

A young boy with short blonde hair, wearing a black life vest over a white shirt, is smiling broadly. He is being held from behind by a man with short brown hair, also wearing a black wetsuit with a blue stripe. They are both looking at a large, light-colored dolphin that is partially submerged in the water. The dolphin's head is visible, showing its eye and blowhole. The water is a deep blue-green color with some white foam from the dolphin's movement.

Island Dolphin Care

a not-for-profit organization

*Make
room
for joy*

Soothing
Magic
Wonder
Motivation
Learning
Smiles
Support
Progress
Laughter

*Have you ever been
kissed by a dolphin?*

A dolphin leaps high, higher than you ever thought possible. 🐬 There is a giant splash of turquoise water, followed by the quicksilver laughter of children. And parents smile in wonder and gratitude. 🐬 This is the magic that happens at Island Dolphin Care, a place where children with special needs and chronic or critical illness find joy and discover new abilities. Parents reclaim hope and shed stress, and the dolphins, by simply being their intelligent and intuitive selves, provide unconditional support and inspiration.

🐬 Island Dolphin Care is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, founded in 1997, dedicated to helping children and families who are dealing with developmental and physical disabilities, emotional challenges and critical, chronic or terminal illness. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, IDC is supported philanthropically by a broad range of corporations, foundations and individuals.

🐬 IDC is a loving and accessible place where fun is therapeutic and therapy is fun, families have an opportunity to relax and enjoy each other, and the



extraordinary happens every day. It is a place where all children can learn about dolphins and the marine environment in small groups and with their families. 🐬

“Well, you did it again! You took a years worth of tears: painful medical testing, hours upon hours of doctor’s appointments, hospital stays, and therapy appointments...and with the wave of a magic moment made it all disappear... into wonderful memories filled with radiant smiles, dolphin dances, and dolphin song.”

Wonder in the water.

Joe Hoagland got off to a rough start in life. Born with a heart defect that required numerous surgeries, Joe suffered a massive stroke during one of those surgeries. It partially paralyzed his left side, leaving him unable to stand, sit, or lie down without help and with a myriad of neurological challenges.

Joe was only three.

Because Joe had not responded well to traditional therapy, his mother Deena, a licensed clinical social worker and teacher, thought water activities might give Joe more physical freedom. So Deena took Joe to Dolphins Plus, a Key Largo facility that offered public swims with dolphins. That's where Joe met Fonzie, a 600-pound, 10-foot long Atlantic bottle nose dolphin, and a remarkable journey began.

Joe recovered from the paralysis through hard work and the inspiration he got from his relationship with Fonzie. Deena believed that "if dolphins could help Joe feel better about himself, and motivate him to try new tasks, then the dolphins might also help others," and Island Dolphin Care was born.

The magic continues. Thousands of children from around the world with autism, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, depression, development delays, heart disease and other difficulties have found joy.

Many of them have found a measure of improvement. IDC emphasizes that "this is not a miracle cure."

But wonderful progress does take place. After trips to IDC, Ryan improved his verbal skills and memory.

Jessica said 'hello.' Shelby interacted better with her surroundings. Emma learned to change her

clothes and feed herself. And Lucas laughed, for the very first time.



"I can remember a time when I wanted to play with Fonzie and my mom said that he was a left handed Dolphin, and that if I wanted to feed him I had to use my left hand to motivate me to use it. I wanted to feed him so bad that I learned to use my left hand."

— Joe Hoagland





An exceptional experience.



Dolphins are remarkably intelligent, intuitive and known for their playfulness and good humor. IDC offers several programs to introduce children to the wonderful, exciting world of dolphins as part of its mission to provide unique, therapeutic, motivational and educational therapy programs for children with special needs, adults and families.

Dolphin Time-Out is an intensive 5-day program, it features one-on-one dolphin sessions with a trained therapist, individualized for each child's needs plus classroom activities to reinforce and enhance the water sessions.

Dolphin Camp is a 1-day program for small groups of critically and chronically ill children from South Florida hospitals and therapy centers. Children learn about dolphins, swim with the dolphins, have a picnic lunch and create an art activity to take home.

Dolphin Talks are half-day programs for small groups of children, where they meet the dolphins and play with them from a floating platform in the lagoon.

Fonzie's Backyard is a marine science education and touch tank program for small groups of children designed to teach them about dolphins and other marine mammals, the marine environment and conservation. All children and families who visit IDC experience Fonzie's Backyard.



“Dade Community Foundation is proud to be a long time supporter of Island Dolphin Care's Time-Out Scholarship Program. Deena, Peter and all of the staff at IDC are extremely dedicated, professional, and passionate about their work. We are proud to partner with such a unique and vital community resource.”

— Javier Alberto Soto, President, Dade Community Foundation

Supporter

Agents of change – our co-therapists.

“You mean so much to me because since I’m weak I never thought I would be able to swim with dolphins. I really appreciate that you let my dream come true, now I’m not just Holli; I’m even more a dolphin lover.”



Squirt Beautiful, lively, gentle and fun, Squirt has three distinctive small notches on her dorsal fin and a short rostrum (nose to you). She is around 30 years old and the mother of Fiji and Lotus.

Grace The fun-loving child named for her beauty and “grace,” born July 11, 2008 to Sarah.

Sarah The beautiful princess dolphin, Sarah knows what she wants and how to get it. She is close to 30 years old and the mother of Bella and Grace.

Lotus Curious and a playful little one, born August 27, 2008 to Squirt.

Bella She likes to jump the highest, swim the fastest and talk the loudest. Her unique pink coloration makes her stand out from the crowd, but don’t let the pink fool you, she is a definite tomboy. She was born November 3, 2000.

Fonzie (In Memoriam) The very special dolphin that started it all. Much loved and deeply missed by the thousands lucky enough to have known him.

Fiji Curious, playful, and learns fast, Fiji loves the children and the therapy. He was born June 25, 2004.

Honey A great addition to the IDC team. Honey was rescued from a shelter and is training to become a Certified Therapy Dog.

Helping children be children.

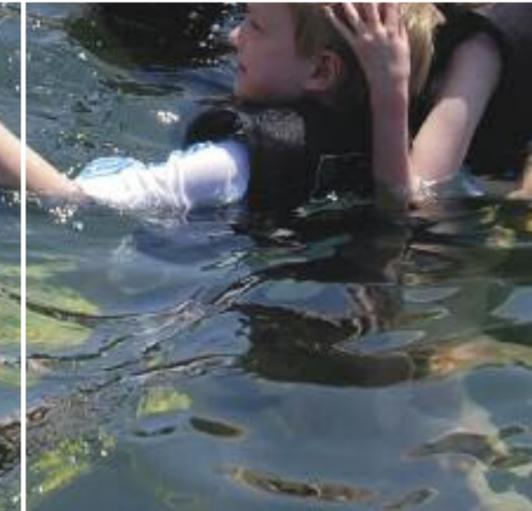
Children and families that come to IDC often cope with the daily burden of critical illness and physical disabilities. The families are often in emotional and financial crisis and need a respite.

This is where IDC comes in – it is one of the few places that exist for giving families a much needed break as well as recreational therapy for children with special needs. The 5-day Dolphin Time-Out program has been designed especially for families and children coming to IDC.

One of the goals of Island Dolphin Care is to provide an environment less threatening than standard medical settings, and – most important – to involve the entire family. There is freedom in the water – freedom from wheelchairs and walkers and other limitations. For all of them, it is an opportunity to smile and giggle and make wonderful memories.



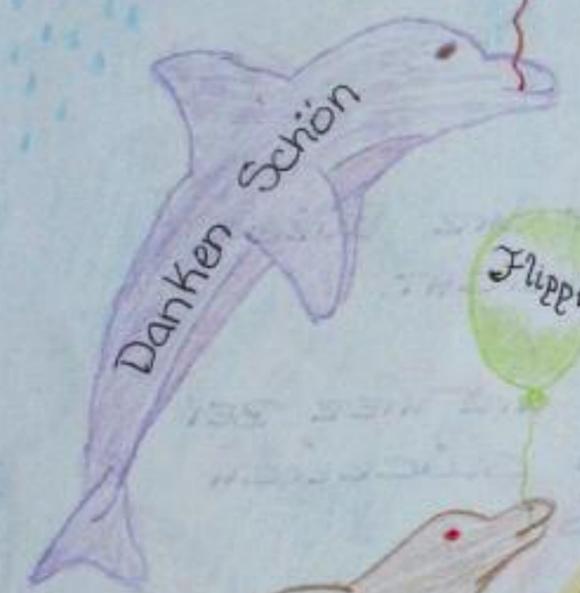
“When Melissa first entered the water with Gretchen we could immediately see the excitement in her face. The smiles and laughter when Fiji and Bella interacted with Melissa were endless and priceless. Her learning experience in the classroom not only helped motivate her, but also gave her a real feeling of accomplishment.”



OUTSTANDING



Truly a magical place!
Love always !!!
The Brownies
Ayesha



October 2007

Keith

Jasmin & Bettina

Jonita & Stanley



sk

“My daughter came away grown up from the experience. The weeks following she seemed to bloom in front of us. It seemed like the therapy gave her a new sense of who she is. It has been amazing.”

Think of a butterfly being born.



The turquoise building at the side of the Florida lagoon doesn't look that different from other Key Largo properties – palm-fringed and appealingly tropical. But what happens here is an entirely different story.

Designed to be one of the most accessible facilities in the world, the Island Dolphin Care Center is entirely funded by generous donors. It is a welcoming place that encourages change and growth.

There is a light-flooded room filled with aquariums, where children and adults learn about the wonders of the sea. The largest, and most spectacular aquarium, sits next to a soft mattress-covered platform so that those who cannot sit or stand can recline, relax and enjoy the live corals and darting, brilliant fish.

Three cheerful classrooms are filled with both educational materials, art activities and state-of-the-art assistive technology devices. There is an outdoor touch tank for hands-on fun and learning, a Family Resource Room where parents can find out about new technologies and techniques, a peaceful sensory garden for relaxation and simple quiet time and a spacious, thatched roof pavilion for marine science education programs and for families to gather.

The heart of the Island Dolphin Care Center is the gentle natural lagoon where the children interact with the dolphins. These remarkable creatures appear to have an affinity for children, especially those who may have physical differences. On some inexplicable level, a relationship forms and the magic begins.

“We are proud to partner with Island Dolphin Care in conserving the world's oceans through education. Their programs can have life changing impact on people's lives, they are great people doing great things.”

– Jamie Sweeting, V.P, Environmental Stewardship, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.

And suddenly, you see the turquoise building for what it really is – a place of transformation.

Opening doors.

Each child who is enrolled in the 5-day Dolphin Time-Out program participates in dolphin swims and attends classroom therapy,

language and communication skills. Parents and siblings are encouraged to participate in these sessions. And because of the individualized approach, many parents, siblings

Education program at Island Dolphin Care. The touch tank is designed to be accessible to everyone and is great fun for the entire family. Who wouldn't want to hold the ocean in your hand? IDC also has a portable touch tank which goes on the road to bring marine science education to students in the classroom across South Florida.



Where rainbows go to swim – The Lagoon.

The water in our natural ocean lagoon is deep – 16 feet deep – and calm. Depending on the day, it is blue, or green, or a brilliant combination of the two. The lagoon is on a canal which opens to the Atlantic Ocean, so it is subject to the tides. It is home to the dolphins, as well as little local shrimp and spiny lobsters that naturally live in these waters. It is so beautiful and peaceful that sometimes, after a summer shower, rainbows come to visit, just to swim in our lagoon.

designed to build on the motivation and excitement generated by the dolphin experience. The sessions, in and out of the water, are one-on-one with a highly qualified therapist, tailored to the goals of the parents and the needs of each child. IDC therapists are trained in education, psychotherapy and behavioral therapy and continually attend workshops to refine and upgrade their skills and credentials.

and caregivers learn new techniques and strategies that they can take home with them and continue with their child's regular teachers, therapists and friends.

Above all, this is a place where new doors are opened, and children with different abilities are encouraged to take a step further.

Slippery, scaly, spiny fun – Marine Science Education.

A starfish walks across your hand – it tickles! Pet a snail...surprise, it's soft and silky! This hands-on experience for both typically developing and children with special needs is provided by the friendly residents of outdoor touch tank, part of the Marine Science

A place to reflect – Sensory and Butterfly Garden.

Beyond the lagoon, but within earshot of the laughter, is a sensory and butterfly garden. Planted with native trees and flowers, it is a quiet and soothing place to be still and calm, to read, think, pray, cry, or just breathe.

Classroom therapy is disguised as fun. Each cheerful classroom has a marine theme, and is filled with toys and games, art materials as well as the latest assistive technology devices, all of which enhance



“This program offered hope for my family. These people opened their arms and welcomed us into a safe haven to just be carefree and happy. The dolphins honored us with their grace and their love. You can't ask for anything better than this. My children cried when we left and I felt at peace.”

Everyone in the water. Everyone!

A Dolphin Time-Out trip to Island Dolphin Care is more than therapy and fun for the child with special needs. It's a wonderful restorative experience for the entire family. Siblings and parents also have the opportunity for dolphin experiences, and are included in classroom sessions. There is a family picnic



every Wednesday for those participating in the Dolphin Time-Out program. And Key Largo and the rest of the Florida Keys present a variety of activities that the entire family can enjoy. Take a jet ski out into the ocean. Kayak through the Mangroves. Feed giant Tarpon by hand. Go on a glass bottom boat ride or a snorkel trip to a coral reef. Drive down the verdant chain of green islands set in a turquoise sea, and find a new adventure across every bridge. The staff at IDC helps find the perfect activities for families, as well as accommodations that suit specific needs. Enjoyment for the entire family!



“For me, this was an opportunity to stop and take a look at my family. I've been caught up in a lot of things since our child was diagnosed with a brain tumor and this week allowed us to have some special time together. One revelation for me was how we (everyone in our family) is hurting because of our child's illness. This time away from our routine provided us all with a real break.”

Over the years, Island Dolphin Care has been profiled in both national and international media about its work.

Island Dolphin Care has been featured on The Today Show (NBC), Primetime Live (ABC), ESPN, Frontrunners (KOMO television), King Television, WAMI (The Times), Discovery Channel USA and Canada, ANIMAL PLANET, CNN, National Geographic Today, Marcom Japanese Television, Oxygen Network and ABC Discovery Health.

Articles about IDC have appeared in numerous publications including Parade Magazine, Quest Magazine, Parent Magazine, Advanced PT and OT Magazine, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, Exceptional Parent Magazine, Hippocrates Magazine, Time for Kids, The Miami Herald, The Daily Telegraph, The Advocate, The Reporter, The Sunday Sentinel, National Geographic World Kids Magazine, In Motion Magazine, Person Magazine Japan, The Florida Keys Keynoter, The Florida Keys Free Press, The Florida Living Magazine and Good Housekeeping. In addition a book, Thank You Fonzie, was published in Japan.

Getting the word out.

Island Dolphin Care



Chief inspiration officers.



No parent is ever prepared when a child is diagnosed with an illness or a disability. But for Peter and Deena Hoagland, their backgrounds in social work, education and communications helped them turn their experience with a sick child into a place of comfort, hope and inspiration for families from all over the world.

Deena holds Bachelor degrees in elementary education and psychology and a Master's in social work and is the Executive Director of Island

Dolphin Care. During her entire career, Deena has worked with children with various educational, emotional and physical needs as a teacher and psychotherapist. Peter, who earned his Bachelor degree in speech communication and his Master's in art and interdisciplinary studies, is General Manager. He also serves with the Coastal Conservation Association and the Marine Mammal Conservancy, and is the master chef at the weekly Wednesday barbecues for the families.

Best of all, their son Joe, whose relationship with the late beloved dolphin Fonzie and subsequent recovery was the inspiration for Island Dolphin Care, today works with his parents in running the facility. Their married daughter Kate lives and works in Connecticut.



“I am the luckiest woman alive to be able to be a part of such a wonderful and joyful place.”

—Deena Hoagland

Family

*Giggles that
light up the sky.*

They say it takes a village to raise a child. At Island Dolphin Care, it takes an amazing collection of donors, supporters, volunteers, community partners, doctors, hospitals, staff and friends to create a place that generates smiles rivaling the Florida sun in intensity.

“To see our little girl become confident and independent...”

“You made my dream come true...”

“This experience has been such a blessing to our family...”

“He has been able to feel and act like a normal child...”

The words of thanks from the parents fill the hearts of all those who work at IDC and it is the laughter of the children that inspires the IDC team. The goal has always been to give priority to children with terminal illness, and to help families that would not otherwise be able to get here. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, neighbors and friends, IDC is able to serve more children and families every year.

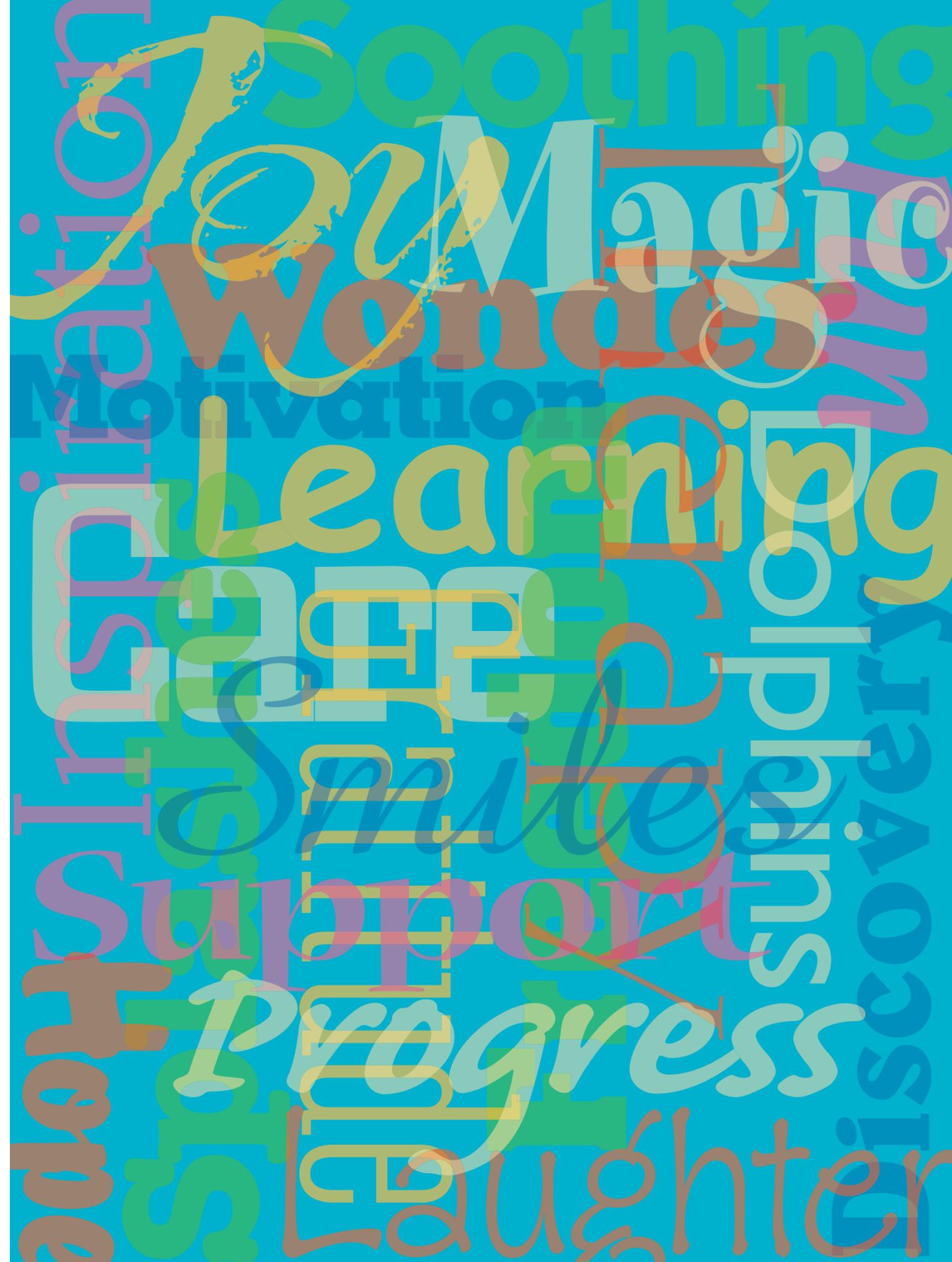


“The Batchelor Foundation has been a long time supporter of Island Dolphin Care and we believe in the good work they do for children with challenges. The therapeutic benefits of having these truly amazing kids, swim and interact with the dolphins is in my opinion worth a great deal to both the children and parents alike. We applaud IDC for their commitment and caring to children, the dolphins and the environment.”

— Jon Batchelor

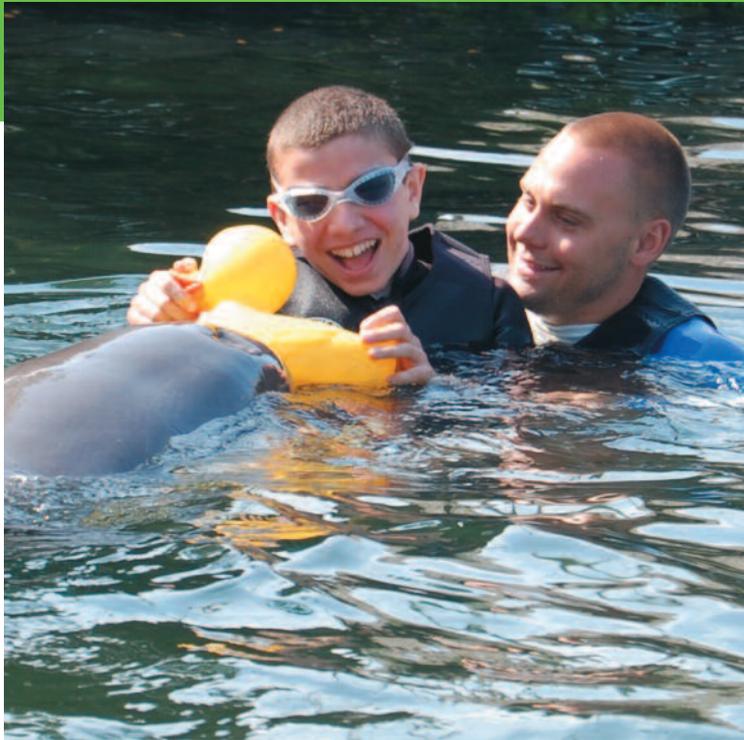
“Island Dolphin Care is a unique environment dedicated to the dignity of the clients they serve. From their commitment to the emotional well-being of the children and families served to enriching the development of motor, physical and communication skills, IDC makes miracles of ‘porpoise’ magnitude occur every day by celebrating the abilities of all children.”

— Bill Fauerbach, VP, Publix Super Markets Miami Division



One joy scatters a hundred griefs

- Proverb



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a not-for-profit organization

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