



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.

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11
MAY 2009**

A farewell from CEO Ron Zychowski



April 20, 2009

Dear friends of children,

It is with deep appreciation of having had the opportunity to serve the communities of Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties, that I announce my resignation effective April 24, 2009. I reflect on my time at Community Partnership for Children with great warmth and extraordinary fondness. I will be joining Eckerd Youth Alternatives in Clearwater Florida. This will be a great opportunity for me to touch the lives of children and families across Florida and in several other states.

Prior to working in the field of child welfare, I served in the United States Army for 25 years; I can tell you my role in child welfare has been one of the toughest challenges in my career. This is a difficult business dealing with critical issues that affect the lives of our community's most vulnerable, our children. I am grateful for the freedom I was allowed to lead this agency in the best interests of those we serve.

During my four years serving as CEO, I relied on my team for their expertise and vision to implement deliberate and well-planned change in our system of care. Our strong community partnerships, outstanding relationship with the local Department of Children and Families staff, and the excellent performance of those in the field doing the work, have led us to be regarded as one of the top performing child

welfare agencies in the state of Florida. We do this work in a completely transparent setting, reporting to our stakeholders and the public all of our results, whether good or bad.

Reflecting on my tenure, I wish to remind you of some of our greatest and recent accomplishments: we have significantly reduced the number of children and families in the dependency system; we have a mentor program that is connecting youth with strong role models in our community; and our diversion efforts have reduced the number of children who had to suffer the trauma of being removed from their families. I am also very proud of the fact that three members of our management team have gone on to lead their own agency.

Our distinguished Board of Directors has begun the search for a new CEO. They accept this task with the utmost respect and attention it deserves. Rachel Smith, our Senior Vice President of Operations, will take the helm as the interim CEO.

As we continue working to redefine child welfare, the time will come to begin real prevention and community building activities. Family by family, neighborhood by neighborhood, zip code by zip code, we along with a host of partners need to do the hard work of eliminating the scourge of substance abuse, domestic violence, and economic hardship that produce this outcome we know as child abuse. This work needs to be done in the home, at the kitchen table. It will take a significant effort to change existing service designs across disciplines and build the collaboration necessary to achieve significant change. Our Board will ensure a CEO disciplined for the challenge is hired.

On behalf of children in need,

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Children needing families find hope with Heart Gallery | 2 |
| Spring Fling gives children a chance to have fun | 2 |
| Foster teen to attend national youth leadership forum | 3 |
| Area Wal-Marts support good works | 3 |
| Calendar of events | 4 |
| "Dine Out" brings families together | 4 |

Chrome Divas
"Hand of Hope" Poker Run
to benefit
Community Partnership for Children
promoting children, saving family stability

Sunday June 7, 2009
Registration \$100 - 11:00 a.m.
Pub \$4
1000 \$50 all New Jersey Beach
Last Day Out - 11:00 a.m.
\$2000
Featuring: 2007 W. State Fair #10, Celine Dion, Westwood & Lounge
1000 W. Westwood Blvd, Del Mar

LAST STOP:
White Eagle Lounge - 3333 N US 1, Kenner
Last Day In - 1:00 p.m. 2008 #1
\$10.00 Single Entry - \$25.00 2-Day Entry
\$5.00 Extra Band
BBQ, Music, Prizes, & Fun!

Free Cotton & Bonnets at Registration while they last
First 100 Riders Get FREE T-Shirts!
50/50 DRAW PRIZES & RAFFLES

**BEST HAND \$200
Worst HAND \$50**

Chrome Divas
www.chromedivas.com

Chrome Divas to host
Hand of Hope Poker Run
on June 7... Details inside!

**Free
Coffee & Donuts
at Registration
While They
Last**



**First 100
Riders Get
FREE
T-Shirts!**

"Hand of Hope" Poker Run



to benefit
Community Partnership for Children
protecting children...fostering family stability

**50/50
DOOR PRIZES
& RAFFLES**

Sunday June 7, 2009

Registration 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Pub 44

1889 SR 44, New Smyrna Beach

Last Bike Out ~ 11:00 a.m

STOPS

FoxHead - 280 N. State Rd 415, Osteen

OB's Restaurant & Lounge -

1750 N Woodland Blvd, DeLand

LAST STOP:

White Eagle Lounge - 5533 N US 1, Korona

• Last Bike In ~ 3:00 p.m. SHARP!

\$10.00 Single Rider • \$15.00 2-Up Riders

\$5.00 Extra Hand

BBQ, Music, Prizes, & Fun!

**BEST HAND
\$200
WORST HAND
\$50**

**Digital
PRESS inc.**
A Division of Brochure Displays Inc.

<http://newsmyrnafl.chromedivas.com/chapter/chapter.cfm?ID=297>



Children needing families find hope with Heart Gallery



Ashley Gonzalez has wanted to be a mother for as long as she can remember. When she learned of the thousands of children across America who are eligible for adoption from foster care, she and her husband began the steps to making their dream of having a family come true. They registered for the required parenting classes and began to work with the adoption team at Community Partnership for Children. While learning more about the children awaiting a forever family, Ashley decided to do even more. In August 2008, she co-founded and launched the Heart Gallery of Volusia, Flagler, and Putnam, Inc.

Found online at www.heartgalleryhope.org, the gallery is modeled after many other successful Heart Galleries through-

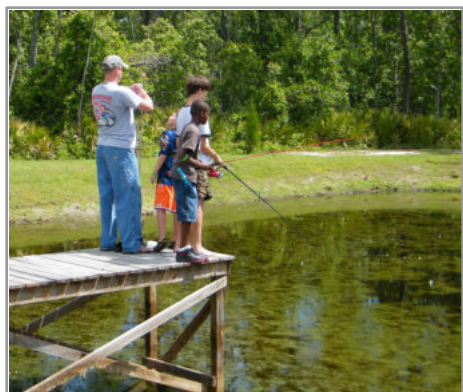
out the United States. It includes portraits of local foster children available for adoption, and was designed with the primary initiative to bring awareness to the tri-county community about the need for more adoptive parents.

The Heart Gallery story began in 2001, when New Mexico Adoption Specialist, Diane Granito, decided to match children available for adoption with professional photographers. The dramatic portraits became a traveling exhibit that put a face on this invisible population of children needing permanent families.

The local Heart Gallery also includes a travelling display of portraits of children and is hosted at area businesses for about four to six weeks at a time. Any business wishing to host the gallery simply needs to offer the space to do so and contact Ashley at (386) 338-1815 or at Ashley@heartgalleryhope.org. Businesses may host the full gallery, consisting of 30 photographs, or choose from the "mini-galleries" consisting of fewer photos.

Heart Gallery
Volusia, Flagler & Putnam, Inc.

Spring Fling gives children a chance to have fun



Ten year-old James was delighted to feel a tug at his fishing line. With the confidence of a seasoned fisherman, he lifted his fishing line from the pond to find a pretty good size fish. Fishing is a favorite pastime for James, so when he

was invited to attend an activity-filled Spring Fling in DeLeon Springs, he jumped at the chance.

James and about 20 more children spent a Saturday afternoon in April at the home of Nita and Lee Patten. The Pattens volunteer for Community Partnership for Children, which led them to host the adoption event. Children roamed the five acres of property engaging in a variety of activity stations: haircuts and manicures, splashing in the pool, volleyball, and a pirate-themed jungle gym.

At least twice per year, the adoption team at Community Partnership for Children hosts matching events where children who are eligible for adoption from foster care spend a fun day with prospective parents. The setting

provides a relaxing atmosphere where the children and prospective parents can spend time together and get to know each other.



Foster teen to attend national youth leadership forum in Atlanta

At 17, Heather is an outgoing teen with a 3.5 grade point average; she is involved in school sponsored sports and is set to graduate in May 2010 from a high school in Putnam County. She has accomplished all of this while residing in foster care.

Heather volunteers at her church to help in the nursery twice per month and teaches the children's church class once a month. Her love of helping people and being around



children has led to aspirations of becoming a pediatrician.

Marcia Parker, Heather's Human Biology teacher, nominated Heather to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) in Medicine, a non-partisan educational organization founded specifically to prepare the nation's highest achieving secondary school students for a career in medicine. These students are specially selected for their scholastic merit, strong leadership potential, and future professional career potential.

Some of the most prestigious and technologically-advanced medical institutions and schools such as the UCLA School of Medicine, John Hopkins University, and Harvard Medical School, participate in the Forum. Hundreds of outstanding physicians

generously give of their time to the Forum. Students examine state-of-the-art diagnostic tools and future medical specialties in detail and gain a valuable head start toward a career in medicine.

Heather has saved \$600 of her own money to apply toward the program expenses. She has also been fundraising to help cover the \$2,300 cost of attending the Forum. She was awarded funds from the Inspiration Grant Program at Community Partnership for Children, and has received generous donations from Dr. Bhaskar Golla, the Palatka Masonic Lodge, and the Putnam County Shrine Club. Heather also recently applied for a scholarship through the Forum. With her steadfast determination, it's no doubt she will attain success.

Area Wal-Marts support good works



The Wal-Mart Foundation is proud to support the charitable organizations that are important to its customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Wal-Mart's founder, Sam Walton, introduced the philosophy, "operate globally, give back locally." Wal-Mart has continued with this philosophy and supports many deserving local non-profit organizations.

Under the Good Works program, each neighborhood Wal-Mart is able to

determine what charitable organization its associates would like to support. Because of the Good Works dollars and volunteerism provided by the Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach Wal-Marts, Community Partnership for Children has been able to provide toys for hundreds of children each holiday season, and has been able to enhance existing programs supporting local children in foster care.

The Deland Wal-Mart has helped to provide emergency clothing for children brought into foster care, and most recently supported the Spring Fling adoption event by providing funds to cover food and transportation expenses. The donation from Wal-Mart was essential to the event's success.



Wal-Mart Good Works Program has helped provide toys for children over the holiday season, supported child abuse prevention programs, and provided food at special events for children.



Community Partnership for Children
Corporate Office
160 North Beach Street
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
CommunityPartnershipforChildren.org
Phone: (386) 238-4900
Fax: (386) 238-4880

Board of Directors

Bill Griffin, *Chair*
Willie Marie Smith, *Vice Chair*
Joe Bendix, *Treasurer*
Dr. Janice Allen-Kelsey, *Secretary*
Ursula Amon
Doug Daniels
Jeralyn Delis Lowe
Terrill Hill
Kristy Presswood
Dr. B. J. Primus-Cotton
Dr. Carl Schwenker

Executive Management Team

Rachel Smith
Interim CEO
Senior Vice President/Operations

Bill Babiez
Senior Vice President/CFO

Jo Lynn Deal
Chief Development Officer

Karin Flositz
Vice President of Quality Assurance
and Contracted Services

Sandy Weiland
Vice President of Clinical Services

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.**



June 2009

✧ June 7: Chrome Divas Hand of Hope Poker Run - **Motorcycle not needed to participate!**

August 2009

✧ August: Mall Mania Event
✧ August 8: Soak-A-Server event at JT's Seafood Shack in Palm Coast

November 2009

✧ National Adoption Awareness Month

For details on all events, please visit our Web site: communitypartnershipforchildren.org.

2nd annual *Dine Out To Help Prevent Child Abuse* brings back the family meal

Eating at restaurants instead of cooking at home has become more common as our society becomes faster paced. However, on April 29, dining out served more of a purpose than just saving time and effort; it helped save children. On Wednesday, April 29, participating local restaurants donated a portion of that day's sales to Community Partnership for Children to support local child abuse prevention services.

Community members wanting to help the cause dined at one of the 20 participating restaurants. Each restaurant's management then donated a portion of all non-alcohol sales for that day. Restaurants included Ormond Beach's Charlie Horse Restaurant, Stonewood Grill and Tavern, and Frappes North; Daytona Beach's Angell & Phelps Café, Bay Street Seafood, Bob Evans, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Heavenly Ham, HoneyBaked Ham, Subway, and Zen Bistro; Deland's Tony's Pizza; Port Orange's Bob Evans, Daily Grind Burgers, Marble Slab Creamery, and Ritter's Frozen Custard; New Smyrna Beach's JC's Restaurant; and Palatka's Niko's Pizza, Musslewhite's Seafood, and Beef O'Brady's.

April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise

awareness about child abuse and neglect, and encourage the community to support children and families in need.

Dine Out was part of a month-long Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Campaign and provided an opportunity for community businesses and residents alike to join together in the fight against child abuse. Today there are 1,200 local children in protective care.

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