



Through a partnership with nonprofit DressUp, Kids4Kids Relief will distribute new prom dresses to teens who lost theirs in disasters—because normalcy also means showing up for milestone moments.

Kids 4 Kids

Las Olas Isles students package gifts for teens in Jamaica

MARIA TOBON, LAS OLAS ISLES NEIGHBOR

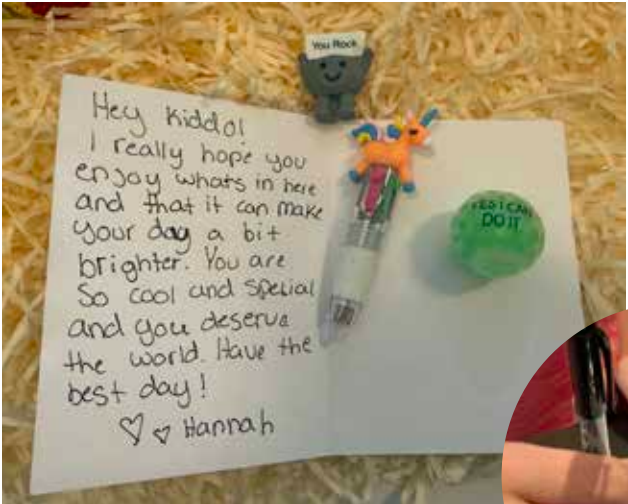
This past Sunday, November 9, 2025, Kids4Kids—an organization founded by Sam Crimaldi in 2022 after witnessing the effects of Hurricane Ian on his own community—brought together middle and high school volunteers from Las Olas and their friends from across Fort Lauderdale to package gifts for teens in Jamaica who were impacted by the recent hurricane. Because older kids are often not prioritized during disaster recovery, this project focused on creating thoughtful, age-appropriate bundles meant to bring a sense of normalcy and confidence.

The girls’ bags included hair irons, tote bags, blankets, pencils, and erasers, while the boys’ bags featured footballs, basketballs, playing cards, pencils, and blankets. Volunteers also prepared two types of arts-and-crafts kits—one designed for bracelet-making with added accessories such as pens, pencils, erasers, and small toys, and another centered around drawing, which included markers, a sketchbook, pencils, erasers, and toys. Each bundle was paired with a personalized card and essential toiletries to remind these teens that they are supported, valued, and not forgotten.

The goal of this initiative is not only to provide comfort to children and families, but also to give meaningful, high-quality items that older youth can continue using long after the crisis has passed. As these service events continue on Las Olas, the students of Kids4Kids Relief remain committed to supporting peers their age across the world. Through their efforts, they hope to create a lasting impact, spread hope, and ensure that no teenager ever feels overlooked after a disaster.



Kids4Kids Relief: Youth Helping Youth Reclaim Normalcy After Disaster
ORIGIN & MISSION
After Hurricane Ian in 2022, eighth-grader Sam Crimaldi noticed something missing: while families received essentials, kids’ emotional needs were often overlooked. He co-founded Kids4Kids Relief, a youth-led nonprofit that delivers normalcy kits and peer-to-peer support to children affected by natural disasters. The idea is simple: small hands, big impact. While adults rebuild homes, kids help rebuild childhood.



FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER & NOVEMBER ACTIVATION
After moving to Fort Lauderdale, Sam connected with Pine Crest student Maria Tobon, who launched the Fort Lauderdale chapter. In November, the Tobon family hosted a student volunteer build on Las Olas Isles, where 14 Pine Crest students assembled kits for youth in Jamaica impacted by Hurricane Melissa. It became a true family effort: Angela and Pablo Tobon opened their home, Maria and her brother Emilio helped lead the build, and Sam and his sisters—Jolie and Julianna—worked alongside them.

Each kit included comfort items like a throw blanket, deodorant, stress relievers, inspirational toys, bracelets, and handwritten notes. Four themed versions—hair tools, sports balls, bracelet-making kits, and art supplies—helped kids reclaim routines and joy.

WHY “NORMALCY” MATTERS
Disasters last hours; the emotional fallout can last years. Within six months of a major hurricane, up to half of affected youth show trauma-related symptoms, yet fewer than 15% receive counseling. Even now, nearly three years after Hurricane Ian, some of Sam’s friends still struggle with storm-triggered anxiety. These kits aren’t luxuries—they’re lifelines that restore dignity, routine, and a sense of being seen.





FUELING THE WORK

Kids4Kids Relief has raised more than \$10,000 to expand chapters and ship kits. Supporters can purchase 4ocean bracelets (\$20 each, funding the removal of 1 pound of ocean plastic) or custom Kids4Kids penny charms, created with Penny Cut Out Charms. Proceeds benefit disaster-affected youth and support humanitarian efforts in Kenya. Small tokens, big impact.

WHAT'S NEXT

Through a partnership with nonprofit DressUp, Kids4Kids Relief will distribute new prom dresses to teens who lost theirs in disasters—because normalcy also means showing up for milestone moments.

GROWING THE MOVEMENT

With momentum in Fort Lauderdale, Kids4Kids Relief is developing a starter toolkit to help teens launch new chapters, organize kit builds, and create peer-support networks. The goal: meet emotional needs quickly and keep showing up long after the headlines fade.

CLOSING NOTE

As Maria says, “Every child deserves to feel seen, safe, and supported—even after everything else is gone.” Kids4Kids Relief is making sure they are.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers, donors, and product partners are needed. To join a kit build, sponsor a kit, or purchase a bracelet, visit k4k.help.

FAST FACTS

- Founded in 2022; youth-led normalcy kits + peer support
- November Las Olas Isles build: 14 Pine Crest students; kits sent to Jamaica
- \$10,000+ raised; 4ocean bracelets (\$20, 1 lb trash removed) + Kids4Kids penny charms
- Family hosts: Pablo & Angela Tobon; youth team: Maria & Emilio Tobon, Sam, Julianna & Jolie Crimaldi



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