



# The Helping Hand

The voice of Community Partnership for Children  
[communitypartnershipforchildren.org](http://communitypartnershipforchildren.org) (386) 238-4900

*We restore families, support caring relatives, connect children with loving homes and prepare adolescents for adulthood.*

## Local Walmart stores, Daytona Cubs hold Christmas in July to benefit foster children

Several local area Walmart stores and the Daytona Cubs joined together to hold a Christmas in July event to benefit local foster children.

Participating Walmart stores collected donations of new toys and clothing from shoppers, who in exchange received a ticket to the event. The event included the Daytona Cubs game, food and festivities, and was followed by a spectacular fireworks display. The event was held on July 13 at the Daytona Cubs stadium.

Santa and Mrs. Clause, along with their reindeer and sleigh, made special guest appearances. Children enjoyed meeting Santa and were even able to experience a little July snowfall.

Community Partnership for Children CEO Mark Jones threw the first pitch, and it was a strike.

"These are family fun events that help our children in so many ways. Our foster families were able to come out and enjoy a night of the great American pastime and the children receive toys and cloth-

ing," said Jones. "We are so grateful for the partnerships we have with the Daytona Cubs and Walmart."



Hundreds of toys were donated by community residents at six participating Walmart stores.

The event was organized by the Community Partnership for Children fundraising committee, a group of employees who volunteer to coordinate several events each year to benefit community children.

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**Inside this issue:**

By the numbers	2
Race for Success Camp	2
Salty Church	2
Mentor Volunteer Spotlight	3
Case Management is team-based work	4



CEO Mark Jones pictured with Daytona Cubs mascot during the Christmas in July event.



### JOIN THE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE!

Community Partnership for Children has launched its 2013 holiday toy drive. This year over 500 children will receive gifts through the program. Please join us this season!

- ❖ Adopt a child or children this season
- ❖ Help spread the word through your business
- ❖ Make a donation to the program

Call 386-566-6935 for more information.

As we enter the holiday season, we want to take time to thank our community supporters for making such a tremendous difference in the lives of our children and their families. Each year we reach out to area businesses and present opportunities for to engage in the work of child protection. Our initial conversations often lead to new ideas and unique ways for businesses to get involved. In this newsletter, we are recognizing both new and longstanding partners. I hope you enjoy reading about the unique ways local residents and businesses have found to support our children. Each is incredibly valuable and is making a tremendous difference.

I can't believe another holiday season is upon us, but here we are. We are so grateful to have you as part of our Community Partnership Family.

Sincerely,  
Mark Jones, CEO

## By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia, Flagler & Putnam Counties

**162**

Abuse Reports Every Week

**10**

Children Removed From Families Every Week

**4**

Children Able To Receive In-home Care Each Week

**1,110**

Abused Children Being Helped Today

## Daytona International Speedway, Wells Fargo sponsor Race for Success Event

The Department of Children and Families Circuit 7, which comprises Volusia, Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns Counties, organized a Race for Success event to benefit children who have been removed from their homes.

The event gave 21 local children a chance to experience a day of action-packed racing activities, including a full garage inspection, driver and crew chief interviews, a scavenger hunt, state-of-the-art video games, and a race car presentation.

The children were introduced to two-

time Rolex 24 winner Joao Barbosa. Barbosa signed autographs and joined in for pictures with the children.

"The children deserved this day. It is so nice to be able to take them behind the scenes of our area's premier sporting venue and watch how excited they are by the activities," said CEO Mark Jones. "I know they will never forget this day."

The event was sponsored in part by Daytona International Speedway and Wells Fargo. The Daytona International Speedway is a longtime supporter of

children's causes and of important programs provided by Community Partnership for Children. The speedway has sponsored a National Adoption Day event, adoption matching events, and activities for foster teenagers and their mentors. They are annual sponsors of the Friends of Children breakfast, which is Community Partnership for Children's largest fundraising event. Wells Fargo is a longtime supporter of the Community Partnership for Children mentor program, the annual holiday toy drive, and the Friends of Children fundraiser.





## Salty Church helps bring awareness about adoption, fostering, mentoring

The Salty Church in Ormond Beach held an awareness initiative on the weekend of July 27 and 28. During each church service over the weekend, the pastoral team presented information about Community Partnership for Children and encouraged members to learn about opportunities with foster care, adoption and mentoring. The effort was very successful and led 28 church members to inquire about the agency and opportunities.

Lead Pastor Robbie O'Brien and his wife Christie are adoptive parents and longtime supporters of Community Partnership for Children. The Salty

Church members have helped organize several events to benefit children in the care of Community Partnership. They have held several adoption matching events, as well as Q & A sessions, and have participated in the annual National Adoption Day events. Many church members support the annual Christmas toy drive by adopting children from the wish list and provide gifts.

A favorite event for the children has been the surf day adoption matching event, where children who are eligible for adoption are brought together with parents seeking to adopt for a day of



2008 Adoption Matching event in partnership with Salty Church.

surfing, food and beach fun. For more information about Salty Church, call 386-615-9180.

## Volunteer mentor shares love of art with foster children

Rachael Barkema volunteers with Community Partnership for Children as a mentor. She signed up for the program two years ago and has never looked back. Rachael is a student at Stetson University, currently on a scholarship with the Bonner Foundation Program Scholarship. The foundation requires students to engage in volunteer work of six hours per week.

A humanities major and art minor, Rachael wanted to find something that would involve her passion for children and her love of art. The scholarship requires students to create a Junior Legacy Video sharing what they will leave behind when they graduate. For Rachael, she will leave behind many, many changed lives.

Rachael spends time each week at The Sunshine House, a group home for girls in Deland. She shows the young residents how to make art using typical household items.

"This experience has made me more appreciative of what I have," says

Rachael. "I am very far away from my home in California and the girls are like siblings to me. This is an experience I will never forget."



Children in the Sunshine House group home learn to make art from household items, taught by Rachael Barkema.

This summer Rachael spent time on a Summer of Service mission in Africa. She worked with 150 orphans and helped restore two homes. The project is part of Bulembu Ministries. She has shared about the experience with the teenagers she works with at the Sunshine House.

Rachel says all of the children she works with seem very appreciative of little things. During a recent walk around the Stetson University campus with a foster teen, Rachel said she was humbled by how much the teen enjoyed just experiencing the campus.

"I was so afraid she would be bored, but she loved it," said Rachael. "I'm a college student, so we can't afford to do anything too extravagant. But I found it doesn't matter. They just love having someone to spend time with."

To learn more about the Mentor Program, please contact Susan Hiltz at (386) 238-4900 or visit the agency website.

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*protecting children . . . fostering family stability*

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## Case management is team-based work

More than likely you have heard the quote, "It takes a village to raise a child." In the case of Community Partnership for Children, it takes a community to save a child. The agency relies on its strong community partnerships to help design and support family and children services. Many local businesses support the agency through fundraising and outreach projects, and residents volunteer with and donate to a variety of programs. Partners coming together is what makes the agency successful with protecting the community's children.

Another very important aspect is the community of case managers the agency employs. Child Welfare is a tremendously difficult profession. It requires a high level of education and extensive training to be able to deal with the multiple issues affecting families and the trauma that results from child abuse and neglect. The

case managers work in a team environment serving as resources and mentors to one another. The teams are close knit with a focus on children.

"Our case management team does incredible work. We are very grateful for their dedication," said CEO Mark Jones.

Case managers find ways to motivate each other. Strategies include sharing notes of encouragement, hosting unit get-togethers, and regular team meetings. Pictured below, Unit 088 held a Caribbean Fun Day lunch to help boost morale.



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