



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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Port Orange South Daytona Rotary leads toy drive for 500 children

Have you ever had trouble figuring out the perfect gift for that special someone? Consider the challenge of shopping for 500 children! This is a task the Port Orange South Daytona Rotary graciously undertakes every November. This year's drive marked the Rotary's 8th annual Holiday Toy Drive for Community Partnership for Children.

Each year, chairperson Jennifer Ferguson of Raymond James convenes her team of fellow Rotarians, business colleagues, friends, family and partnership staff.

"The magnitude of so many children without a family at Christmas time moves many people in our community to help," said Ferguson. "I became involved over 10 years ago when I was asked to help with adopting a child. My efforts have grown over the years to leading the effort through the Rotary and becoming the chairperson of this great project. Every year I am moved to tears by the children's requests and the outpouring of love from



Toy site volunteers smile big, celebrating as the last gift is carefully put into place for delivery.

the community."

The effort is run like a well-oiled machine with volunteers busily working to grant holiday wishes. The true meaning of the season shines through as each gift bag is neatly packaged and placed in line for delivery to an anxious child.



Governor Crist selects Sandra Hogue as Point of Light for National Adoption Month.

Mentors open hearts and home to teen for Christmas holiday

Don and Sharon Lerner joined the Community Partnership Mentor Program last summer because they wanted to be personally involved with helping foster children. Once cleared through the program and finished with the required training, they were matched with 12-year-old Josh.

Each week, the Lerner's spend quality time with Josh doing fun activities any teenager would enjoy. Don has played a one-on-one basketball game with

Josh, taken him to a Daytona Cubs game, and has taken him bowling, fishing and golfing. Sharon has joined in for dinner and a movie and a recent visit to St. Augustine.

On Christmas Eve this year, Josh stayed with the Lerner's and enjoyed a true family-style holiday celebration. They watched classic holiday movies, baked chocolate chip cookies, and then tried to sleep despite the anticipation of Christmas morning. Josh said

this was his second best Christmas ever; it was second only to one other year when he saw his sister during Christmas.





Hammock Gardens in Palm Coast hosted an ARTober Fest event on October 24 and 25 to benefit Community Partnership for Children. Over 20 Flagler area artists exhibited a variety of art mediums: delicate ceramics, scenic photography, stained glass,

wood work, and handcrafted jewelry.

Artists and their creations were nestled among the bountiful blooms and lush landscaping in Hammock Gardens. All participants donated entry fees and a percentage of sales and together raised over \$1,600 for Flagler area foster children. The event was the thoughtful idea of owner Janine Regina, who is considering becoming a mentor to a foster child in the next year.

"This was a fantastic event," said CEO Bill Babiez. "We greatly appreciate the support we receive from local businesses. The more people we



Susan Zeigler of River End Glass Studio in Palm Coast exhibited a beautiful smile and exquisite glassware at the ARTober Fest.

involve in our children's lives, the better their futures will be."

Ocean Walk Shoppes host Halloween Boo Bash



Children of all ages entered the "Not-So-Scary" haunted house through the grave yard walk, pictured above.

The Halloween Committee made up of

Community Partnership for Children staff recently coordinated a "Not-So-Scary" haunted house for local children. The haunted house was among many of the activities children and families enjoyed at the Ocean Walk Shoppes Boo Bash on Saturday, October 24.

"These events help tremendously by engaging community support for our children," said CEO Bill Babiez. "Everyone is able to have a great time and also learn of the many ways they can get involved. We use these opportunities to share about our

Mentor Program and other volunteer programs."

At the event, a team of students from the University of Central Florida volunteered to help collect donations and sold raffle tickets raising \$200 to support Community Partnership for Children. The students selected Community Partnership for Children as the benefiting agency for a class project. They have held several fundraisers in an effort to support the agency: bake sales at Riverside Bank; online donation fundraisers; and a variety of special activities.

Sewing group offers love in stitches to children

The Love in Stitches Sewing Group has donated dozens of hand-made quilts, blankets and stuffed animals to infants and children who come into protective care at Community Partnership for Children. The fellowship group is part of the First United Methodist Church of Port Orange on Dunlawton Avenue.

Group members meet on Monday mornings, joining together for fellowship and stitching. Children who receive a blanket and stuffed animal may keep the treasures for life as they are regarded as tender comfort during what is often a very traumatic and difficult time.



National Adoption Day celebrated November 21



Saturday, November 21 was celebrated as National Adoption Day, to create awareness about those children who are still waiting for a forever home.

In Volusia, Flagler, and Putnam counties, there are 131 children eligible for adoption, of which 30 children have not been placed with a family.

This year's celebration took place at the Daytona International Speedway in the Bill France room.

Eight adoption ceremonies were held for children as young as 2 and as old as 13 representing Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties.

"There was so much family support for the children. It was amazing," said Case Manager Supervisor Deneese Moore.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Beth Beekman, helped co-found the Heart Gal-



Pictured from left Doug Gonzalez, Judge Margaret Hudson, Ashley Gonzalez and in front Aquila Gonzalez

lery of Volusia, Flagler and Putnam, Inc. Ms. Beekman shared of her support of public adoption through her efforts with the Heart Gallery. The Heart Gallery is a traveling display of photographs of local children who are eligible for adoption.

"This room is filled with people who care, and who love and who give with all of their hearts," said Beekman.

Beekman's Heart Gallery founding partner, Ashley Gonzalez and her husband Doug played a personal role in the event and adopted their daughter Aquila.

"Today we officially became a family," shared Ashley with her Facebook friends immediately following the ceremony. "We are Doug, Ashley and Aquila Gonzalez."

With the exception of National Adoption Day, adoption ceremonies generally take place in the courtroom and are closed to the public. On this day however, families can volunteer to hold the ceremony in a public celebration. While private forms of adoption can cost upwards of \$30,000, adopting one of Florida's children costs little or nothing. The required MAPP training class and home study are provided free of charge, and even court costs and fees can be paid by Community Partnership for Children.

For information on public adoption, visit the Community Partnership for Children Web site or call the information line at 386-254-3766.

Volunteer Sandra Hogue chosen as Point Of Light by Governor Crist

Community Partnership for Children nominated Sandra Hogue as a Point of Light volunteer for her many efforts to support adoption from foster care. Sandra and her husband, Steve not only promote adoption, they practice what they preach. The couple has adopted two children from foster care and two through private adoption.

Sandra was selected for nomination for the many efforts she has helped organize through her church, Calvary Christian Center. Sandra helped found the All for Children Ministry at Calvary Christian Center with the

support of her fellow church members and Steve. The ministry offers support services for foster and adoptive parents. Sandra and her team also worked to make the state-required Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) training for prospective adoptive parents more readily available.

"Sandra is a kindhearted and passionate volunteer who generously dedicates her time to securing permanent, loving homes for children in foster care," said Governor Crist. "Her commitment to children in foster care is inspiring, and I am grateful for her compassionate

efforts as she continues to make a difference for children throughout our state."

Sandra actively volunteers with Community Partnership for Children and has assisted with events like the October Matching Event, a quarterly effort to bring prospective adoptive parents together with children eligible for adoption, and PAIRS post adoption training for adoptive parents. Sandra also participated in last year's National Adoption Day Celebration as a member of the planning committee and helped organize the venue and recruit volunteers.



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Calendar of Events

Fall is for family. 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. **To get involved, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at 386-944-4709.**



January 2010

✧ Disney Give A Day, Get A Day - Volunteer a day with Community Partnership for Children and receive a day at Disney. How magical is that? Visit our Web site for details.
 ✧ January 21 - East Central Florida Foster-Adoptive Parent Association Meeting

Upcoming Meetings and Events

✧ April 28 - 5th Annual Friends of Children Breakfast

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

International Academy hosts fashion show and silent auction



The International Academy hosted its second annual Fall Fashion Show featuring wedding, formal and prom apparel. The event included a silent auction to benefit Community Partnership for Children, and was held on Friday, December 4 and raised nearly \$1,000 to help fund extra curricular activities for children in foster care. As an entry fee, guests also brought an unwrapped toy donation to support the local Toys for Tots.

Several local vendors and merchants donated items for the silent auction. Bidders selected from dozens of items: a thrilling sky-diving experience; an elegant dinner for two at La Crepe En Haut; and exquisite designer jewelry by Premier Designs.

Leading the nation's beauty schools in excellence, International Academy offers cosmetology, massage therapy,

spa, skin care and nail technician training for future beauty industry leaders.

Any local resident can take advantage of discounted salon services offered at the school. Treat yourself to a day of pampering without breaking the bank.

The academy's world class school facility offers accredited programs for students interested in becoming a beautician, cosmetologist, massage therapist, beauty salon owner or spa professional.

Learn more about these exciting career opportunities at www.iahd.net. Or contact the academy at 386-872-4247.

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