



# The Helping Hand

The voice of Community Partnership for Children

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

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## Mentors make a difference for youth in foster care

Stacy, a seventeen year-old foster youth, was apprehensive and unenthusiastic when her case manager told her another adult was going to be involved in her well-being.

"Who knew that in the next year, this person would inspire and motivate me to anticipate the opportunities ahead of me. Jennifer has given her time, family and love to me, and I don't know where I would be without the kindness that she has so warmly offered," said Stacy about her mentor, Jennifer Ferguson.



Ms. Ferguson presented as the keynote speaker for the Fourth Annual Friends of Children Breakfast on January 7 and shared her experience as Stacy's mentor.

The Community Partnership for Children Mentor Program was launched in 2006 with funds raised from The Race to Independence fundraiser. The program pairs community volunteers with teenagers in foster care.

"Our goal is to match these children with a caring role model. Someone who can be their friend and guide them as they approach adulthood," explained Ron Zychowski, Community Partnership for Children CEO.

At the breakfast event, Zychowski talked about the many business partners involved with Community Partnership for Children saying, "Our business partners have found creative ways to get involved with our children and are truly making a difference."

The event agenda included comments from two local business partners. Margaret Conn of Riverside Bank shared about the financial basics training program Riverside Bank offers teens in foster care and Leteshia Bell of Burgoyne Properties shared of the company's support during the annual holiday toy drive.



The 2009 Distinguished Friend of Children award was presented to United Way President Ray Salazar for his longtime work as a child advocate. He was recognized for his service as the Chair of the Community Alliance and his leadership on the Community Agenda. His work with the Department of Children and Families and with Community Partnership for Children helped to move the system forward by bringing a strong sense of community involvement and accountability to the Child Welfare System in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

"Time and time again, regardless of the audience, Ray reminds people that the children in the Child Welfare System are our children, not just wards of the state, and they are our community's responsibility," said Ron Zychowski.

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Send your sweetheart flowers this Valentine's Day and help protect a child from abuse. Details on page 2.



You can help Community Partnership for Children earn \$25 through H&R Block's Non-profit Referral Program.

Thank you. Our Fourth Annual Friends of Children Breakfast was a tremendous success. Each year, more and more of our community partners step up for abused children, and in these difficult economic times, this speaks volumes about the passion of our community for our children. I am both humbled and proud to be a part of this effort.

With half of the operating year completed, we have both success and challenges to acknowledge. Our intensive In-home Diversion Program operated by Neighbor to Family has served 89 children, keeping families together and children out of foster care. We have 125 fewer children in the dependency system and 139 fewer children in Out-of-Home care. Despite these achievements, there are still too many children in Out-of-Home care for more than 12 months. In concert with our partners, we will continue to build on our success and meet our challenges.

Sincerely,

Ron Zychowski, CEO

### By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties

**152**

Abuse Reports Every Week

**8**

Children Removed From Families Every Week

**8**

Children Reunited With Families Every Week

**1,346**

Abused Children Being Helped Today

## Wrong number, right connection

For this quarter's *My Day With*, I wanted to share with you the amazing connection I made from a wrong number.

A woman named Sandra Hogue called my extension on a day in early summer 2007. Sandra was calling to inquire about services for a young foster child in her care and had been connected to my extension by mistake. I talked with Sandra about the little boy in her care and put her in contact with someone who could assist her. While speaking with her though, I learned of the tremendous passion she and her husband Steve have for helping foster children.

I was so impressed with their story and

knew that others would be as moved as I was if they met her. I began sending Sandra our newsletter. As time passed and our friendship grew, I invited her to speak at our Friends of Children Breakfast. She agreed and shared for our guests how her life as an adoptive mother has blessed her beyond what she ever had hoped.

Sandra's and Steve's passion for children led them to begin an orphans ministry in their church, Calvary Christian Center. The ministry spawned participation in the National Prayer Day for foster children, a foster parent recruitment effort, and most recently provided Calvary Christian Center as the host site for a National Adoption Day celebration held on November 15,

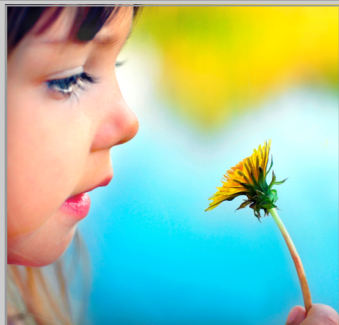
2009.



The Manfre's adopted two year-old Jordan on National Adoption Day, hosted at Calvary Christian Center.

Whenever I see Sandra, I am always thankful for her phone call and for making such a great connection for our children.

By Jo Lynn Deal



### Send a sweetheart flowers this Valentine's Day and help protect a child from abuse.

Sending flowers to the special people in your life will help protect a child in your community from abuse. Order your flowers, candy, or gift through [ytbtravel.com/cpc](http://ytbtravel.com/cpc) and a donation will be made to Community Partnership for Children.

To learn more about the children you are helping, contact Jo Lynn Deal at (386) 944-4709 or visit [communitypartnershipforchildren.org](http://communitypartnershipforchildren.org).

## Non-profits look to new strategies to deal with budget cuts

by Skip Lilly

Today's economy is presenting new challenges within the non-profit sectors. Top leaders of these organizations are having to reinvent the internal processes of their operations to become leaner and more productive, all while continuing to deliver the services they provide to the community.

Leaders recognize that utilizing experts outside of their organization is a key way to deliver value directly to the needs of their business. It's like getting a shot of expertise in the arm, with service, support, and a lift of administration. The cost to outsource is much less than the cost of adding staff.

Non-Profits like Community Partnership for Children have partnered with the services of Vision HR, a full-service Human Resource Company offering customized human

resources management, payroll, benefits administration, business insurance, and staffing services. By making the move, Community Partnership for Children receives the expertise and support it needs to spend less time on transactional HR. Instead of working on all the logistics of having employees, the staff concentrates on strategic HR, which is the planning of workforce direction and development. More time can also be spent on improvements of policies and procedures to better attract and retain good employees. This in turn helps Community Partnership for Children with recruitment and turnover reduction, and ultimately the services the children receive.

Ron Zychowski, CEO of Community Partnership for Children said, "Vision HR has partnered with us to make us more competitive as an employer in

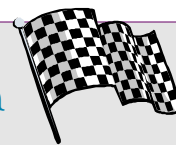
our industry. As a result, we have reduced turnover, become more efficient, and have improved our employee satisfaction, all with the help of experts at Vision HR."

As non-profits try to reinvent themselves over the next year, looking to a helpful partner like Vision HR could dramatically affect the bottom line and also be a lifeline to many of these leaders making the tough decisions to operate under today's economic pressures.

Vision HR is headquartered in Daytona Beach servicing the Southeast United States.

Vision HR - [www.vision-hr.com](http://www.vision-hr.com)  
347 S. Ridgewood Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
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## Daytona International Speedway reaches out to at-risk children



Often recognized for its community involvement, Daytona International Speedway is behind many programs to help at-risk youth.

The Neighborhood Watch for Education Program works in partnership with Westside Elementary School in Daytona Beach. The program engages the community adjacent to Westside as a No Fail Zone for students. The speedway has sponsored and coordinated two block parties in support of the program, bringing together parents, teachers and students.

"The staff at Westside Elementary School is completely involved with the project. Involvement from the school is required for the program to be successful," explained Donna Sue Sanders, the speedway's Director of Community, Governmental, and Local Affairs. "We have seen the community unite in such a dramatic way. We now have homework houses for children,

neighbors helping neighbors, and most importantly a community helping its children to succeed in school. These children have a great team in their corner."

The Winners Circle is another program sponsored by the speedway. The program is in its 15th year and serves at-risk children in local high schools. There are currently six schools participating in the program.

Schools identify students on the edge of dropping out and suggest enrollment in the Winners Circle. Working with guidance counselors and teachers, students regain focus on their education. If they perform well, they receive incentives like a tram tour, tickets to the Gatorade Dual, visits with the Thunderbirds, and job shadowing. The program lasts throughout the school year and concludes with a celebratory end of year luncheon.

The Racing to Read is a program now

in its 5th year serving K-12 students. In this program, students are given a bookmark and must complete various reading assignments within a given timeframe. Completion of the program provides a certificate of completion, and tickets to a truck race or the Daytona 500 experience. Since its inception, 15,000 students have completed the Racing to Read program.

The speedway is a longtime partner to Community Partnership for Children supporting many programs serving local foster children. Most recently, the speedway offered to provide activities for the Mentor Program. Mentors and their mentees will now be able to enjoy a track tour as an outing.

"An activity like visiting the speedway is a great way to spend time with a young person. It is something fun to do for both of you," said volunteer mentor program coordinator Suzanne Steiner.





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**Sandy Weiland**  
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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. For details on these events, please visit our Web site. **To get involved, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at 386-944-4709.**



### February 2009

✧ February 10: Hope for Children network meeting, Beachside Church Ormond Beach  
✧ February 27: Back-to-school BBQ

### March 2009

✧ March 19: Mentor Orientation and Training session

### April 2009

✧ April 16: Second Annual **Dine Out To Prevent Child Abuse** event

## VCHD Tobacco Prevention Program invests in children



The Volusia County Health Department Tobacco Prevention Program provides resources to the community on tobacco prevention and the dangers of using tobacco products. The program is a new partner with Community Partnership for Children.

In June, the Tobacco Prevention Program signed on as an exhibitor and sponsor supporting the *Duffel Bags with Love* event. Over 100 duffel bags were collected at the event and funds were raised to support the Inspiration Grant Program. Most recently, the Tobacco Prevention Program helped sponsor the Friends of Children Breakfast, which raised \$42,000 in support of services for children.

On average, people start smoking between the ages of 13 and 14, and many are regular smokers by age 15. One initiative to prevent teenagers from smoking is the SWAT (Students Work-

ing Against Tobacco) Program. The County program is a statewide initiative created by teens for teens and works to prevent tobacco use by youth and young adults through education, role modeling, and youth advocacy. There are several SWAT teams already established in Volusia County. All are working together to make a difference. Learn more about this initiative at **[Volusiaswat.com](http://Volusiaswat.com)**.

To learn about all services of the VCHD Tobacco Prevention Program, visit **[volusiahealth.com/tobacco](http://volusiahealth.com/tobacco)**.

### Join the mission... make a difference

Here are some ideas:

- Make a donation today.
- Sponsor an adoption matching event or sponsor one child to attend the event.
- Donate giveaway items for distribution at community events.
- Provide advertisement for our special events, foster & adoptive parent recruitment, and mentor recruitment.
- Hold a fundraising event.
- Volunteer.

**Questions? Please call 386-944-4709**