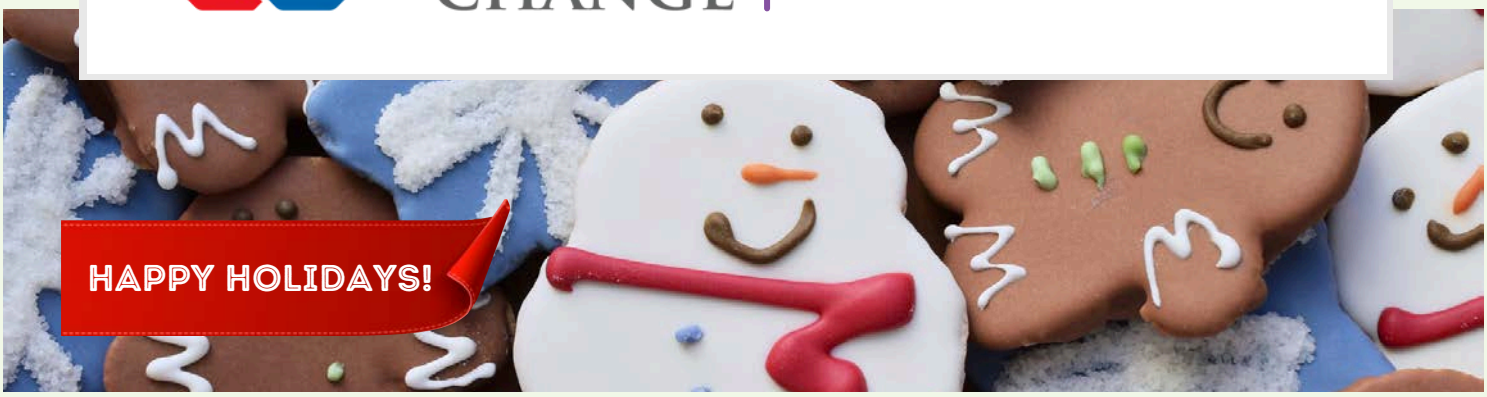
Center for SOCIAL CHANGE

DECEMBER Newsletter/2024



End-of-Year Strategies

As the year wraps up, December is a great time to boost your nonprofit's impact:

Year-End Fundraising: Send thank-you emails and create a simple donation campaign to engage supporters.

Leverage Giving Tuesday: Share your impact stories to encourage last-minute donations.

Plan for 2025: Review goals and identify new Miami-Dade partners for the upcoming year.

Finish strong by preparing for an even more impactful and successful 2024!

Holiday Volunteering

Here are a few ways you can make a difference this December:

Support Local Shelters: Volunteer with organizations like Miami Rescue Mission or Camillus House for food distribution or holiday events.

Holiday Drives: Join or organize gift drives with groups like Toys for Tots Miami or Miami Diaper Bank.

Virtual Volunteering: Short on time? Try virtual opportunities like tutoring or making care packages with Be a Santa to a Senior or VolunteerMatch.

Use this time to spread joy and make a positive impact on those in need!

Practical Progress

by Maya Arden, EsoTerra

WINTER READING LIST

What better time than now to deconstruct certainties and make ourselves uncomfortable through perspective-widening books? At least this type of discomfort deepens integrity and humanity, unlike the consumerism this season smacks us in the face with.

Decolonizing Wealth - Edgar Villanueva doesn't just critique systems of inequity - he specifies how we internalize them. This book will confront your complicity, not to shame you, but to push you toward reparative actions. It's a reckoning with the wounds of wealth and a guide to wielding financial resources for healing.

Hospicing Modernity - This is not a how-to manual; it's a challenge to let go of what you cling to - control, certainty, even hope. Vanessa Machado Oliveira demands we sit with the grief of a collapsing world, not as failure but as fertile ground for new ways of being.

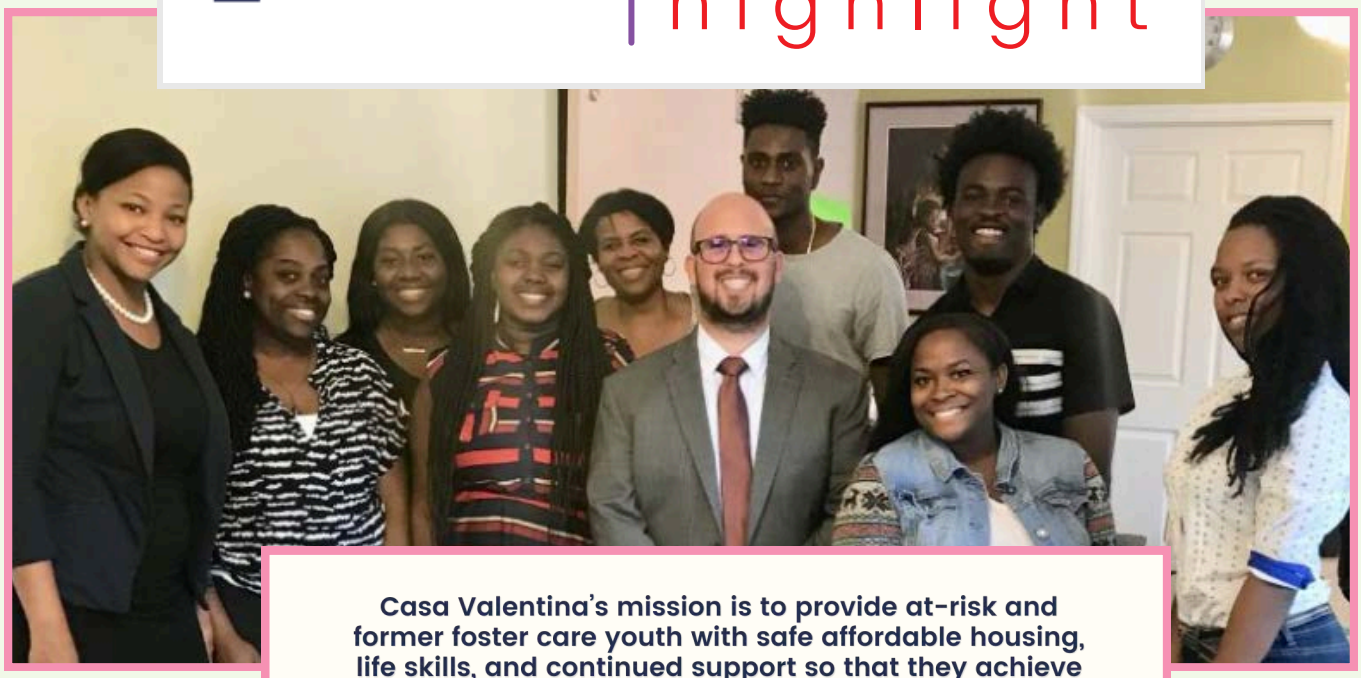
How to Be Animal - Melanie Challenger unpacks our species' denial of being part of nature, exposing how this disconnect fuels fear, alienation, and oppression. It will make you question some fundamental beliefs and root you in humility and remind you of life's deep interconnectedness.

These aren't comfortable reads, but they're necessary for change. If you're craving more transformation and less pies and small talk this season, skip the parties and cuddle up with these prickly books instead.

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY

CASAVALENTINA

COMMUNITY highlight



Casa Valentina's mission is to provide at-risk and former foster care youth with safe affordable housing, life skills, and continued support so that they achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Their organizational background is marked by a commitment to fostering self-sufficiency and productivity among our youth, offering a holistic program encompassing structured educational support, daily living lessons, job readiness skills, and financial literacy.

With over 18 years at the forefront of providing comprehensive support to former foster care & other at-risk youth aged 18-23, Casa Valentina is uniquely positioned to offer life skills services to shepherd youth as they navigate the challenging transition to independent living.

Their program model combines safe and affordable housing with a comprehensive life skills curriculum in a supportive environment where residents can focus on achieving their education, employment, and financial goals and gaining the strength and self-esteem they need to reach their full potential.

Youth and young adults in these situations often lack the life experience, financial stability, and support systems to survive on their own. They are more vulnerable to homelessness, incarceration, mental and physical illness, and more. They are forced to overcome challenges on their own, without home and family stability and a supportive network. Casa Valentina is the safety net needed as they mature and prepare to become independent and productive adults.

Learn more & connect with Casa Valentina

Event Board

Miami Jingle Bell Run

Sat, Dec 14 | 8am - 12pm

Tropical Park
7900 SW 40th St
Miami, FL 33155

AIDS Walk & Community Resource Fair

Sat, Dec 14 | 7am - 2pm

Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex
3000 NW 199th St
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Espresso Editions: A Gathering of Artists & Art Book Enthusiasts

Sun, Dec 15 | 3pm - 4pm

Books & Books
265 Aragon Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134

The Art of Connection: Art Therapy Workshop

Thu, Dec 19 | 6pm - 8pm

Vizcaya Village Garage
13250 S Miami Ave
Miami, FL 33129

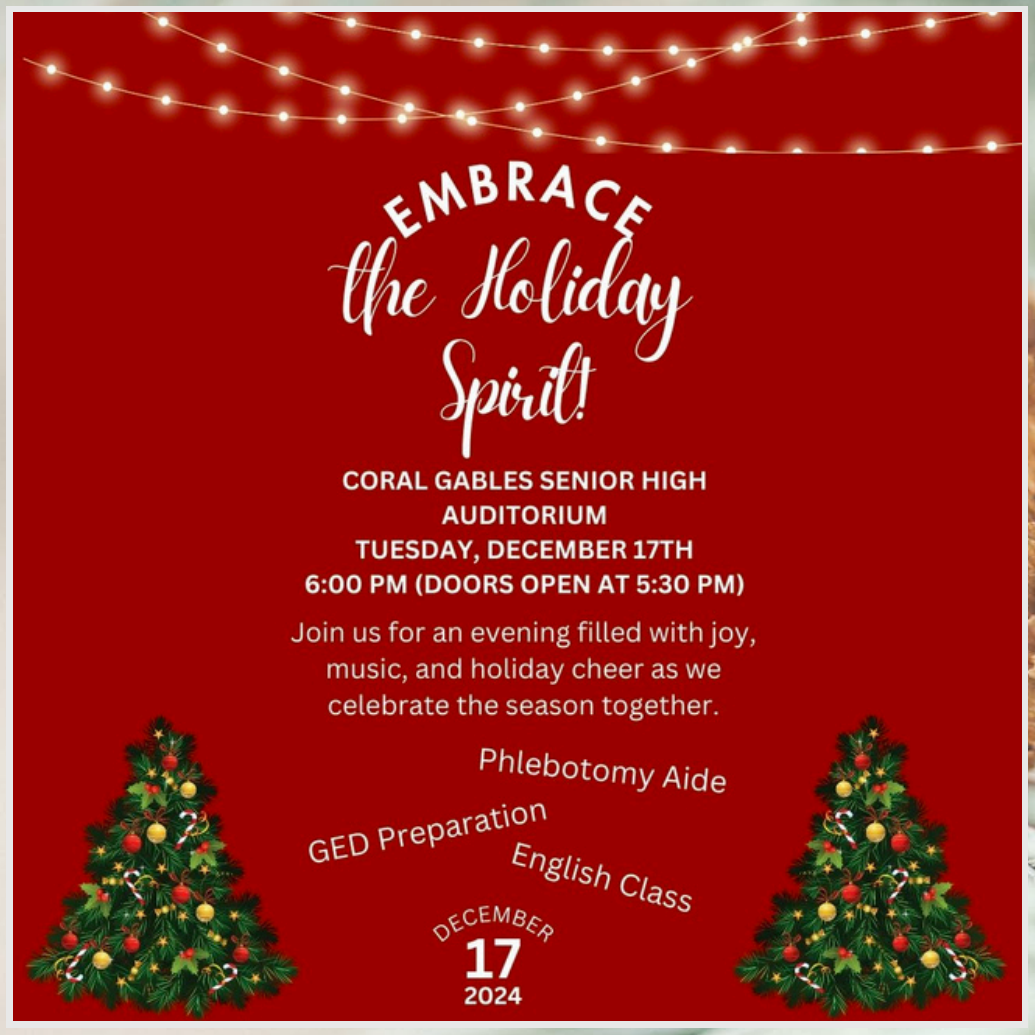
Celebrate the Joy of Hanukkah at the Community Festival

Sun, Dec 29 | 4pm - 9pm

660 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Community Classes

Donate Toys

Center for
SOCIAL
CHANGE
CHRISTMAS
TOY DRIVE
DONATE BEFORE DECEMBER 17
Please donate new, unused,
and unwrapped toys to help
bring joy this holiday season!
Center for Social Change
2103 Coral Way, Ste 202, Miami, FL 33145

Holiday Celebration