

SOCIETY *Scene*

On the Scene

South Florida community puts children first

More than 300 child advocates, lawyers, judges, politicians and others concerned about foster care gathered at the Riverside Hotel February 19, to honor those who are making a difference in the lives of foster children. Florida Children's First (FCF) President Howard Talenfeld, a staunch child advocate and shareholder with Colodny Fass Talenfeld Karlinsky & Abate, led the fundraiser which brought in a record \$143,000 to FCF, the state's leading child advocacy group. This was the highest amount raised in the history of the organization.

FCF's annual Broward event recognized Bob Butterworth for his work as the former Secretary of the Department of Children & Families

and Florida Attorney General. He was honored as "Florida's Friend of Children" for his decades of public service that also included roles as sheriff and a judge.

Mez Pierre was also honored as a foster care success story. Pierre is a talented young man who was in foster care from age five through age 18. He now works with Florida Youth S.H.I.N.E., 4Kids of South Florida, and Camelot Community Care to make things better for kids still in foster care. He is currently attending Broward College and plans to complete his degree in late 2010.

"We advocate every day to make sure the children who come through the foster care system get the services they need, the permanence they

need, and the families they need," said Talenfeld.

Sponsors for the event included United Automobile Insurance Group; Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate; President's Fest in the Park; White & Case; The Daily Business Review; and Holland + Knight.

Mistress of Ceremonies Kristi Krueger, Local 10 anchor, served as the event's emcee. Other notable attendees included Broward Circuit Court Judge John Frusciante, The Honorable William P. Dimitrouleas, DCF attorney Florence Snyder, former Florida State Senator Skip Campbell, and State Representative Ari Porth.

For more information, visit www.floridaschildrenfirst.org.



Clarence McKee, left, DCF attorney Florence Snyder and FCF President Howard Talenfeld



Honoree Bob Butterworth and WFLG-TV anchorwoman Kristi Krueger



Hon. Bob Marks of Parkland, left, Broward Circuit Court Judge John Frusciante and State Representative Ari Porth



Denise Siegel, left, Julie Talenfeld and Cindy Vova Zackowitz



Florida's Children First President Howard Talenfeld and FCF board member and publicist Julie Talenfeld



Stuart Grossman, left, Jill Dobrinsky, Andy Yaffz and Gary Cohen



Honoree Bob Butterworth and Florida's Children First Executive Director Andrea Moore