

# Notables

Monday, December 31, 2007



### Star power

Venus Williams attends event to benefit foster children at Place of Hope. Page 10



From left: Brenda Nocera, tennis star Venus Williams and Mickey Nocera at the private reception and toy drive held for Place of Hope supporters at Saks Fifth Avenue.



From left: Cheri Martin, tennis star Venus Williams and Gordon Martin at the private reception and toy drive held for Place of Hope supporters.



Tennis star Venus Williams (left) and Amanda Eliooff at the private reception and toy drive held for Place of Hope supporters at Saks Fifth Avenue.



Julie Healey and Place of Hope's founding Executive Director Charles L. Bender III at the private reception and toy drive held for Place of Hope supporters at Saks Fifth Avenue.

## Place of Hope supporters donate more than \$3,000 in toys at event featuring tennis star V. Williams

Place of Hope and VStarr Interiors hosted a private reception for about 150 guests recently at Saks Fifth Avenue in The Gardens mall in Palm Beach Gardens. About 90 unwrapped toys, worth more than \$3,000, were collected for Place of Hope's "Hands of Hope" Christmas Toy Drive to benefit the foster children of Place of Hope and other local children in the child-welfare system.

Special guest was professional tennis champion Venus Williams. VStarr Interiors, an interior-design firm Williams launched in 2003, presented a showcase of its designs. Appetizers were provided by Brio Tuscan Grille of Palm Beach Gardens.

"We are so delighted to partner with Place of Hope

and help give back to the children of our community this holiday season," said Meighan Coger, of VStarr Interiors.

Place of Hope and Villages of Hope will hold its Hope Ball on Jan. 18, 2008, at Admiral's Cove in Jupiter. Funds raised at the event will help with the operating expenses of both organizations. Individual tickets cost \$500, and sponsorship opportunities range from \$2,500 to \$100,000.

At Place of Hope's 2008 Spa, Golf Classic & Charity Auction Dinner, to be held April 28-29, 2008, at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa in Jupiter, supporters plan to raise funds to benefit the charity's families of foster-care children, while playing 18 holes on one of Jack Nicklaus' most

innovative golf courses. Tickets, which include one spa treatment at the Ritz-Carlton Spa, dinner for two at the Charity Auction Dinner and one playing spot in the Golf Classic, are \$1,500 for an individual or \$6,000 for a foursome. Sponsorships range from \$1,000 for a tee sponsorship to \$100,000 for presenting sponsor and host.

Place of Hope, at 9078 Isaiah Lane in Palm Beach Gardens, is a faith-based, state-licensed, child-welfare organization providing family-style emergency and long-term foster care; family outreach and intervention; transitional housing and support services; adoption and foster-care recruitment and support; and hope and healing opportunities for children and families who have been traumatized by

### PLACE OF HOPE

abuse and neglect.

For information, visit [www.placeofhope.com](http://www.placeofhope.com), or call (561) 775-7195.

Villages of Hope, a northern Palm Beach County residential community established in 2006, serves up to 12 emancipated foster youths and other homeless youths age 18 to 25 in a supervised apartment setting.

The organization provides assistance to them as they develop life skills and resources to promote healthy independence.

For information, visit [www.villagesofhope.net](http://www.villagesofhope.net), or call (561) 775-7195.