



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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Mentor relationship changes lives of teen and mentor

Jennifer Ferguson was among the few enrolled in the first class to receive mentor training at Community Partnership for Children. She was matched shortly after her training with then 15-year-old Stacy Mosby. Now 18 and a full-time college student, Stacy shared how “Jennifer changed my life,” during a recent speech. Mosby made a surprise visit and presentation at the 5th Annual Friends of Children Breakfast, where her mentor Jennifer Ferguson was receiving the 2010 Distinguished Friend of Children Award.

As a foster child, Mosby was first skeptical of the Community Partnership for Children Mentor Program. She didn’t believe that she had time for yet another person who wanted to give her advice.

Mosby laughed as she explained, “I was wondering who was this white woman coming here thinking she is going to help me?”

Mosby was convinced that Ferguson was only trying to check off her ‘good deed’ box. But that changed during the early morning drives to school when Ferguson would pick up Mosby and drive her from her Deltona home thirty miles to her high school in Daytona Beach.

“We got to know each other. I couldn’t believe she was taking the time to do this for me,” said Mosby about the weekly drives to school.

It was clear that Jennifer’s actions during their relationship have greatly influenced Stacy. Stacy mentioned the tireless hours Jennifer spends each Christmas organizing the annual toy drive for foster children.

“To Jennifer, it’s not just about giving the



Stacy Mosby (L) and mentor Jennifer Ferguson

child a gift. She asks each child for three wishes and she really tries to grant the child’s wish. She stays at that toy site until midnight to make it happen,” marveled Mosby.

Ferguson shared her philosophy on mentoring, “You don’t need to be perfect, you just have to be committed.”

Ferguson promised to be there for Stacy in the years ahead, through college, planning her wedding, and starting a family. She called upon Stacy often in her speech, and at one time stopped to say, “I love you. I will always be here for you.”

Later in the program, event speaker Tiffany Pryor shared a similar story about her relationship with her teen Jessica.

“I didn’t know if I would be a good mentor,” explained Tiffany. “I was going through a lot of changes when I joined the program.”

Despite a hectic schedule as a first-year nursing student and working two part-time jobs, Pryor made the commitment to the Mentor Program. She spends each Thursday evening with Jessica doing things Jessica loves to do like taking walks and going to McDonald’s.



Camp Sib brings weekend of fun to foster children, page 3



Featured Community Partner: Hardy Smith, page 4

R.O.C.K. Fashions opens July 9 to support local foster children

Community partner Tomoka Christian Church is launching a new ministry to assist foster families. Beginning Friday, July 9, R.O.C.K. Fashions will open its doors the second Friday of each month. The ministry operates a free "clothing store" for area foster families. With donations from generous supporters, clothing and other items are made available to those in need. The ministry accepts new or very 'like new' clothing.

Founder, Barbara Shoner says "We are accepting trendy, new or very 'like new' clothing. Especially for the teens, we want area foster children to feel like they fit in, not stand out."

The store will open the second Friday of each month and operate out of the Tomoka Christian Church café from

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to collect, wash and sort clothes as well as to work in the store.

Foster families who would like to use the services of the store should contact their Community Partnership for Children case manager at 386-238-4900 or contact the Tomoka Christian Church program leader Barbara Shoner at 386-569-9999.

Donations of new or like new clothing are accepted at Hayworth Creative Public Relations. Drop off is available Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Hayworth Creative is located at 700 West Granada Avenue, Suite 100, in Ormond Beach.



R.O.C.K. Fashions is accepting clothing donations to assist local foster children

Kids pick up speed at adoption matching event



Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines. Those words marked the start to many individual go-cart races at a recent adoption matching event. Close to 30 foster children gathered for the April matching event at Speed Park in Daytona Beach. Speed Park served as a co-sponsor of the event.

Speed Park General Manager Dan Clark is a longtime advocate for adoption, as he was adopted by his parents from the New York State foster care system.

"I will do everything I can for these children," said Clark. "We're very happy to help."

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.

At April's event, the children enjoyed two hours of go-cart racing and turns at the many video arcade games followed by a catered dinner.

Nine-year-old Hannah said, "This is so much fun. I get to drive by myself."

And drive by herself she did, getting in line again and again for about six different trips on the track.

The April event was also sponsored in part by a team of UCF students as part of their Cornerstone Business Class curriculum. The students held several fundraisers to raise money for the catered dinner. They also volunteered at the event riding shotgun with children on the go-cart rides and offering help at the video games.



Case managers begin using new technology during visits with children

In May, Community Partnership for Children implemented new technology to improve the safety of foster children. Part of a statewide effort, the new technology is operated through a Blackberry phone given to each case manager.

Children in foster care are visited by their case manager at least monthly, and depending on the situation, sometimes more often. One measure used to ensure the safety of every child in care requires case managers to take a photo of each child every

month. The new technology is called Remote Data Capture and it allows case managers to take a photo of a child using their phone and immediately upload it to the Florida Safe Families Network, the system used to record information on children in foster care.

The new technology also has a GPS function that timestamps when and exactly where the photo was taken. This measurement is important because the case management team is required to visit children in their

home setting so that the safety of the child is continuously monitored.

Case management supervisors will receive automatic reports through email each month showing the performance of their team.

"We are continuously looking for ways to improve the quality of care for children," explains Bill Babiez Community Partnership for Children CEO. "When lives are at stake, we need to use every means possible to ensure our children are safe."

Brothers and sisters separated in foster care reunite at camp

While there are programs in place to keep siblings together in foster care, the goal is not always possible. Some children are separated and are only able to see their siblings during occasional visits. Until the children can be reunited, there is Camp Sib.

The weekend of May 21st marked the third year of Camp Sib held at camp La-No-Che in Lake County. The event, which is sponsored by the Department of Children and Families and a partnership with Central Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America Camps, brings foster children who have been separated from their sibling(s) together for a weekend family reunion.

About 100 children in foster care, ages

6 to 17, came from around the state to camp out from May 21 through May 24. They enjoyed the entire camping experience: sleeping in tents, participating in many outdoor activities, and wrapping up the day with a late night campfire.

Camp Sib was created by participants of the 2008 class of the Child Welfare Leadership Program. In 2009, the Camp Sib initiative received the Davis Productivity Award, an award developed in 1989 presented by Prudential Financial and sponsored by Florida Taxwatch to recognize employees who exceed performance.

One of the program's original creators is Jancy Long, program operations

administrator with Community Partnership for Children. Long and other Partnership staff volunteered to help organize this year's camping event and guide campers through the memorable weekend. The camp is operated entirely by staff volunteers who go above and beyond to ensure its success. Their mission is steadfast, to make a difference in the lives of these children.

Community Partnership for Children Records Administrator and volunteer Frances Koski explained the importance of the initiative, "This is a positive time in their lives that they will never forget...for some it may be the only positive contact they have or will have with their sibling."





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Calendar of Events

We're seeking opportunities to partner on fundraising events. Enjoy a great time networking with partners of Community Partnership for Children. **To get involved, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at 386-944-4709.**



June 2010

- ✧ June 17 - Foster/Adoptive Parent Association Mtg.
- ✧ June 18 - Kidds aRe First Benefit Concert

July 2010

- ✧ July 9 - ROCK Fashions at Tomoka Christian Church
- ✧ July 10 - Adoption Matching Event
- ✧ July 13 - Mentor Program Orientation and Training

Featured Community Partner: Hardy Smith



This issue's featured community partner is Hardy Smith of Hardy Smith Consulting in Daytona Beach. A longtime Daytona area resident, Hardy is no stranger to active community involvement. He has an extensive background in both leadership and volunteer role involvement with non-profit, community, and volunteer based organizations. As a speaker and trainer he has generated results nationwide for groups needing assistance with fundraising, sponsorships, membership (recruitment, activation, and retention), leadership development, public relations and promotions, motivation, event planning, and increasing organizational effectiveness.

Hardy has put his experience with non-profits to work with his personal involvement with community and volunteer organizations. Most recently he has been active in the Daytona Beach/

Halifax Area Chamber of Commerce and the FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County schools, and has served as chairman of VCARD (Volusia County Association for Responsible Development), chairman of Embry-Riddle University's Athletic Association, and coach of Junior Eagles Basketball.

In June, Hardy will begin work with the Community Partnership for Children Board of Directors to provide Board members with training to continue organizational success. Visit hardysmith.com to learn more about his consulting services.

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 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