

Tap the Power of Online Groups

FLORIDA

NOV/DEC 2019

THE BUSINESS
MAGAZINE
OF FLORIDA
REAL ESTATE



MATT
OWEN

Plus

← \$1 Buys Successful Local,
Programmed Gift-Giving
for Matt Owen

10 Steps to Next-Level
Business

UPFRONT/CONT'D.

DOING WELL
BY DOING GOOD

HELPING KIDS HEAL AFTER SEX ABUSE



KARA ZEDER ROSEN
THE JILLS ZEDER GROUP
OF COLDWELL BANKER
MIAMI

This Miami Realtor strives to raise money to help children who have been sexually abused or were victims of trafficking.

BY TRACEY C. VELT

When Kara Zeder Rosen was in college, her mom invited her to a luncheon for Kristi House. “My mom was on the board, but at that time I wasn’t involved in the charity,” says Zeder Rosen, a sales associate with The Jills Zeder Group of Coldwell Banker in Miami. That all changed once she heard the keynote speaker, a sex abuse victim who was helped by Kristi House Inc., a nonprofit in Miami dedicated to helping kids heal and eradicating child sexual abuse and sex trafficking.

“It was there that I learned about the horrors of child sexual abuse—it’s pervasiveness; one in four girls, one in seven boys;—and the toll it takes on a family. But it was also at that lunch, when hearing one of our child victims share her story, that I realized the young girl speaking was no longer a victim but a survivor, standing in front of hundreds of strangers telling her story of triumph. Yes, it was heart-wrenching; yes, I had tears and couldn’t believe what this poor child had been through; but at the end of the day, there was hope, not only for her but for all victims. It was clear to me that Kristi House was her light at the end of the tunnel; we were her unicorn.”

From that day on, Zeder Rosen says she was hooked. “The more I learned, the more I wanted to help. I learned

sexual abuse was a cancer, but that Kristi House had the cure. While we can’t change a child’s past, we can change their future. So, I went to work doing what I could with incredible support from my family, friends, amazing board members and most of all, the extremely dedicated angels at Kristi House. That was in 2012. “I’ve been president of the board since 2015,” she says.

As president, she says, her priority has been ensuring services to help those in need. Kristi House has a \$4.4 million budget and has been operating for 24 years out of six locations. “We saw over 1,400 children and their families last year at no cost to them, and Project Gold helped 45 girls heal from the complex trauma of child sex trafficking,” says Zeder Rosen.

All of Kristi House’s services are free. “No one pays a dime. So, fundraising is a huge portion of what we do on the board,” she says. The group is also extremely involved in outreach and education. “It’s a topic that people aren’t comfortable talking about, but we want to educate parents, teachers, everyone. “The more tools we can give children to learn about what’s appropriate and what’s not, the more, hopefully, you can prevent it.”

While Zeder Rosen would love to work with the victims they serve one-on-one, she says, “We [board members] don’t interact with our clients because we respect the privacy of those who are there. Many have cases that are going to court, so [board members] are dealing with the state attorney or police. Regardless, she says, they all inspire her.

“When I walk into the lobby, and children are waiting to be seen, and you know they are in the right place, it inspires you to keep working to serve as many people as you can. The work I’m doing behind the scenes is helping them,” she says. “Honestly, it’s changing their lives forever for the better. They’re going from victim to survivor. And, I’m proud of that.”

Interested in donating to Kristi House? Go to kristihouse.org.

Tracey C. Velt is a contributing editor for Florida Realtor magazine.