



# 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.*

## Donhausers recognized as 2014 Distinguished Friends of Children

Kelly and Garry Donhauser became licensed foster parents in New York over 20 years ago. They had enjoyed being parents to their own children, and knew they could help children in need. They began the foster parent journey by helping teenage girls with a focus on supporting local families.

The Donhausers worked tirelessly with the families of each child in their care, with a mission to reunify the families and strengthen the family unit. In some cases reunification isn't possible, and the Donhausers knew there would be times when the children could not return home. They shifted their journey to include adoption, and adopted seven of their many foster children over the years.

As the years passed and they neared retirement, the Florida sunshine beckoned and the Donhausers decided to relocate. After settling in, they decided to once again open their hearts and home to foster care. Four of their adopted children were now adults and the house seemed too empty.

Since 2006, the Donhausers have continued fostering local children, and a new focus on large sibling groups. They understand that children in foster care need to be kept with their siblings, and that it's not easy to find foster parents who can take on large sibling groups.

The Donhausers have become an important part of the foster care system. Kelly serves as a foster parent mentor, and co-trains new foster parents. She also sits on the Foster Care Review Committee and

leads a foster parent support group.



Garry and Kelly Donhauser will be recognized as the 2014 Distinguished Friends of Children.

In recognition of their significant contribution, on April 30, 2014 Community Partnership for Children will proudly recognize the Donhausers as the 2014 Distinguished Friends of Children. The board of directors and executive management of Community Partnership for Children recognize local citizens each year with the Distinguished Friend of Children award, in honor of those who go above and beyond to help children in need.

The event keynote speaker is WESH 2 News Anchor, Meredith McDonough. McDonough is a volunteer mentor with Community Partnership for Children. McDonough was first introduced to Community Partnership for Children through the WESH 2 Forever Family weekly program. The special coverage creates awareness about children in foster care who are eligible for adoption and seeks to find them a forever family.

One segment featured the Community Partnership for Children mentor program and drew McDonough's attention. She will share about her journey as a mentor.

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**Join us!**

**9th Annual**  
**Friends of Children Breakfast**  
brought to you in part by  
our Gold Sponsors:

Administrators Advisory  
Group  
Security First Insurance  
Daytona International  
Auto Mall  
and  
Walt and Suzanne Steiner

Wednesday, April 30  
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
The Plaza Resort and Spa  
Daytona Beach, FL  
RSVP required by April 20  
386-254-3915

It's hard to believe we are approaching the middle of the year already.. Something new since January 1 is the law extending foster care to age 21. Since January, three young adults have opted back into care and more are expected. The biggest challenge for our young adults is maintaining employment and housing.

We continue to develop programs to help children and families succeed. This is certainly work we cannot do alone, and we are forever grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Mark Jones, CEO

### By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia, Flagler & Putnam Counties

**176**

Abuse Reports Every Week

**4**

Children Removed From Families Every Week

**4**

Children Able To Receive In-home Care Each Week

**1,060**

Abused Children Being Helped Today

## Event planners donate 300 build-a-bears to local children

As part of its annual Rejuvenate Marketplace event, Collinson Media and Events donated over 300 bears from the Build-A-Bear luncheon to Community Partnership for Children. Community Partnership for Children was invited to attend the event as guests of Collinson Media and Events.

Rejuvenate Marketplace is an innovative, appointment-only trade show designed specifically with faith-based meeting planners' needs in mind. Their reverse trade show concept was designed to streamline the planning process, saving time and money. The

tradeshows offer education from industry experts and networking opportunities to help meeting planners plan more effective and efficient events.

Rejuvenate Marketplace is produced by Collinson Media and Events, a senior leader in the meetings, travel and tourism industry.

The faith-based community is one of the strongest supporters of adoption from foster care. The event brought together hundreds of faith-based meeting planners and gave Community Partnership for Children the opportunity

to create awareness about local children and the need for adoptive parents, foster parents and mentors.

The beautiful handmade teddy bears were used as gifts with Community Partnership's annual Christmas Toy Drive. The toy drive is led by the Port Orange South Daytona Rotary. Each year, over 500 local children receive Christmas gifts through the program.



## Community Partner Spotlight: Kidds Are First

Kidds Are First, Inc. is an Ormond Beach-based non-profit agency advocating for children in the foster care system. The agency is 100 percent volunteer managed, with all funds and donations being used to meet the needs of local children. Community Partnership for Children wishes to spotlight Kidds Are First for its significant contributions to local children and families.

The team at Kidds Are First partners with many agencies involved in the foster care system to provide clothing and household items to families and children in need. The agency also provides funding for extra curricular activities for foster children, when other funds aren't avail-

able. In the past several years, the team at Kidds Are First has helped hundreds of children with back to school clothing, prom attire, and extra curricular activities. They have provided household items such as beds, high chairs, and car seats. Children also receive books, educational software, and school supplies to help them get back on track with their studies.

Kidds Are First provides clothing and items to families through a volunteer run boutique store. The items are free of charge, but allow the children the experience of shopping in a store.

If you are interested in learning more



Kidds Are First operates a boutique store specifically for foster children and families in need.

about this tremendous agency, visit [www.kiddsarefirst.org](http://www.kiddsarefirst.org), or call the office at 386-492-5500.

## Masco Contractor Services, Inc. helps children cross the finish line

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 hold several fundraisers during the month and then donate the funds raised to the charity.

Community Partnership for Children was selected again as the 2014 February charity, and with racing on everyone's

mind in Daytona, the team launched a series of racing-themed fundraisers that got engines roaring.

Masco Contractor Services employees donated through employee barbeques and bake sales and events. Community Partnership for Children staff and board members helped collect giveaway items that could be used as fundraising incentives. The effort raised over \$7300.00.



Masco Contractor Services, Inc. raised over \$7300 to support children.

## National Adoption Day: Celebrating Forever Families

Every November, Community Partnership for Children celebrates National Adoption Day. It's a national celebration held to bring awareness about the need for adoptive families for children in foster care.

"National Adoption Day is like Christmas for child welfare workers," said CEO Mark Jones. "These children finally have the peace of mind knowing they will be with a family forever."

On National Adoption Day, live adoptions are held in front of an audience of family members, child welfare agencies and the court system. Community Partnership for Children held its event on November 8, 2013.

If you would like to learn more about adoption from foster care, please call 386-238-4900 or visit our website at [Communitypartnershipfochildren.org](http://Communitypartnershipfochildren.org).



Anthony and his mother Joyce celebrate the start of their Forever Family.



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## Presents with a Purpose: Gifts that keep giving

Community Partnership for Children provides many programs and services to help children and families. A primary mission is to engage the local community with the agency programs to help create awareness and build support. The annual holiday toy drive is one of the most successful community programs to date.

Led by the Port Orange South Daytona Rotary, the toy drive brings together hundreds of residents, churches and local businesses to help provide Christmas gifts for children involved with the foster care system. While the gifts bring delight on Christmas morning, the community partnerships last the whole year through.

Projects like these have helped recruit foster families, adoptive families and mentors for children in foster care.



Above: Palm Coast Marina donated gifts and gift cards for the Mentor Program.  
Below: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority makes their annual delivery of toys.



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