



# 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 12**  
**AUGUST 2009**

## Community Partnership for Children welcomes new CEO

The Board of Directors of Community Partnership for Children announced William (Bill) Babiez as its selection to serve as the new chief executive officer for the agency. Mr. Babiez officially took his post on July 2.

"Bill Babiez is the perfect person to take the organization to the next level," said Kristy Presswood, Community Partnership for Children board chair. "Mr. Babiez has the needed experience and the passion and vision that we were looking for in a new leader."

Presswood said Babiez was selected after a two-month search that attracted more than 30 candidates.

As the new CEO, Babiez leads a staff of approximately 160 providing lead agency services in child welfare for children and families in Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties. Babiez began his career in child welfare services nine years ago with the Florida Department of Children and Families. He then served in several districts under Florida's community-based care lead agency effort developed to privatize child welfare.

Babiez has a track record of organizational growth through leadership, strategy and management. He was an internal candidate for the position and most recently served as the Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer of Community Partnership for Children. In this role, he directed the financial management, information technology, human resources, and administrative support roles of the agency.

"This extraordinary opportunity allows me to continue the work I have committed to over the past nine years," said Babiez. "This is a critical time for all non-profits. My immediate focus will be to continue the strategic initiatives set forth by the executive management team and our committed Board of Directors. These initiatives focus on reducing the number of children and families in the dependency system, strengthening our community and legislative outreach efforts, and ensuring we continue to be a fiscally sound organization."

Babiez replaces former CEO Ron Zychowski who left in April to work with Eckerd Youth Alternatives.

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## Inspiration Grant Update

Children in foster care long to live normal lives and while the road to reunifying with their parents is sometimes long and difficult, the team at Community Partnership for Children and community partners strive to help them in every way possible. In June 2004, the Inspiration Grant was formed by Rotary Clubs throughout Volusia and Flagler Counties. The clubs

developed the Inspiration Grant as a means to ensure local children who are placed in foster care are given the opportunity to participate in sports, arts, and extra-curricular activities. Since the program began over \$63,000 has been raised and 159 wishes have been granted for children. To learn how you can get involved, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at 386-944-4709.

**Thank You Dillard's**  
for supporting the

**Community Partnership for Children**  
*protecting children... fostering family stability*  
**Back to School Shopping Event**

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Together, providing over 300 local children with back to school clothes.

Children enjoy a back-to-school shopping spree at Dillard's!

## Local businesses put the cool in back-to-school



Each year Community Partnership for Children holds back-to-school fundraisers so that every child in foster care in Volusia, Flagler, and Putnam counties can buy new clothes for the start of the school year.

This year's event took on a new twist. Dillard's department store offered to give each child an extra \$50 and hold several sales so that children could buy even more clothes. Chic-fil-A in the Volusia Mall offered coupons for discounted meals so that

families could make a day of the shopping.

Foster youth often face restrictions which limit their ability to live normal lives. Community Partnership for Children strives to help youth in foster care to participate in age-appropriate, extra-curricular, and social activities. As the first day of school can often bring about extra anxiety for youth, having a nice new outfit can boost self esteem and take the edge off of the first day jitters. The children enjoy the experience of wearing something new that they picked out for themselves.

The event would not have been possible without help from local sponsors. A special thank you goes to signature sponsors Riverside Bank and Security First Insurance for supporting the event.



The Daytona Beach Area Association of Realtors continued with its "Adopt a child" backpack program this year and assisted 70 children in the care of Community Partnership with Children. The children each received backpacks stuffed with supplies, clothes, and goodies.

## Back-to-School Drive: Join the back to school efforts



As children in our community will go back to school in August, the team at Community Partnership for Children is preparing hundreds of children for the first day of school. The children in care will not only be dealing with the anxiety that comes with the start of a new school year, they will also be carrying the burdens of living in foster

care, possibly having to start a new school, trying to meet new friends, and coping with the abuse that has affected their life.

The greatest tool toward helping children who have been abused is to instill normalcy in their life. Whether we provide them with a new back pack, or back to school clothing, or therapy to help them cope with the trauma of child abuse, all of the efforts make a difference in healing a child.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a pledge card to donate towards our back to school appeal. Our success with our children continues to rely on the partnerships we have formed with the

community. We cannot do it without you.

**Please consider making a donation to help a child during this special time of year.**



## Mentors give time, change lives



Everyone needs someone to look up to in life, and when Community Partnership for Children developed its mentor program, the key initiative was to connect youth in foster care with a caring role model. The program, which has been underway for over two years, has been fantastic according to the

feedback received by the teens enrolled.

The mentor program serves foster youth between the ages of 14 and 17 who will most likely age out of foster care without the hope of reunifying with their family or being adopted by another family. At a recent meeting of the Volusia Manufacturer's Association, mentor Tiffany Pryor shared her experience as a mentor to an audience of 50 VMA members.

"We do anything and everything together," said Tiffany. "what has affected me the most is Jessica telling me that she feels free when she's with me."

Tiffany spends at least two to four hours a week with Jessica. Most

recently, she enrolled Jessica into a summer art program at the Casements in Ormond Beach. Tiffany picks Jessica up each morning and takes her to the class. Tiffany was able to receive funds from the Inspiration Grant to pay for Jessica's art lessons.

Mentors and their teens have found many creative activities to do together, from trips to popular amusement parks, to ball games, or picnics at the beach. The most important part of meeting with their teen is just spending time together. Mentors through their actions are showing the teens that someone cares about them, they are important, and there are good people in this world who care about you.

To learn about the mentor program, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at 386-944-4709.

## New Smyrna Chrome Divas host Hand of Hope Poker Run



The **Chrome Divas** is a ladies only motorcycle group consisting of both riders and passengers, and even some non-riding women who just love motorcycles and participating in charity functions.

Originating in Tallahassee in 2002, Chrome Divas was formed to provide a means of camaraderie, community participation, and a national link to all women who ride motorcycles. The members strive to be known as outstanding citizens in their communities with a preference to ride, have fun, and share their talents and compassion in group effort.

The New Smyrna chapter of the Chrome Divas, founded by Linda Callahan, selected Community Partnership for Children as its 2009 charity.

On June 7, the ladies hosted the Hand of Hope Poker Run and raised over \$3,000 for the agency. The ladies made donations to three programs at Community Partnership for Children: the back-to-school clothing project, the Inspiration Grant program which provides money for foster youth to participate in extra-curricular activities, and the Independent Living program to help youth who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

"This is a great group," said CEO Bill Babiez, "I can't express how much this means to the children they have helped. This was a fun event for all who participated and it made a difference for many children."



Participating riders show off their Hand of Hope Poker Run t-shirts at Pub 44.





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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.**



### August 2009

- ✧ August: Dillard's Mall Mania Event
- ✧ August: Back-to-School fundraising
- ✧ 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](http://communitypartnershipforchildren.org).

## JT's Seafood Shack hosts 3rd annual Soak-A-Server event to support adoption efforts



On August 8, JT's Seafood Shack of Palm Coast hosted its third annual "Soak A Server Charity Fundraiser". This year's event proceeds benefited Community Partnership for Children's adoption efforts toward finding loving homes for local children.

"Much of our success will always rely on help from the community. We were so excited to be selected as the beneficiary for this event. The more people who help us create awareness about the need for adoptive parents, the sooner these

children will have a place to call home," said Bill Babiez, chief executive officer for Community Partnership for Children.

The event featured live music from the bands Seaweed and the JW Gilmore band. Activities included a silent auction, raffles, and the popular dunking booth, where restaurant servers along with local business owners, community figures, and members of the Community Partnership for Children team sat for a chance to be dunked.



### 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**