First Quarter | March 31, 2021

The national resource for the support of children who are caring for chronically ill, injured, elderly, or disabled family members.

2021 Almost in Full Swing

2021 is off to a tremendous start! We here at AACY have been truly touched by the kindness and generosity shown to our Caregiving Youth, especially during these unprecedented times.

Limited fundraising continues to have an impact but we are starting to gain momentum with in-person events.

We are so grateful to the foundations, organizations, partners, vendors, businesses and individuals who support our mission. Whether you donated funds, in-kind items, food, toys, gift cards, bikes, space, or the tremendous gift of time, we are thankful.

We continue to take each month as it comes and look forward to the full resumption of school. None of this would have been possible without the amazing help of volunteers including AACY Board members and donations from the community. THANK YOU!

Visit our Website

What a Nice Surprise!

It was so nice to visit with my long-time friend, John Boden, who stopped by the AACY office last week. John was at the initial community leadership meeting in August 1997 that formed the Foundation of Boca Raton Interfaith in Action and served on its Board for several years.

Thank You for Your Support

We have truly felt the love from all of our AACY supporters as 2021 is off and running.

Thanks to the idea from AACY Board Member, Treasurer and Rockstar Volunteer Debralyn Belletieri, and with the help of 20 volunteers, we were able to make Valentine’s Day for our Youth extra special. Hours were spent making homemade cards and cookies, and of course the packages included candy. The special valentines were either mailed or hand-delivered to our more than 400 Caregiving Youth!

Graduation for our high school seniors is fast approaching! We would like to make this milestone extra special for our Caregiving Youth once again this year. If you would like to send a card or note of congratulations, please mail or drop off to our headquarters: 6401 Congress Ave. Suite 200 in Boca Raton, FL 33487. Your support and encouragement means the world. Thank You!

AACY in the News

We are so grateful for the recent coverage on WPBF 25 Local News, which featured the challenges facing one of our Caregiving Youth
The Prophet Family has four children; the three older siblings spend much of their time caring for their youngest sister.

Thank you to reporter Ari Hait for telling the family’s story; our friend, J.P. Hervis of Brandstory Communications for coordinating efforts; to our AACY North County Team Leader and Family Specialist Cindi Joas, MSW, for working with the family to ensure they were comfortable throughout the process; The Prophet Family for their bravery in sharing their story; and to all of our AACY supporters, without whom helping the Prophets would not be possible.

Upcoming AACY Events

Here are a few ways you can support Caregiving Youth!

**Wednesday, March 31, Eat to Support AACY at Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza, dine-in or take-out, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the 851 S Federal Hwy, Boca Raton location! BE SURE TO MENTION AACY WHEN YOU ORDER!**

**Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI) FREE Virtual Conference, Thursday, April 22, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, April 24, Run for Caregiving Youth 5K (in person or Virtual), 8 a.m. at John Prince Park, Lake Worth**

**Sponsor a Caregiving Youth** for $100/month or $1,200 a year. Please contact Stephanie Valery: stephanie@aacy.org for more information.

**Shop on Amazon!** Please consider signing up for the American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY) when you shop on Amazon! Select AACY as your charitable organization and Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Sign up today at smile.amazon.com

**Youth Connect** is a new initiative we are working on to connect youth from all over the country, with one another so they can share their stories and support each other. It is so important that they know they are not alone. Contact kelly@aacy.org for more information!

Save the Date! Thursday, April 22, Virtual Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI) Conference

AACY will be hosting a Virtual Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI) Conference on Thursday, April 22, 2021, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The theme is KEEPING CONNECTED TO CAREGIVING YOUTH with the Connection, Advocacy, Research and Education (CARE) framework.

In addition to those on the flyer, expert presenters including Melinda Kavanaugh, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Richard Lindsay, MD, UVA; Mary Claire Mucinek, PhD, The School District of Palm Beach County; and Elizabeth Olson, PhD, UNC-Chapel Hill, will share the latest, most relevant information on the issues Caregiving Youth are managing.

We are also pleased that Kaylin Jean-Louis, a Caregiving Youth from Tallahassee, Florida, will join us as a special guest.

The conference is free! To register, please contact Kelly at kelly@aacy.org Your participation is critical to the success and work of AACY and the Caregiving Youth Project (CYP).
Welcome New AACY Board Members

AACY is pleased to welcome two new Board members: Karen Brill, from the Palm Beach County School Board and Angela Stevenson, AvalonBay Communities.

- Thanks to funding partners, we continue to serve Caregiving Youth in Palm Beach County (33 middle and high schools, and counting!)
- Further the four pillars of the Caregiving Youth Institute (CYI): Connect, Advocate, Research and Educate - Hear the latest at our April 22nd CYI Virtual Conference!
- Continue to educate legislators to include caregiving youth in legislation and policy
- Promote our new initiative, Sponsor a Caregiving Youth (Contact Stephanie Valery: stephanie@aacy.org for more information)
- Reach child caregivers in Military families
- Develop the AACY Network of national partnerships
- Create recurring revenue streams to support sustainability

This is just a few of the many tasks we are working on. We are excited to continue our work for AACY and all of the children and families we serve.

We are most grateful to our partners and sponsors: