



The Helping Hand

The voice of Community Partnership for Children
communitypartnershipforchildren.org (386) 238-4900

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

Community Partnership for Children partners with Forever Family and WESH 2

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Community Partnership for Children has partnered with WESH 2 and Forever Family to launch an awareness campaign about children eligible for adoption through Florida's foster care system. Each week on central Florida's WESH 2, Anchor Martha Sugalski shares the stories of children who are seeking a forever family. The coverage is drawing hundreds of requests for information from callers around the state.



WESH 2 Anchor Martha Sugalski (center) is pictured with children who are seeking a forever family.

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Gia Tutalo-Mote (L), president of Forever Family, began her adoption concept in 2002 as a grassroots initiative. The program now airs on NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX.

foster parents. Several callers have offered to donate fun activities for the children in hopes of raising their spirits while they await their forever family.

Fourteen-year-old Anthony was most recently featured on the program. He shared that his greatest wish was to be in a family with other children.

"Anthony lights up when other children are around," said Susan Hiltz, Community Partnership for Children mentor program manager.

Videos of the segments can be seen on the Community Partnership website by clicking the Adoption tab.

While the campaign was created to bring awareness to the need for adoptive parents, some callers are finding other ways to get involved including through the mentor program or by becoming licensed

8th Annual Friends of Children Breakfast

Sponsorship opportunities still available. Please call (386) 566-6935.



8th Annual Friends of Children Breakfast

Community Partnership for Children is holding its 8th annual Friends of Children breakfast event on Wednesday, April 24 at 8:30 a.m. The event is the agency's largest fundraising event and helps raise money to support several children's programs and other needs.

Information about attending and other details are available through the website at www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org or by calling Roxanne Denning at (386) 238-4900.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS AT



April and May are two busy months for child advocates. In April, we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, where we will spend our efforts creating awareness about the common causes of child abuse and what the community can do to help families in need. We will also hold our largest fundraising event, the Friends of Children Breakfast. This event showcases our outstanding programs and brings together hundreds of supporters for a morning of celebration.

In May, we recognize National Foster Care month, where we will work with our partners to create awareness about the many needs of children in foster care in an effort to gain yearlong support for children.

We each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our community. We are grateful to have you involved.

Sincerely,
Mark Jones, CEO

By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia, Flagler & Putnam Counties

183

Abuse Reports Every Week

10

Children Removed From Families Every Week

4

Children Able To Receive In-home Care Each Week

1,297

Abused Children Being Helped Today

Masco Contractor Services, Inc. puts the pedal to the metal for kids

Masco Contractor Services, Inc. has helped many charities in Volusia County through its charity-of-the-month program. Charities are referred to the company by employees. If selected as a charity-of-the-month, the Masco Contractor Services staff holds several fundraisers during the month and then donates the funds raised to the charity.

In 2012, IT Support Manager Deborah Michaud suggested Community Partnership for Children as a possible



Margo Valerien And Deborah Michaud of Masco Contractor Services, Inc. proudly present the company's donation to CEO Mark Jones

charity.

Deborah had recently adopted her young son through the Community Partnership for Children adoption program, and was grateful for the experience and the care she received from her adoption team.

Community Partnership for Children was selected as the February charity, and with racing on everyone's mind in Daytona, Deborah and her colleague Margo Valerien developed a series of racing-themed fundraisers that got engines roaring.

Departments were each assigned a race car and could complete a lap--if they raised a certain amount of money. Once they completed a lap, they could also send one of their competitors to pit road for repairs. If you were bumped to pit road, you couldn't leave until you raised enough money to finish the repairs. It was a heated competition all throughout February.

"It was very competitive," said Deborah. "Everyone loved the idea of racing against each other."



Masco Contractor Services employees donated through employee barbeques and bake sales too. Community Partnership for Children staff and board members helped collect giveaway items that could be used as fundraising incentives. Many Flagler and Volusia County businesses stepped up to help with the project: Administrators Advisory Group, Ormond Beach Florist, Sun Dollar Boutique, Woody's Barbeque, Thai Erawan Restaurant, SW Grill, Peach Valley Café, Oceanside Beach Bar and Grill, Granada Gourmet, Gary Yeomans Ford, Flagler Fish Company, Flagler Dental Association, Cooper Photography, Granada Jewelers, and High Tides at Snack Jacks.

Local family launches Niice Stuff Apparel to help children

When Rosine McCauley received a clean bill of health after going through a health scare, she decided she wanted to do something to pay-it-forward. A few days later, her husband Curt gave her information about the Community Partnership mentor program. He had received the information from friend and volunteer mentor trainer, Suzanne Steiner. Rosine knew instantly that was it; that was how she was going to pay-it-forward.

Rosine was matched with sixteen-year-old Stephen. Stephen had been in foster care since he was six years old. Rosine and Stephen slowly bonded, and although their relationship began as one of mentor and mentee, their friendship deepened. Stephen even gave Rosine a card on Mother's Day sharing that she was the closest person to ever being his mother.

Eventually, Stephen began spending longer stays with the McCauleys and Curt joined in their time together.

At the beginning, Rosine said Stephen shared more openly through text messages, something she had to get used to doing.

"Texting was a wonderful ice breaker," said Rosine. "Stephen really opened up when we started texting."

She said she struggled to learn the common texting acronyms like LOL and BTW. Her favorite though is MOM.



Rosine and Curt adopted Stephen one day after his 17th birthday. Rosine said Mentor Program Manager Susan Hiltz was instrumental through every step of the amazing journey. Susan asked Rosine to share her story as the guest speaker at the annual Friends of Children Breakfast in 2012.

"I'm not a public speaker, but I knew it was important to share our story," said Rosine, about presenting at the event.

During her presentation, Rosine shared her top 10 reasons for adopting a teen. Her No. 1 reason for adopting Stephen was the risk was worth the reward, she said.

"For all the risk you take in life, I promise that his is the one worth taking," she said. "Because of adoption, we are now three hearts that beat as one."

In late 2012, Rosine, Curt and Stephen founded a company called Niice Stuff. "Niice" is an acronym that stands for "Nurturing Individuals Inspiring Children Everyday." The company began as a vision of helping others, as a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Community Partnership for Children to support children's programs. Rosine and Curt say through Niice Stuff they hope to help more children like their son find a forever family.

Find Niice Stuff at niicestuff.com and visit their facebook page at www.facebook.com/niicestuff.

Hogue family receives DCF Visionary Award

Steve and Sandra Hogue were recently selected by Secretary David Wilkins of the State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to receive the Visionary Award. The award was presented to the Hogues by Community Partnership for Children CEO Mark Jones and DCF Director of the Northeast Region David Abramowitz in a small ceremony in December 2012 at the Daytona Beach area DCF office.

The Hogues were selected for their longtime support of and contribution to child protection. Specifically, the

Hogues, along with Calvary Christian Center, helped create a video titled *Broken*. The video featured the Hogue family members sharing their story in an effort to draw awareness of the need for adoptive parents.

The Visionary Award program launched in May 2012 and was created to recognize individuals who set the tone for excellence in building a world class social services agency. It also distinguishes individuals who go above and beyond to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families,

and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.



From left, Mark Jones, Steve Hogue, Sandra Hogue and David Abramowitz

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Mentoring program is changing lives



The Community Partnership for Children Mentor Program has matched over 300 mentors and teens who, combined, have spent over 15,000 hours of quality time together. The program focuses on extracurricular activities like going to the beach, movies or bowling. Mentors may also help with life skills activities such as school projects or help the teens prepare their resume. Some have even volunteered to teach their mentee to drive.

An unintended outcome of the program has been its natural transition to adoption. Twelve children have been adopted by their mentors since 2010. This serves as the greatest outcome for the program since the children were matched with their mentor because they were unlikely to ever be reunified with their family or to be adopted.

The team at Community Partnership is working to help other agencies implement the program across Florida. CEO Mark Jones shared about the mentor program at a recent child welfare leadership meeting. Mentor Program Manager Susan Hiltz is preparing a train-the-trainer session for the child welfare lead agency serving St. Johns County.

For more information about the mentor program, call Susan Hiltz at 386-547-2293.