



The Helping Hand

The voice of Community Partnership for Children
160 North Beach Street (386) 238-4900

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

Florida launches Partners for Promise program

In December, 2011 Governor Rick Scott and Department of Children and Families Secretary David Wilkins announced a new campaign to engage businesses with children, seniors and families across the state.

Called the Florida's Partners for Promise, the program recognizes the ingenuity and compassion so many have shown around the state and provides these ideas as a model for other programs. Community Partnership for Children submitted 37 businesses from Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties for recognition of their longtime engagement in protecting children.

"It's inspiring to watch the special ways businesses and community residents find to help our children," said CEO Mark Jones. "For example, a medical office sponsors a trip to Daytona Lagoon for 50 foster children each year. We have a church partner that hosts Question & Answer sessions twice a year promoting adoption, foster care and mentoring. We have a realtor association that holds a backpack drive to make sure children have what they need for school. These are unique ways to help and they make a tremendous difference."



DCF Secretary David Wilkins shares his new Partners for Promise volunteer initiative.

The program focuses on five key initiatives: academic success, family prosperity, healthy living, child safety, and supporting seniors. Under the program, the state's 22 lead agencies, like Community Partnership for Children, work directly with local businesses to help match them with an identified need and volunteer opportunities.

In the coming months, the Department of Children and Families Communications Office will coordinate with regional partners to schedule local press events. The events will promote Partners for Promise and recognize those businesses not in the field of child protection that are helping to strengthen their communities.

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Simon and Sammie finally find their forever family.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN BREAKFAST
Wednesday, April 25, 2012
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars to help us celebrate success through community partnerships.

Event details will be posted on the Community Partnership for Children website.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS AT



For your long-time volunteer support and sponsoring our special events.

Community Partnership for Children has been selected to participate in the Georgetown Crossover Project, and we held our first community meeting in January with 65 community leaders in attendance. The project aims to enhance communication and system design between all entities involved with children who have both dependency and delinquency involvement. We look forward to great success with this project.

As we prepare for a possible 200K budget reduction on July 1, we are moving forward with new initiatives to better engage the community and to streamline our operations. The reduction is our share of a projected statewide reduction of \$7.5M.

I will keep you updated about these and other issues in my CEO report posted bi-weekly on our agency website. We wish you many blessings for 2012.

Sincerely,
Mark Jones, CEO

By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia, Flagler & Putnam Counties

186

Abuse Reports Every Week

14

Children Removed From Families Every Week

5

Children Able To Receive In-home Care Each Week

1,443

Abused Children Being Helped Today

Brothers find forever family after four year search

Seven-year-old Simon wasn't sure he believed Steve and Sandra Hogue when they told him they were going to adopt him and his brother, Sammie. It wasn't because he didn't trust the Hogues, it was because he had heard it before, twice. Simon had been living in foster care for over three years when he and his younger brother came to live with the Hogues and their four adopted children.

This adoption was different than our others," said Sandra Hogue. "Simon had been told by two other families that he was being adopted. The process was stressful for him."

For foster children, moving between several foster homes can sometimes feel like they're being removed all over again. Hogue explained that once the adoption took place on January 26, it was then that Simon expressed his thankfulness and joy. Hogue said she could see he had finally found his "safe place, his refuge, his forever family."



"I think he finally felt like... I don't have to worry about this anymore," said Hogue.

The Hogues have been foster parents since 2005 and have provided a safe haven for 15 foster children. They have adopted five children who became eligible for adoption from foster care and one through a private adoption.

"The boys had a wonderful Guardian ad Litem," said Sandra. "She is like a

grandmother to the boys. She has been with Simon the entire four years and has really been there for him and Sammie. She has been the only person consistent in their lives until now, and we are so grateful to have her involved."

Kayla Gasper, a post-adoption specialist with Community Partnership, says new support services are being launched this year to help children like Simon deal with concerns about being adopted.

Sandra and her husband Steve, a children's pastor at Calvary Christian Center, hope to continue their work with foster children, but now in different capacities. They aren't able to foster any longer because they've reached the maximum number of children in their home to be eligible to foster.

"Even though our home is full, we will continue to find ways to work with foster children," said Sandra. "We will always be here for them."

Local restaurant, civic group come to the rescue for group home

Milton Manzueta fought feelings of despair when he learned that his group home had been robbed. Just a couple weeks before Christmas, the thieves stole nearly every piece of valuable electronic equipment from the home where four foster children reside. These included an Xbox and all its games, a Wii game, a desktop computer and laptop; all of which are high-dollar items not easily replaced.

"These boys have already gone through so much. They didn't need this," explained Manzueta, the director of Vision Ministries Outreach, a group home for boys.

Manzueta reported the incident to Community Partnership for Children, as the group home is a licensed provider for the agency. It was then that the wheels of goodwill were put in motion. A team from Community Partnership for Children reached out to local business partners seeking help for the group home. The Port Orange South Daytona Rotary Club immediately stepped up. The Rotary, which leads the agency's annual toy drive, offered to donate \$2000 from its toy fund to help toward replacing the items not covered by insurance.

Dennis Wheeler, manager of the Port

Orange Denny's, engaged his staff and provided dinner for the group home on December 20. The boys were treated to special gifts from their wish list and tickets to a movie.

Manzueta said he could hardly hold back his excitement when he was told of the donations received from the community. Susan Hiltz, mentor program manager for Community Partnership for Children, checked in on the progress after the holidays.

"This proved to the children that there are people who really do care," said Hiltz.

Churches, adoption agency and counseling center help launch support effort

Community Partnership for Children holds an average of 150 adoptions of foster children each year. The adoptions team works with local partners to help identify prospective adoptive homes for children who are eligible for adoption. In 2012, the team is revamping its post-adoption support efforts and has partnered with local businesses to get families the help they need.

Calvary Christian Center, The Salty

Church, Embraced by Grace Adoption Agency, and the Ormond Beach Counseling Center have joined the partnership and will begin holding weekly support groups for adoptive families. They will work together to focus on therapeutic needs: marital counselors, therapy for teens who have been adopted, and therapy for young children. The program follows a mentoring model where families who have been successful with adoption will be teamed with families who are in need of support.

"Adoptive parents and children who feel overwhelmed or frustrated often feel relieved when they discover that there are other families experiencing some of the same challenges," explained Kayla Gasper, a post-adoption support specialist for Community Partnership for Children.

The first meeting will be held February 21. For details, families may contact Kayla Gasper at 386-254-3904 or via email at Kayla.Gasper@cbcvf.org.

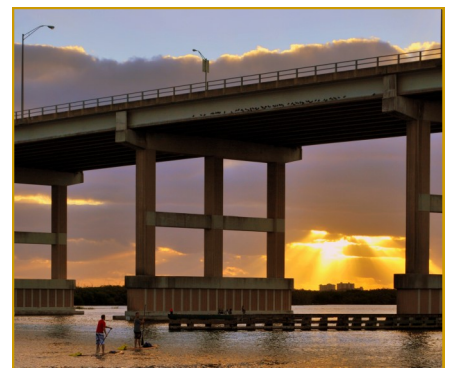
Run brings gifts and fun in time for holidays

The *Run to the Sun* officials chose Community Partnership for Children as the benefitting charity for their 2011 run. The event, held each year in New Smyrna Beach the Saturday after Thanksgiving, raised \$4500. The proceeds were used to support the Community Partnership annual holiday toy drive.

"It was a beautiful morning," said Com-

munity Partnership CEO Mark Jones. "The event had a great turnout. We couldn't be more pleased."

The run is held in honor of the late Jeff Ridgill in his hometown of New Smyrna Beach. Unique to this particular run, the route includes running over the New Smyrna Causeway giving runners and volunteers a spectacular view of the sunrise. This year's run brought 188 participants.



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Daytona Beach, Florida 32114

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Calendar of Events

Bring your family to an upcoming event to help support our programs and, most importantly, local children in need. Enjoy a great time networking with partners of Community Partnership for Children. [Details of the events are shared on our website.](#)

February 2012

- ✧ February 18 - Saturday MAPP training begins, must call to register for classes
- ✧ February 21 - Adoption Support Group Meeting
- ✧ February 23 - Foster Parent Orientation and Overview

March 2012

- ✧ March 10 - Volusia and Flagler Books-A-Million Book Fairs
- ✧ March 13 - Mentor Program Orientation and Training, Daytona Beach Office
- ✧ March 24 - Community Partnership for Children "Parking Lot Sale" (rummage)

April 2012

- ✧ April 21 - Volusia and Flagler Books-A-Million Book Fairs
- ✧ April 25 - Seventh Annual Friends of Children Breakfast

**Volusia 2012 Family Fun Coupon Books for sale! Call us at 386-238-4900.

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