

Interview with Miles



Flawless Founder Janine Francolini Interviews Miles



Founder's Message

Thanksgiving is our favorite holiday at Flawless, with Valentine's Day being a close second. When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of "cornucopia," which in Greek mythology was a magical goat's horn that gave its possessors whatever they wished for, in great abundance. The words that come to mind are "overflowing," and "stuffed to the brim." At Flawless, we are filled with gratitude for being blessed with this magic horn all year long.

Why is Thanksgiving our favorite holiday? It is gratitude that informs everything we do. We are grateful for the inspiration our children and adults we work with source, gratitude for the privilege to serve, and gratitude for our donors and volunteers who share our passion and vision. Finally, we are grateful for our board members and advisors who steadfastly hold space for it all, propelling us forward, and constantly allowing for a greater reach, both fiscally and structurally.

One of our core missions is to bring a sense of warmth, connection, and home to children, particularly those with emotional and behavioral challenges. Today at Flawless, we are filled (or shall we say stuffed) with gratitude as we reflect on the joy of serving Thanksgiving dinner at the Pioneer Special School for 350 children and their family members. As part of a team which provided this meal--which for some guests was their only hot meal of the year, I was reminded of the power of our work. The atmosphere was calm, full and peaceful, a small miracle and manifestation of our goal to nourish the bodies, minds and hearts of our Flawless community.

That same week a **turbo-donation** arrived at Flawless' door. Our request to Nike for a few items for our Fashion Fundraiser yielded over ten thousand dollars worth of men's and boy's fitness wear. Not only did we outfit the basketball team at Pioneer, but we were able to spread the abundance, sending boxes of Nike garments to two other mental health agencies.

"Stuffed full of gratitude" appears to describe our state here at Flawless. Just when we think we can't take anymore, we may receive another donation, another breakthrough, or another opportunity to make an impact. We had a comical experience prior to our Perfection Party in NYC this past June. Boxes of gifts from the Coty beauty company intended for our goodie bags arrived at the home of one of our advisory board members and it was many volumes beyond the requested amount. Barbara was shocked to receive a pallet weighing close to a thousand pounds at her doorstep. The delivery man advised Barbara to "take it all, or send it back." Without the infrastructure to support this amazing donation, we had to quickly brainstorm a way to pass the bounty along. (Salvation Army was very happy that day.) We are grateful to receive so much that we are in the position to give some of our gifts as we continue to grow and grow.

While these material items are wonderful, the real magic for us lies in the manifestation of the love, passion and commitment to heal our underserved and often misunderstood children. I would like to thank all of you for providing the most nourishing stuffing recipe imaginable: love and gratitude.

Happy Holidays!

Janine Francolini
Founder



From the bounty of the Flawless Garden of Miracles!

Miles Dixon is the son of one of our beloved board members, Tara Dixon. He is in sixth grade at the Packer Collegiate School in New York. Miles had a dock sale (a NYC variation of the yard sale) and donated part of the proceeds to Flawless. Miles has big plans for supporting and promoting Flawless as he comes from a philanthropically minded family. The Dixons have been one of Flawless' leading donors and have provided an astonishing amount of support and passionate commitment to our work

Janine: Miles, thank you so much for the donation. It was so generous of you. Was it your parents' idea to donate a portion of the sales of your toy/book sale to charity or yours?

Miles: Well, my parents taught me about giving to charity a long time ago. For Katrina I had a lemonade stand on the Brooklyn Bridge and made \$73 dollars. I know my mom has been involved with the Flawless Foundation for a long time and I thought it would be good to donate. So, I guess you could say it was my idea. This is such a great cause, I am going to give more. I want to be a yearly donator

Janine: What do you know about Flawless?

Miles: I know my Mom is a part of it and its logo is a peacock and that you had a big Gala at the Millennium Hotel. Flawless helps kids with mental disorders, autism and genetic disorders, right?

Janine: Yes. We help children

who have behavioral challenges due to all kinds of issues.

Miles: One of my friend's brother has autism and mental disorder. He is really nice; and it's not as bad as it can be, but he can go out of the loop and be screaming, kicking...stuff like that.

Janine: Yes this is a big and very common issue. One in five kids will have a mental health diagnosis by the age of 18.

Miles: Wow. That is a big problem. Kids: we are the next generation. This could affect the world. We have to look at the genetics. How is this happening? Is it molecules in the mothers' womb, or is it just lifestyle?

Janine: It is complicated and a combination of a lot of factors--biology, genetics, environment, societal issues.

Miles: Does Flawless do research or help with daily lifestyle, improving lives?

Janine: We do both. We are involved with a doctor at Harvard who has come up with a really cool way to solve problems while collaborating with kids. We help promote his work and research. Flawless also supports "lifestyle" programs such as yoga, music and art, gardening to help kids feel better and be healthier.

Miles: A few more questions (I feel like the business manager right now)- Is this stuff happening now or are we getting money to do things in the future?



Featured Junior Volunteer Committee Member, Miles Dixon

Janine: Again, both. Many programs Flawless has initiated are helping children and those who care for them in real ways, right now. But we're also raising money to create more programs, as the number of children needing help is growing significantly.

Miles: Great, we should expand. Now that I am involved--I mean I don't want be the boss or anything-- but I would like to tell my school about this, and get everyone involved. I am going to make a presentation to the Middle School at chapel. A lot of people at my school work on great things. Also, we should make sure to tell the kids we're helping that people are working for them. It would make their day!

Janine: Great ideas. Miles, we really appreciate everything you are doing. Is there anything you want to say as we close?

Miles: Yes, this is a great cause. Everyone should get involved. People should stop being so egocentric and get off the couch and do something. I feel better now that I've donated money. It's important for everyone to do this.

Celebrate the Holidays with Flawless

We love it when people celebrate the holidays around a cause. Last month, Barbara and Alice, two of our staunch NY supporters, organized a Halloween party for Flawless. The party was sensational. Knowing that their participation benefited children who face serious challenges every day, all the guests partied with gusto. They turned their night of fun into a night of purpose. As the holiday season is upon us Flawless wishes to share a few fun and creative ways to join us in creating miracles for our kids. Last year, some families decided to donate to Flawless in lieu of giving gifts to each other. One



Board of Directors at Flawless Halloween Party

family earmarked their gift to feeding a healthy meal to a group of fifty families in crisis.

Two excellent ideas worth adopting are featuring Flawless at a holiday party as Barbara and Alice did at Halloween, or including Flawless information in your holiday cards. Donating on someone's behalf is also a superb way to acknowledge those difficult-to-shop-for friends and family members. Let the staff at Flawless help you. We can provide you with expert advice and selections of beautiful material and information to assist you in joining our holiday giving campaign this season.

...and a big thank you...



Grammy Award Winning Musician, Dan Zanes, Janine Francolini and Jim Watkins, WPIX News (Honorary Co-Chair)



Darryl Strawberry (Honorary Co-Chair) with Board Members Tara Dixon, Lori Sutherland and Janine Francolini

We were thrilled to have so many friends in media, music, and sports come out to support our Perfection Party. Having Jim Watkins (WPIX News) kick the night off with his inspiring speech to listening to Dan Zanes serenade us at the end of the evening - we couldn't be more grateful. An extra - special thanks to Al Roker for narrating our Flawless DVD and to Conan O'Brien and Darryl Strawberry for all of the special autographed merchandise.

Please join us in creating miracles for the children of Flawless!



The Flawless Foundation
SEEING THE PERFECTION IN EVERY CHILD

Name _____
Address _____
Email Address _____
Amount of Donation _____
Credit Card Number _____
CCV Number _____ Exp. Date _____

For Online Donations please go to, www.flawlessfoundation.org

*If your company has a matching donation program
 please check

Flawless Foundation
PO Box 5183
Portland, Oregon 97208

“It Takes A Village”

It is the heart-felt generosity of our various supporters and corporate sponsors that has enabled Flawless to create such a significant impact in a very brief time.

Burlington Tower

The Burlington Tower is one of our greatest supporters. They recently organized a very successful Thanksgiving food drive and they are not skipping a beat with a holiday gift drive on its way. A member of the Pioneer Staff

shared with us that they really appreciate the support of the Burlington Tower. “ We are so thankful for the furniture donations. People don’t realize that the furniture serves two purposes – when a child takes time to process something on a couch with a therapist or needs a place to deescalate, it is so much more therapeutic to sit on a nice, intact piece of furniture over something that is broken and has foam coming out of it. These gifts mean so much.”

Warner Pacific College

Flawless also has an important partnership with the folks at Warner Pacific College, where we meet weekly and create fundraising and service projects. The college students have already organized clean up days, work projects, and an astonishing Halloween fundraiser. Warner Pacific is committed to Flawless’ pilot program at the Pioneer Special School and genuinely shares our vision of care for this community.

The Movement Center

We are very excited about our collaboration with The Movement Center to provide more yoga and meditation classes for the adults and children in our Flawless community. Jennie

Ehleringer, a special education teacher and yoga instructor, has joined our team, helping to create specialized trainings and classes for the children and adults of Flawless.

National Day of Service

When President Obama designated September 11th as a National Day of Service, many businesses joined our cause by donating a portion of their proceeds to Flawless.

A huge thank you to Stella & Dot, Lulu Beauty, Bob’s African Wines, Alice Hair, The Little Green Grocer, SE Grind, and Blue Sky Wellness.

Alice Hair

Alice Hair

Alice Hair (www.alicehair.com) has been such a good friend to Flawless. We were so touched when Caroline (salon manager), donated all of her wages from the National Day of Service. When we chatted with Caroline about her generosity she said, “Alice has been so passionate about Flawless that it is contagious. When she told us we would do something as a company on September 11th, I decided to donate everything. It was the least I could do... We were all so touched at the Perfection Party. I

“The small things really do count! We especially love hearing the individual stories of how our donation efforts affect Pioneer Special School as a whole. It has been a gift to us to be able to serve our community”



Bryce Butcher and Tonya Hobbs, management team at the Burlington Tower.

cried, watching the Flawless video and seeing what you have done with the teenage girls. I am a Mom, I can’t imagine struggling every day the way that these parents do. This hit home. I truly believe in Flawless.”

The love continues on in this holiday season. On December 5th, at 8pm, Bikram Yoga South Slope in Brooklyn NY, (bikramyogasouthslope.com) will be holding a special benefit class for Flawless.

Thank you to all our extraordinary corporate sponsors!



Alice Hair staff at Perfection Party at the Millennium Hotel



The Flawless Foundation
SEEING THE PERFECTION IN EVERY CHILD
PO Box 5183
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97208

Chat with Dr. Stuart Ablon

Director of Think:Kids, Mass. General and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School

One of our most exciting projects is our collaboration with Dr. Ablon of Think:Kids (www.thinkkids.org). We sponsored a conference with Dr. Ablon at Oregon Health Science University in August and had 100 physicians and mental health professionals in attendance. We are currently funding the production of a training video from that conference which will educate people all over the world about this revolutionary approach. Our video interview of Dr. Ablon was just posted on YouTube and has been viewed by over 1300 people. Below is an excerpt from this informational interview.

Janine: So, Dr. Ablon, Collaborative Problem Solving, in a nutshell...what is it?

Dr. Ablon: Well, in a nutshell, it’s actually a completely different mentality for thinking about who challenging kids are, and when I say challenging kids what I mean is, kids who can be very aggressive or explosive, but also kids who can be impulsive as well. We’re talking about a really wide range of kids who have trouble tolerating frustration, problem solving, and being flexible. And they respond in all kinds of ways to these challenges that we adults are not so wild about. And the reality is that CPS brings a completely different view of who these kids are and what they need to the table. So it’s a



Drs. Jetmalani, Ablon and McElvey with members of Flawless board at OHSU Conference

dramatic change in terms of what we make of it and as a result, what to do about it.

Janine: What’s the philosophy behind Collaborative Problem Solving?

Dr. Ablon: This is an approach that has a philosophy behind it, which is the anchor when the going gets tough. And the philosophy is very simple. It’s “Kids do well if they can”, which is just to say that if a kid could do well, he would do well. If he’s not doing well, something has got to be standing in his way, and it’s up to us to figure out what is getting in his way and how we can help.

STAY TUNED FOR INFO ON:

○ Perfection Party, NYC, Spring 2010

○ Events with Dr. Ablon in NYC

○ Rod and Racquet

Fly-fishing and Tennis Tournament, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Summer 2010

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