foster care system. Speak Up for Kids is an advocate for all children in the foster care system, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, background, or socioeconomic situation. From newborns to 18+ -year-olds, each child is treated as a unique individual with distinct physical, social/ emotional, educational, and normalcy needs. Speak Up for Kids recognizes the importance of addressing these multifaceted aspects and supports and nurtures the potential within each child.

Since its inception in 2008, Speak Up for Kids has forged a powerful alliance with the Office of the Guardian ad Litem (GAL), amplifying its impact on the lives of children in need.

Recognizing the limitations of state funding and the overwhelming caseload in Palm Beach County, where over 1,400 children are in need of advocacy at any given time, Speak Up for Kids stepped in to bridge the gaps, ensuring the well-being of these children with their own "Guardian Angels."

Fueling change through community support, Speak Up for Kids understands real change requires a collective effort. The organization actively cultivates partnerships and secures funding through grants, donations, corporate engagement, special events, and unwavering

community support. These resources are then reinvested for the children's needs. By responding to their funding requests, *Speak Up for Kids* addresses the unique needs of each child, providing them with the tools and resources they need to thrive. *Speak Up for Kids* goes beyond

Speak Up for Kids goes beyond the courtroom, creating a community culture of support for these children through targeted initiatives and strategic partnerships. Through its innovative programs, the organization ensures that every aspect of a child's life is addressed. From therapeutic interventions to educational support, from recruitment of foster homes to awareness campaigns, Speak Up for Kids leaves no stone unturned in its mission to secure a brighter future for these children.

Speak Up for Kids has transformed the lives of countless children in Palm Beach County: impact is not merely measured in statistics but in the stories of hope, resilience, and triumph that emerge from the depths of adversity. The 2022-2023 Annual report highlights their tangible results, underscoring the transformative power of best-interest child advocacy.

Speak Up for Kids has become a force of change, rewriting the futures of children in Palm Beach County's foster care system. With their dedication, passion, and unwavering support, they



break the shackles of vulnerability and empower these children to reach their full potential. They recognize the importance of advocacy, community support, and collaboration in shaping a brighter tomorrow for our most vulnerable children.

Executive Director Coleen LaCosta emphasizes, "Supporting foster kids is not just a responsibility; it is an opportunity to positively shape their lives and empower them to overcome adversity. By providing them with unwavering support, we can unlock their potential, fuel their dreams, and help them find their place in the world. Volunteers play a crucial role in this journey, as they become the guiding light that illuminates their path to a brighter future". Please visit our website and help us brighten the path of success for these children at www. speakupforkidspbc.org to donate or learn more.



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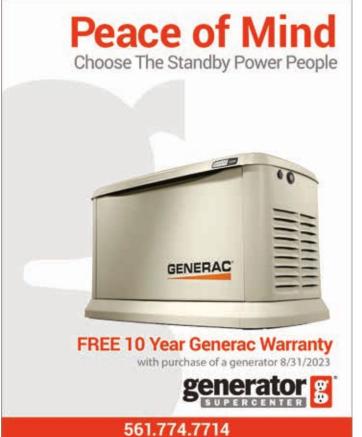
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