



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

## Community Recognition

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Eliot Popper - Mentor and our nominee for Men with Caring Hearts.

When Eliot first came to see Marcy Bezark, AACY Volunteer Manager in June of 2016, he told her that he "wanted to do more than check writing." He had learned about our organization after attending our annual Hearts & "Soles" gala and was impressed with our mission of increasing awareness and providing support for youth caregivers and their families. He expressed his interest in becoming a mentor through the M.A.C.Y. program.

Although Eliot is a wealth advisor for a major financial company, he had what he described as a "modest" upbringing. "My mother was a first generation American. My father never finished high school and my mother was a high school graduate. I always knew I would go to college. I knew there was more to life." He graduated from Northeastern U., received his MBA from Lynn U. and is now working on his doctorate. I guess "the reason I am the way I am is I always had the desire to "go for it."

Eliot and Marc Charles, his mentee, have been meeting every other week, usually having a bite to eat and discussing Marc Charles' academic progress. "I would like to see him attend Palm Beach State College when he graduates." In the two years they have been meeting, Eliot said that Marc Charles is, "maturing. He is becoming a nice young man." In addition to their bi-weekly meetings, the two have gone to the movies and bowling. He also has taken Marc Charles to a driving range to hit golf balls. In addition, he has been encouraging Marc Charles to volunteer at the Milagro Center by helping some of the younger students who attend the after-school program.

Eliot concluded by saying "I want to see this thing through. I want to see him put on that cap and gown and graduate. That is my goal." The good news is that this will happen this May and Marc plans on going to college.

## U of M Capstone Project survey

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Toni Chanroo is a 4th year medical student who will complete her MD/MPH at University of Miami this May. She will then complete residency in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine where she plans to continue advocating for low-income and underserved children and adults. Her ultimate goal is to become an outpatient physician that addresses all aspects of her patient's medical, social and environmental health.

Toni under the supervision of Julia Belkowitz, MD, MPH - Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is conducting surveys of pediatricians to raise awareness about youth caregiving and discover the extent of their knowledge about this population.

## In The News And Raising Awareness

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## AACY Staff Recognition

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The AACY Board, Staff, Volunteers and many friends would like to thank Cynthia Cummings for her 12 years of service as Director of Finance and Operations.

We want her to know, this is another beginning of your life. Hearty Congratulations and best wishes on your retirement. Enjoy your time with your family and friends. May every moment of your life be fulfilling and full of joy.

## Resource Partner

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Thank you to First Choice Professional Painting, Inc., and Miljce Donev for providing painting supplies.

AACY Staff, FAU students and volunteers joined together to paint the home in which three boys in our Caregiving Youth Project reside and care for their blind mother.



## Caregiving Youth Institute Conference

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More than 100 people attended the Conference that was held from 8 am to 3 pm on April 4th at the Safe Schools Institute in Boca Raton, FL. A social

(National)  
Scholastic Choice magazine

(New York)  
United Hospital Fund

(Russia)  
Meduza

(National)  
Prohealth.com

(International)  
Journal of Health Education  
Research & Development

## AACY Board News

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AACY New Board Director Barbara McQuinn. Mrs. McQuinn is a native Floridian, She has resided in Palm Beach County since 1968. Barbara has over 30 years of experience as an educator with the Palm Beach County School District. She was elected to the Palm Beach County School Board on November 8, 2016, and took office later that month.

## Thank You

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The Walter and Adi Blum Foundation is dedicated to building a stronger community by supporting the preservation of Palm Beach, the activities of young people, community sports programs, the arts in the greater

networking event followed at Prezzo's Restaurant.



Presenters and guests traveled to Boca Raton from the United Kingdom and several states. The topics included youth caregiving and the opioid crises, medication administration and management by youth, school culture in support of youth caregivers, adverse childhood experiences and building resiliency, parent's perspectives of their children in this role, and workforce development. The lunchtime keynote speaker was award-winning film maker, Lindsay Van Dyke of Vice News Tonight. Her story about an AACY youth caregiver has had more than three million views on all social media channels. It also grabbed the attention of US Representative Brendan Boyle of PA who intends to introduce legislation on behalf of teen caregivers!

Palm Beach area, education, health care, and underserved communities.

AACY is grateful to be the recipient of a grant from the Walter and Adi Blum Foundation, Inc.

### Upcoming Events

April 24 United Way GreatGive

May 1 Celebration Brunch - honoring Helen Babione with presentations by youth caregivers

August 14 Boca Chamber Festival Days

Call 561.391.7401 for more details

### Resource Book

Available through [Amazon](#) and [Rosen Publishing](#)

