



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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Third Annual Friends Of Children Breakfast Celebrates Adoptive Families, Recognizes Judge Hubert L. Grimes

A group of 150 friends of children gathered together on January 9 at the third annual Friends of Children Breakfast in support of Community Partnership for Children. The signature fundraising event raised \$30,000 of much needed support for children's services.

The Daytona Beach Kiwanis Club, Daytona Beach College, and Merrill Lynch - the BCH Group joined as Partnership Sponsors for the event. The event program opened with testimony from Van Canada of Riverside Bank highlighting the correlation of community partnerships with the success for children in care. Riverside Bank was recognized as Community Partnership for Children's signature partner for efforts in providing sponsorships, volunteers, and support throughout the year.

Sandra Hogue, an adoptive parent with her husband Steve, shared her testimony about the blessing of providing a forever

family to children eligible for adoption.

Judge Hubert L. Grimes was honored as the Distinguished Friend of Children for his lifetime of work with children and families. Judge Grimes presides in the family court division with assignments that include Juvenile Delinquency, Dependency, Domestic Relations, Drug Court, and Unified Family Court.



Judge Hubert Grimes (left) is presented with the Distinguished Friend of Children award by CEO Ron Zychowski.

Dine Out

to prevent child abuse
on April 16th
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Adoption FUN Gathering Brings New Resources To Families

Community Partnership for Children proudly announces the launch of **Adoption FUN Gathering** (Families Unit-ing Network), an adoption support group where adoptive families provide each other with support, guidance, empathy, and suggestions. The network will strengthen families and provide new support systems within the community.

The first meeting was held on January 24 with future meetings planned monthly. Families enjoyed a hot spaghetti dinner

provided by Olive Garden on International Speedway Boulevard. Following dinner, parents began discussions and the children were teamed with community volunteers who kept them entertained with crafts and treats.

Other new initiatives include an online support guide available for new parents at the CommunityPartnershipforChildren.org web site. The program will soon add a chat room as an additional resource where approved adoptive families can interact.



Children teamed with youth volunteers and enjoyed creative activities at the first Adoption FUN Gathering.

Our success continues to rely on our great friends within the community. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our team, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the support we receive from you.

Today we are caring for 1,299 children. In executing our mission, our team is resolutely focused on our children. We have a steadfast belief that the best place for children is with their own family, and that the family is the most important resource we work with on behalf of our children. For this reason, the objectives of reducing the number of children in the dependency system, reducing the number of children in foster care, and providing permanent families through adoption have been the direction of our operations. We have more to do and we thank you for continuing to support our community's children.

Sincerely,
Ron Zychowski, CEO

By The Numbers Child Abuse

Volusia and Flagler Counties

158

Abuse Reports Every Week

10

Children Removed From Families Every Week

13

Children Reunited With Families Every Week

1,299

Abused Children Being Helped Today

My Day With Shawn

Each quarter we highlight a service or role within Community Partnership for Children. The design of the "My Day With" column is to give you an inside look at the great work performed at Community Partnership for Children. In this edition, it is a pleasure to highlight our most important focus, our children.

On Saturday, January 19, I spent a wonderful morning with Shawn, a 15 year old in foster care. Having signed up for a cooking lesson at Frappes North in Ormond Beach, we prepared, then devoured, prosciutto wrapped shrimp, filet mignon on crostini, seared Ahi Tuna, and Cajun fried oysters.

While I gobbled up my portions, I watched as Shawn pushed a third of his aside. He then quietly asked Chef Bobby for a to-go box. I asked Shawn if he was taking some home to eat later, but he explained that it was for his foster mother. He said he always tries to think of her and to remember to bring her something from his outings.

Our cooking lesson mixed more than great food, it provided a sense of camaraderie. By the end of our time together, Shawn and I were fast friends.

During our drive home, Shawn shared that he is on the JV football team, has a great girlfriend, and does well in school.

Shawn also shared that he "doesn't mind" being in foster care even though he somewhat reluctantly shares his room with two younger boys. He would love to talk his foster mother into giving him his own room, but that might involve construction.

At one point, Shawn broke a rare moment of silence and said, "I am going to be adopted some day."

I was speechless, torn between offering encouragement and remaining silent. What came next was hard for him to say, and very difficult to hear.

"I was almost adopted once, but the parents changed their minds," he said.

Silent no more, I told Shawn that he was one of the sweetest young men I have met in a long time and that he had a great deal to offer the family who would be lucky enough to adopt him.

He wholeheartedly agreed.

There are over 60 children eligible for adoption through Community Partnership for Children. Many longing to have someone watch them play football, help them study for an upcoming exam, or simply spend a Saturday morning learning how to sear Ahi Tuna. Community Partnership for Children has a fantastic adoption team working tirelessly to find them each a loving home. Please join the mission and help by spreading the word.

You can learn more about adoption by visiting our website at CommunityPartnershipforChildren.org.

By Jo Lynn Deal

A Match Made In Heaven



Several times a year, the Community Partnership for Children adoption unit holds matching events where approved prospective parents are joined with children who are eligible for adoption for a day of fun. The outings are informal and relaxing and are designed to put everyone at ease.

Our most recent outing, sponsored by

community partner Embraced by Grace Adoption Agency, brought children and families from three counties together for a day of big carnival proportions.

Children, parents and volunteers enjoyed face painting, rock climbing, dancing, clowns, games, and a hot barbeque fit for a king.

If you're wondering if these events make a difference, just ask eight year old Emily, who was matched with a loving family whom she met at the event. Emily and her prospective parents continue to schedule visits as they move toward becoming a forever family.



Dine Out To Prevent Child Abuse

Dine Out is a family fun event and part of a month-long Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Campaign. Dine Out provides an opportunity for community businesses and residents alike to join together in the fight against child abuse.

On **Wednesday, April 16**, we are enlisting families, friends and professionals to visit a participating

Dine Out restaurant. Our restaurant partners will donate a portion of the day's sales to Community Partnership for Children.

Join a good friend for dinner, take the family out for a family meal, or enjoy some "me time" and dine alone. Whatever your preference, you can make a difference.

Join us April 16th at a participating

restaurant for *breakfast, lunch or dinner.

For more information visit our website or contact Ernest Hamilton at (386) 239-6685 or through email at Ernest.Hamilton@cbcvf.org.



(*breakfast and lunch may not be served at all participating restaurants.)

2008 Youth Outreach Campaign

Community Partnership for Children will launch a Youth Outreach Campaign on February 1st. The campaign will focus on engaging youth in the community with the mission of the agency.

"Engaging responsible youth in our mission brings a unique perspective to helping the children in our care while also providing the youth with the opportunity to develop socially and civically. We want our youth

volunteers to gain an understanding of and sensitivity to community issues," said Community Partnership for Children CEO Ron Zychowski.

The Youth Outreach Campaign will provide activities for youths of all ages ranging from volunteer opportunities and internships to coloring contests and dining out.

To learn about upcoming activities, visit communitypartnershipforchildren.org.



Youth Outreach Campaign activities will include many new volunteer opportunities.



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Calendar of Events

Come join us at an upcoming event to help support our programs and, most importantly, the 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.**



March 2008

✧ March 7-9 Johnsonville Brat fund raiser

April 2008 National Child Abuse Prevention Month

✧ April 16 - Dine Out To Prevent Child Abuse

May 2008

✧ Inspiration Grant Appeal

June 2008

✧ June 7 -Duffle Bag With Love event

July 2008

✧ Back To School Appeal

Wheels Of Good Fortune

The sky is now the limit for 13 year old Paul who was the lucky recipient of a brand new bicycle this January. Paul's foster mother recently submitted an application to Community Partnership for Children's Inspiration Grant Program, seeking a bicycle for Paul.

"He needed the bicycle for work," explained his foster mother. "Paul will travel around the neighborhood in search of odd jobs that need to be done. He will do things like mow lawns, landscape, and clean the garage."

The Inspiration Grant provides funding for extra-curricular activities for children, such as football and dance. The grant unfortunately does not cover items like bicycles, and therefore Paul's application could not be approved.

This is when the wheels of good fortune were put into motion. Longtime agency friend and member of the Inspiration Grant Committee, Joe Brumenschenkel felt every child should have a bicycle and offered to provide one for Paul. From there, Ernest Hamilton, Community Partnership's Director of Community Relations sent out an email to all staff in search of someone who

lived near Paul who could make the delivery. The call for help was answered by contract manager Becky Symons who delivered the bicycle to Paul on her way home from work.

"I felt honored to be the person to deliver the bike," said Becky. "I felt proud of both the young man and the foster mother's very appreciative attitude. The hug touched my heart and made me feel good about our staff."

Join the mission...make a difference

Here are ways you can help a child:

- Make a donation to support our program of care.
- 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 parent recruitment, and mentor recruitment.
- Hold a fundraising event.
- Volunteer.

Questions? Please call 386-944-4709