



November 19, 2022

Tropicana Redevelopment Committee:

CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) is grateful for our partnership with the Rays Baseball Foundation. From sponsoring our fundraising events, providing volunteer groups throughout the year, offering in-kind donations, and supporting our education efforts, this partnership is crucial to advancing CASA's mission in the community. The Tampa Bay Rays' dedication to ending domestic violence in the Tampa Bay community is unparalleled. From lighting Tropicana Field purple (the color of domestic violence awareness) to providing a game night dedicated to CASA to supporting outreach efforts throughout Pinellas County, the Rays are a critical partner in increasing survivor and community awareness. They take their level of commitment to ending domestic violence seriously, being the only team in the league that created a domestic violence awareness campaign by posting signage in every bathroom stall, and by providing domestic violence training to staff.

A particularly heartwarming moment was when the Rays Foundation volunteered to decorate gingerbread houses with children and participants at CASA's emergency shelter. The spark of joy on the faces of the children was something that could not be underestimated. The holidays can be a challenging time for survivors and their children escaping abuse and the Rays took the time to make each child feel special, something that those mothers and children will never forget. This moment displayed the dedication of the Rays Baseball Foundation to not only outwardly propel CASA's mission, but also everything done behind the scenes to directly impact the lives of survivors. This partnership is critical in our public outreach efforts and directly supports ending domestic violence in our community.

In recent support, the Rays were an instrumental reason CASA was able to open Florida's ONLY Family Justice Center this October. This progressive concept supports survivors through victim advocacy, civil legal attorneys, legal advocates, government victim assistance, prosecutors, law enforcement, childcare, mental health services, and so much more, with representatives from community partners and organizations all in one location. Strong community partners like The Rays have helped CASA to bring this US Department of Justice-recommended best practices to Pinellas County. CASA and The Rays believe in strong community relationships and that collaboration results in a stronger and healthier community.

Help end violence: Stand Up To Silence.





We fully support the Rays RFP proposal that not only outlines plans for a new ballpark, but even more importantly, addresses the challenges our community faces. CASA's mission will directly benefit from this proposal for many reasons, but perhaps most importantly the affordable housing this project will provide our community. Domestic violence is the number one cause of homelessness among women and children, and affordable housing is critical to the safety of survivors.

Thank you for all you do to stand up to silence to create a violence-free Pinellas!

With Gratitude & Great Hope for our Community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lariana Forsythe".

Lariana Forsythe, MBA
CASA CEO

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