

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
August 11, 2022

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## Barnes & Noble to present Dr. J. Steve Rios, Author of *Oly & Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins*

MIAMI -- Author Dr. Steve J. Rios of South Florida will hold a book signing for his new work, “*Oly & Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins*,” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Pembroke Gardens Barnes & Noble, 14572 SW 5th St. Suite 10140, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027.

Dr. Rios has worked in the foster care field for 30 years. After earning his doctoral degree in education from Florida International University, Rios was instrumental in securing funding for the development of the Extra Mile Learning Center, a foster care tutoring program in Miami-Dade County. He is currently the senior director of Positive Pathways, a program of the Florida Department of Children and Families that is dedicated to helping foster youth succeed academically.

Recognizing a need to help foster youth early on build the confidence and motivation to succeed academically, Rios developed a series of whimsical, sea-themed books, which include a picture board book for very young foster youth as well as his latest work. Described as a gentle book for a sensitive topic, “[Oly and Opi: The Curious Octopus Twins](#)” is a 14-page fully-illustrated book that introduces a set of twin dumbo octopuses as they navigate their journey within the foster care system under the sea.

Rios said he was inspired to create the book as a way to break down some of the barriers he has recognized over the years in his work that hinder academic success for many. His goal is to encourage healthy discussions between foster youth and adults to turn curiosity into answers and build confidence and motivation.

It is his hope that [the adventures of Oly and Opi](#) will play an inclusive role in helping foster youth succeed academically.

“The state of Florida offers free college tuition to foster children until the age of 28, but only 50 percent of them ever get out of high school,” he said. “If I can be part of the process of getting these children early on to build their skills and motivate them to go to school, then I will do whatever I can.”

*Books will be available during the signing and are currently available on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#) in both electronic and paperback formats.*