



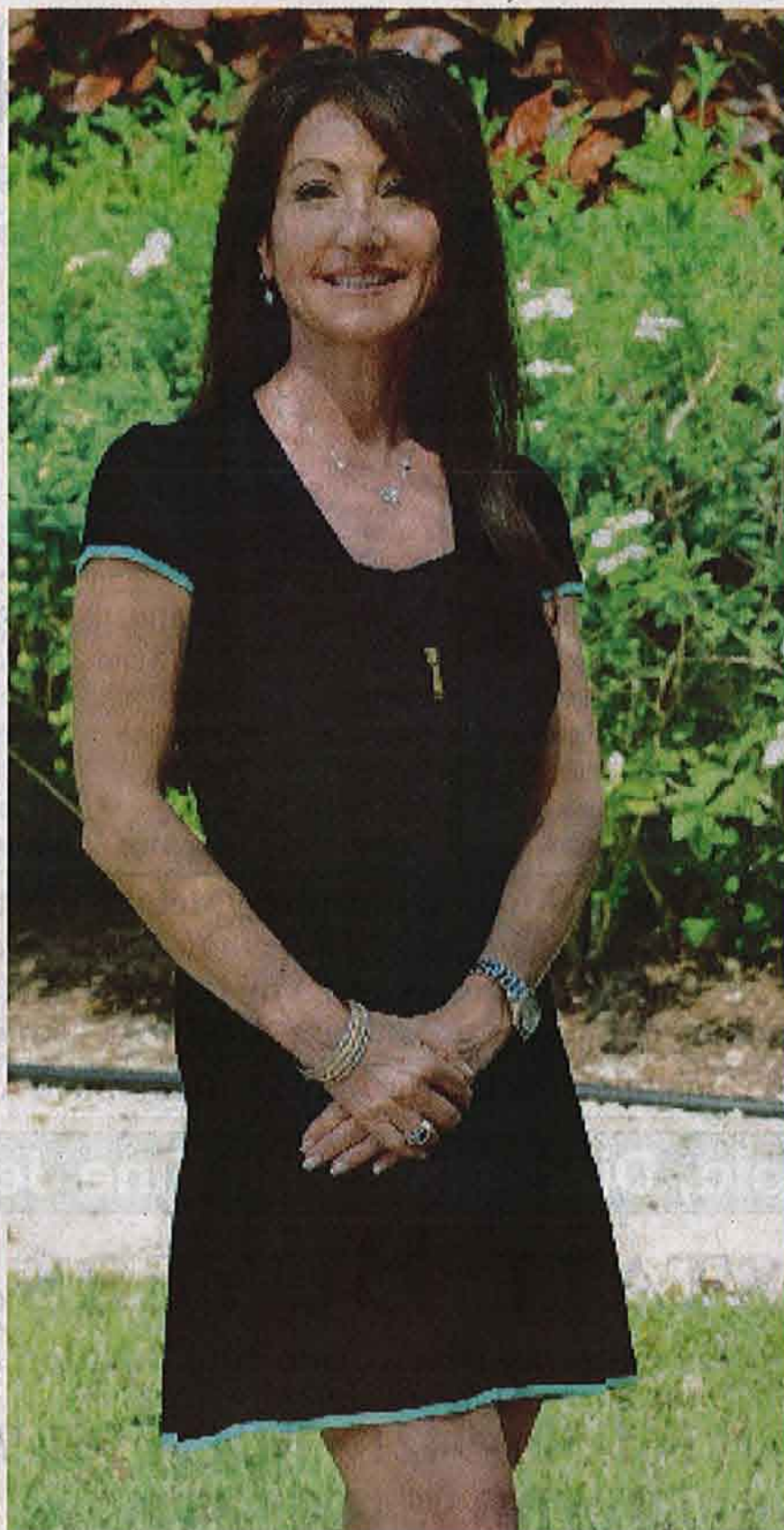
West Boca Forum

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

VOL. 34 No. 23

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ON THE SPOT



KATHY FEINERMAN

BEST FOOT FORWARD KICKOFF COCKTAIL RECEPTION CO-CHAIRWOMAN

Kathy Feinerman was an ICU nurse, but she spent the last 18 years as the active mother of two sons, "the most responsible job in the world," she said. So, after she met Best Foot Forward Foundation co-founder Donna Baise, "these stories just pulled at my heart strings."

Best Foot Forward has offices in The Haven in West Boca, and steps in when children in foster care age out of the system at 18 years old. As a mother, "how many people don't know that right here in our backyard, kids need help," said Feinerman, who lives in Boca Raton. "It was a life-changing moment."

What will happen on April 27 at Boca Grove Country Club?

This will be our third annual kickoff cocktail party, and we'll have kids there, of course. It's really important to hear from the kids. We're looking to raise more money to increase the staff so we can help more kids and they can pay it forward.

Is there anything new at your fundraiser this year?

There will be a live auction in addition to a silent auction, and Neil Saffer will be our auctioneer. We have the West Boca High School Chorus and a performance by Amber Leigh. Dinner is by the bite with an open bar and starts at 7 p.m. We'll honor our Volunteer of the Year Sherry Morganstein. Off. ease Only will give away a car to a deserving former foster child. We have music by Zazz Events. Tickets are \$100 at <http://bestfoot.org/kickoff-cocktail-party> or people can call 561-470-8300. My co-chairs are Cheryl Cherney and Anita Krellein.

How did you get involved with Best Foot Forward?

I have two boys; Jacob is a freshman in college, and Drew will be a freshman in high school at St. Andrew's School. When I moved down, the kids were little. Donna and I sat on the annual fund committee together at St. Andrew's, and our boys graduated together and went off to the same college.

My husband, Dr. David Feinerman and I came here in 1997 from the greater Hartford, Conn. area. He set up Boynton Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Implant Center in Boynton Beach. Last year, David and I went to the event in Boca Grove.

What made you get more involved?

Donna and Debbie Ellman, the other co-founder, are surrogate parents for these kids, kids who don't have parents to step in and guide them and care about them. Apart from the academic tutoring and help set up living quarters and transferring transcripts, it's what parents do for their kids without really thinking about it. I remember feeling in awe of what these women were accomplishing. What we teach our kids about how we parent, determines who they become and how they feel and the outcome of their future.