



# 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 2, ISSUE 7  
MAY 2008**

**Inside this issue:**

## Duffle bags with love and family fun day event

Ormond Beach community partner Hampton Inn is hosting a duffle bag drive and family fun day to help children in foster care. The event is **Saturday, June 7 from 10:30am to 2:00pm.**

“Learning that children often have to store their belongings in garbage bags broke our hearts. We want to help and this is a way we can give back and also encourage our employees to get involved in the community,” said Angela Payne-Jelenic, Director of Sales for Hampton Inn in Ormond Beach.

The primary goal of the event is to collect new duffle bags, which will be given to children as they enter foster care. Since July 2007, 404 local children have entered foster care; an average of 45 children each month.

“Children deserve somewhere nice to store their belongings. These items mean something to them. As a community, we need to show the children that they mean

something to us,” said Ron Zychowski, CEO for Community Partnership for Children. “We chose duffle bags because they are very durable, can easily be stored with the investigators, and will be readily available when needed.”

Fun for the entire family, the event will include clowns, face painting, an exhibitor section, and entertainment.

**The price of admission is easy; bring one new duffle bag per family (up to five people) for entry.**

Riverside bank will be on hand grilling delicious burgers and hot dogs. Demonstrations will be held by local businesses and organizations to include karate, crafts, and CPR. A complete list of activities and vendors is posted at [www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org](http://www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org).

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are still available. For more information, contact Ernest Hamilton, Director of Community Relations at (386) 239-6685.

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**RIVERSIDE BANK**

Support Community Partnership for Children with the Riverside Bank Community Partners Program. Details inside!

## ‘Dine Out’ event saves time, effort, and most importantly children

On April 16, dining out served a greater purpose than saving time and effort, it also helped save children. Hundreds of Volusia County residents dined out in support of the first annual **Dine Out To Prevent Child Abuse** event. Patrons chose from 16 area restaurants which each donated a portion of the day’s sales to Community Partnership for Children.

“The Dine Out was a great event,” said Joe Bates of the Ormond Beach Stonewood Grill and Tavern.

“The event is a great way for us to help children in our community,” said Meryl Frappier, co-owner of Frappes North. “One of our staff members also donated a portion of her tips that evening. Everyone really wants to help.”

The event would not have been a success without the help of University of Central Florida business students who adopted Dine Out as their team project. The students helped secure restaurant partners, promote the event throughout the community, and each

dined at a participating restaurant.



UCF students (L) Roza Peretta, Stacy Nugent, Yulia Wallace, and Robyn Winkler.

Dear Friends,

I was interested to learn from a newly released national survey that 49 million Americans have considered adoption from foster care, yet a majority of Americans hold misperceptions about the foster care adoption process and the children who are eligible for adoption. Community Partnership for Children has a dynamic adoption team in place working to find homes for local children. This fiscal year, 137 children have been adopted as a result of our team and our community, and the list will continue to grow.

Our work continues to positively impact local families. We ask that you please consider exploring ways to join our mission.

Sincerely,

Ron Zychowski, CEO

**By The Numbers  
Child Abuse**

Volusia and Flagler Counties

**162**

Abuse Reports Every Week

**11**

Children Removed From Families Every Week

**15**

Children Reunited With Families Every Week

**1,278**

Abused Children Being Helped Today

**My day with case manager trainees**

The *My Day With* column gives me the opportunity to spend a day in another's shoes and gives you the opportunity to learn about the many vital roles at Community Partnership for Children. Over the past year, our column has highlighted a day with a case manager, a foster mother, an adoptions specialist, a records manager and a teenager in foster care. Each of these experiences can be found on our website at [www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org](http://www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org).

For this issue, I spent the day with case manager trainees; five brave soldiers for children. Our first order of the day was to attend Permanency Staffings. Permanency Staffings are meetings held periodically during a child's time in care to determine the best permanent solution for the child. The case manager, supervisor, legal counsel, guardian ad litem, and foster parents meet in a room and work together to determine what is best for the child.

The trainees and I observed two staffings. This day was emotionally

exhaustive for me and the trainees. In one case we reviewed, the parents had only two tasks to complete in order to be reunited with their child. None of us could surmise a reason why they wouldn't complete two such seemingly reasonable tasks. It has been two years. I can't imagine what affect this has had on the young girl they brought into this world.

On the positive side, in another case, the father had begun substance abuse and parenting classes before we even had his two young children brought to us. He accepted responsibility for his neglect and has been exemplary in his efforts, more than many other parents we have seen.

The next part of my day was spent with ESI Staffings. These are Early Services Intervention meetings, which are held with the protective investigators and our program operations administrators. We review the cases of children as they are brought into care.

Our first case involved three young children ages 2, 4 and 9 whose mother had left them with inadequate

supervision to go out of town. The babysitter, just 20 years old, skipped out on the job and left the children unsupervised. When the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was called in to investigate, the 9 year old was so worried about a science project that was due the next day, she couldn't even realize what was happening. I was so impressed to learn the DCF protective investigator stayed with the children until 10:00pm at their foster home and helped the 9 year old build a volcano (because it was the only thing the investigator new how to build for a science project).

The next case we reviewed involved abuse so egregious that I cannot share the details. I can say that it numbed me to my core and brought me to my knees that evening.

I am thankful for our case management team who has been called to do this work. I know our children are in good hands. Everyone worked so well together and steadfastly aligned in support of the children.

By Jo Lynn Deal

## Stamp & Deliver, delivers help and hope to local children



Fun rubber stamps and scrapbooking accessories fill the shelves of Claire deMontigny's quaint South Daytona store, but a love of children and a passion to make a difference fills her heart.

Claire has selected Community Partnership for Children as a special agency for her business to support during 2008. She has spent the first few months of the year holding creative fundraising events in an effort to reach her annual donation goal.

As the owner of Stamp & Deliver, Claire has held cookie recipe swaps, scrapbook classes, and card sales. Most recently, about 15 of Claire's most loyal clients attended her silent auction which independently raised over \$700 toward her annual goal.

"I am amazed and inspired by Ms. deMontigny's support. She is the perfect example of true community partnership," said Jo Lynn Deal, Chief Development Officer for Community Partnership for Children.

Claire's efforts not only raise funds to support a variety of children's services, they also provide an opportunity to generate much-needed awareness about child abuse and the local children who are surviving abuse. Visit Claire's store at 3133 South Ridgewood Avenue in South Daytona.

## Who would want that baby anyway?

by Bill Whelan

My wife Lisa and I were born in Connecticut and lived there until 1998 when we moved to Florida. In 1994, in addition to our four "biological children" who ranged in ages 3 to 8, we decided to become foster parents to infants. Lisa was a delivery nurse in Stamford, and I had no problems with changing diapers, midnight feedings, and all the rest that comes with taking care of babies. On one Sunday in October 1996, Lisa went to work and one of her assignments was to escort out of the hospital a new mother who was going home. Lisa wondered why the mother did not have her baby with her, but she didn't pry.

Lisa then went back up to the nursery to look at the baby who was left behind. She asked one of her co-workers why the mother left the baby there. The reply she received was, "Who would want that baby anyway?"

Lying under warming lights with tiny patches covering her eyes was a baby born premature with Down Syndrome.

Lisa responded, "I would take her."

Since Lisa and I were licensed foster

parents, Lisa contacted the Department of Children and Families and Abigail was placed with us. We adopted Abby in 1998.

Later that year we moved to Florida. Five years later, there was a little boy born at Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach. He was born substance exposed, with a broken leg from being born breach, and suffered from Down Syndrome and Tracheal Malacia. His mother signed over her rights on the day of his birth. Unfortunately, no one was interested in a baby with so many medical issues.

A former colleague of mine suggested Lisa and me as prospective adoptive parents and we received a call on "Holy Thursday" (which was the same day that the Adoption Committee met with us in Connecticut and approved us for Abby 7 years before). Naturally my wife jumped at the prospect of the baby. All that was left to do was to convince me. We were off to the Neonatal ICU to see baby Noah. I sat in a rocking chair holding this three-day-old infant with wires coming off of him in every direction and oxygen going into him to help him breath. We have had him ever since and adopted him in December 2004. We receive a

subsidy from the state of Florida because of his special needs.



Noah (L) blows a kiss for the camera while he and his sister Abby trick-or-treat on Halloween.

Abby and Noah are truly miracles unto themselves and they bring a lot of joy into our lives. On the other hand, they have destroyed so many things in our house... that the only two antiques left in the home are my wife and me.

Bill Whelan is the Adoptions Supervisor with Community Partnership for Children. To learn more about adoption, please call (386) 254-3766.



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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.**



### May 2008

- ✧ Inspiration Grant Appeal
- ✧ May 19 - National Foster Care Prayer Day, Calvary Christian Center
- ✧ May 24 - Parenting Isn't For Cowards, Calvary Christian Center

### June 2008

- ✧ June 7 –Duffle Bags With Love & Family Fun Day, Hampton Inn Ormond Beach

### July 2008

- ✧ Back To School Appeal

### November 2008

- ✧ Glenn Wilkes Classic

## Would you be able to answer these questions?

Nearly everyone who owns or has access to a computer has at some point received the email that shares samples of the comical, life-related questions asked by children. Sometimes the questions are so thought provoking like, "Why doesn't the earth roll away from the sun?", we have to recall a professor's lecture or thumb through an old text book to answer. Then there is always the reliable Google option. Serving as the link to answers for everything ever asked, Google certainly makes it easy to answer the tough questions.

Let's move on to questions posed from children who have been abused; questions that all of the education, training and Googling in the world won't make any easier to answer.

For example, case manager Amber Collins had to find a way to comfort seven year old Jenaro when he asked, "Why doesn't my mommy love me?"

Over the many years that Amber has cared for children, she recalls being asked at least 15 or 20 times, "Can I go home with you?" and "Will you be my mommy?"

Difficult questions commonly asked of Community Partnership for Children case managers include, *Why doesn't*

*anyone want me? Why can't I go home? Am I going to be adopted? Why can't I visit my mom?*

While many of us can't imagine having to answer these kinds of questions, we each can play our part by supporting those who do this work every day. The greater the resources and support for child welfare the better the outcome for local children.

So here's a question you can easily answer using only one resource; your heart... "**Will you please help make a difference in the life of a child?**"

### 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**

**Community Partnership for Children** is a partner in the Riverside Community Partners Program. It's a special program that lets non-profits like our wonderful agency team up with Riverside Bank, people who care about us and our agency.

### You Can Help

If you are a volunteer, staff member, beneficiary, or friend of Community Partnership for Children, you can be a Riverside Community Partner. You will enjoy a special Lifetime Free Checking<sup>SM</sup> account and a free savings account while Community Partnership for Children enjoys additional income to help support children's services. Riverside Bank will pay Community Partnership for Children a bonus every quarter based on the balances in all\* of its partner accounts. The more money our agency and all of our partners have collectively in our Riverside Bank accounts, the more money our organization will earn.

### You'll get:

#### Lifetime Free Checking Account<sup>SM</sup>

NO monthly fees  
FREE debit card

NO per check charges  
FREE online banking

NO minimum balance  
FREE bill pay

### You'll also enjoy:

- Savings account with NO monthly fees (as long as you maintain a \$300 minimum balance)
- .25% discount on fixed rate loans\*
- Reduced closing costs on home equity loans and lines of credit
- \$250 off closing costs on owner occupied first mortgages<sup>†</sup>
- .25% additional interest on your first CD
- FREE 3"x 5" safe deposit box for one year (when available)
- Optional logo checks

Plus, you'll enjoy the Riverside hometown style of banking.

### Benefits for Community Partnership for Children

When you join the Riverside Community Partners Program, you add the power of the community to Community Partnership for Children's business checking account. The more people who join our Partners Program the more our agency earns with the special bonus program. Every quarter, Riverside Bank pays Community Partnership for Children a bonus based on the collective balances of all\* our Partners Program accounts. The more money we have in our account, the more Riverside will pay us.

### Benefits for the Community

Every participating organization decides what to do with the additional income. Fund a special project or children's program; start a capital improvement campaign; purchase needed equipment or supplies for children. No matter what our agency decides to do with the money, it's the community that benefits. And that's a good thing.

### Take advantage of the opportunity

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jo Lynn Deal at (386) 944-4709 or via email at [JoLynn.Deal@cbcvf.org](mailto:JoLynn.Deal@cbcvf.org) or Ernest Hamilton at (386) 239-6685 or email at [Ernest.Hamilton@cbcvf.org](mailto:Ernest.Hamilton@cbcvf.org). Or visit a local Riverside Bank branch and let them know you wish to join the Community Partners Program.

### Our Partner Code

Non-profit name: Community Partnership for Children

Code: A1

\*Note: Qualifying account must be non-interest bearing.

All loans subject to credit approval. Some restrictions may apply.

Offers may be withdrawn at any time.

\* Loan discount with automatic payment

† May not be used with any other Riverside residential incentive program.

\$250.00 will be shown as reduced lender fees.