



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AMIGOS FOR KIDS AND LAUREN'S KIDS JOIN EFFORTS IN WALK IN MY SHOES EVENT TO END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

MIAMI, FL- [Amigos For Kids](http://www.amigosforkids.org), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, kicked off its 2015 Blue Ribbon *There's No Excuse for Child Abuse*® efforts by joining Lauren's Kids in the "Walk in My Shoes" event on Wednesday, March 18 at Jose Martí Park.

Lauren's Kids is a nonprofit organization founded by Lauren Book, a former teacher that endured sexual abuse for six years of her childhood at the hands of her nanny. She launched the "Walk in My Shoes" campaign in 2010 to raise awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse and encourage survivors to speak out about their experiences.

"It is heartbreaking that one in three girls and one in five boys will fall victim to child abuse in Florida before they turn 18," said Rosa Maria Plasencia, Amigos For Kids President and CEO. "Amigos For Kids yearlong child abuse and neglect efforts are a natural fit with Lauren's Kids mission. We are happy to have joined our voices to the "Walk in My Shoes" event and stood against such a horrific reality."

"Walk in My Shoes" is a 1,500-mile journey across the state of Florida that kicked off March 14 in Key West and ends in Tallahassee on April 22. The 42-day journey is meant to raise awareness and empower the 42 million survivors of child sexual abuse.

In solidarity with Lauren's Kids, Amigos For Kids after-school program children and families trekked around Jose Martí Park on March 18 to support the organizations mission. The event also included a mini Martial Arts lesson by White Tiger MIA, a book reading by Lauren Book of her debut children's novel *Lauren's Kingdom*, and an educational session about child abuse.

"We are truly blessed to count on the support of organizations like Amigos For Kids for our 1,500-mile journey," said Lauren Book. "It's about using our collective voice to stand and protect our children."

For more information about Amigos For Kids, visit www.amigosforkids.org. For more information about Lauren's Kids, visit www.laurenkids.org.

*****Photos available upon request*****

ABOUT AMIGOS FOR KIDS- [Amigos For Kids](http://www.amigosforkids.org) is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit corporation founded in 1991 to respond to the diverse needs of South Florida's abused, abandoned, neglected, and less-fortunate children and their families, through education, abuse prevention, and community involvement. To fulfill its mission, Amigos relies on the support of dedicated volunteers and donors throughout the community. Throughout the year, the organization creates awareness of its cause through public service campaigns, fundraising events, and community efforts such as the Amigos For Kids' *There's NO Excuse for Child Abuse!*® Campaign. @amigosforkids

ABOUT LAUREN'S KIDS- Lauren's Kids is a nonprofit organization that works to prevent abuse and help survivors heal. The organization was started by Lauren Book, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse who endured six years of abuse at the hands of her nanny. For more information on the organization's prevention curriculum, annual 1,500-mile awareness walk, legislative advocacy and speaking engagements, visit laurenkids.org.

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