

STUART

M A G A Z I N E

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THE GUARDIAN ANGEL: JAMIE BOND

Fostering generations of hope across the Treasure Coast

With a background in hospitality, management, and operations, Jamie Bond was working as general manager of a high-end steakhouse in 2010 when her life took an unexpected turn. “I learned about human trafficking and how Florida was number three in the nation,” she says. “Palm Beach County, where I lived at the time, was number three in the state. It stopped me in my tracks and made me realize there’s so much more outside of what I was doing day to day.”

She began seeking an opportunity to use her talents for a higher purpose. On a chance invitation to Christ Fellowship, she heard a young man share his success story: He had gone from being homeless to earning a full-ride college scholarship thanks to an organization called Place of Hope. Moved, Bond says she knew she was hearing God’s calling. The following day, she poured her heart into a cover letter to Place of Hope’s CEO and COO. She recalls: “I wrote, ‘My background is not in child welfare or social work, but I believe this is where I belong. There is a passion lit inside of me that I didn’t know existed, and I’ll do whatever it takes to be part of the team. Here’s my résumé and everything I’ve done; put me to work somewhere.’”

They hired her—and she has dedicated her life to serving overlooked and underprivileged children and families ever since. As director of advancement and development for Place of Hope Treasure Coast and Northern Palm Beach County, she works tirelessly to honor the organization’s mission to care for children who have entered the foster-care system due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment; aged-out foster youth or otherwise homeless youth; and human trafficking victims and survivors. “In a nutshell, we’re trying to break the cycle of abuse and neglect through restoration, recovery, and prevention,” says Bond.



Accepted into Leadership Florida last year and 2020 chair of the Treasure Coast Human Trafficking Coalition, Bond says one thing that drives her is witnessing disadvantaged youth defy statistics and blossom beyond their circumstances. “Hearing them say, ‘I’m not going to be a victim; I’m not going to become what my parents were’ and then seeing them break the cycle is the most rewarding part,” she says. “It’s great to see our mission really come to life.”

“Everybody wants to be a Monday-morning quarterback,” she continues. “We talk about how homelessness is a detriment to society. We talk about mental illness, drug abuse, human trafficking. We talk about these things—how we don’t want them to happen in our community—but what are we actually doing about them? These young adults, these babies left unwanted in the hospital, born addicted to drugs... We as a community can do something about that, about their lives, and give them an opportunity.” placeofhope.com