Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2011-2012 year. The results we share in this report are a reflection of our many community partnerships.

This year, our team has followed a plan to strengthen the care of children in every place they reside. For children in foster care, we have implemented programs to support foster parents and provide them with mentors and training resources, so they can best help the children in their care. For relatives who have stepped up to take on a child, we have worked closely with the families to connect them with the resources they need to manage the change. For the children who are able to remain at home, we have programs in place to address the family’s unique situation and help them get back on track. Our mission is to provide a loving, stable, and safe home for children, through all phases of their care.

As we move forward, we will seek ways to improve our programs and services. We will identify and fill critical service gaps to better care for children. Since 2010, prescription drug abuse has been the number one reason children are removed from home and placed into foster care. This epidemic accounts for 70 percent of child welfare cases. Our team is continuing to seek appropriate services for these families in order to reduce this tremendous out-of-home care challenge.

Thank you for joining us in this mission. We look forward to working with you as we help these families succeed and our children heal.

Thank you on behalf of our children,

Mark D. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

We are incredibly proud of the Community Partnership for Children staff, partner agencies and volunteers. Our job is to engage the entire community to answer the call to protect and nurture our children with the goal of family preservation. Together, we exhibit the finest in teamwork, dedication and commitment to our children.

As partners, we work together to strengthen families allowing children a safe, happy and joyful place to grow and mature. For those of us fortunate to have been raised in a loving, nurturing family environment – our dream is to provide this same opportunity to all our children. We have a committed and talented team working with a community partnership mindset. As a team, we must continue to work together in the pursuit of strengthening families.

As a community, Community Partnership for Children is our collective organization. It is our shared mission to protect our children and preserve our families. Let us commit to this mission with the teamwork and passion deserved. Through partnership, we can make this happen.

As a board, we take our mission as a calling of the highest order. Please join us in this partnership.

On behalf of the children and their families of Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties, we, the Board of Directors, offer our heartfelt thanks.

With our kids in mind,

Bill Griffin
Board Chair
The Community Partnership for Children Board of Directors is a community board supporting the organization’s mission, purposes, goals, policies, and programs, while knowing its strengths and needs.

*Members serving July 2011 - June 2012*

**Bill Griffin, Board Chair**
Halifax Health

**Joe Bendix, Vice Chair**
FSD, Inc.

**Ursula Amon, Treasurer**
Amon Investments, LLC

**Dr. Janice Allen-Kelsey, Secretary**
Bethune-Cookman University

**Mark Belas**
Retired, Child Welfare

**Zandria Conyers**
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**Dennis Hall**
Hall Construction Company

**Alexis Lenssen**
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**Jeralyn Delisi Lowe**
Retired, Child Welfare

**Dr. Myra Middleton-Valentine**
Retired, Flagler County Public Schools

**Holsey Moorman**
Retired, US Army Brigadier General

**Nicole Najduch**
Awnings & Tops by Tony

**Barbara Sandberg**
Realty Pros

**Geri Westfall**
Rent Me Homes, Inc.

168 children were adopted by loving families in the 2011-2012 year

65 teenagers in foster care were matched with volunteer mentors

218 children were reunified with their parents and returned to a safe and loving home
**Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI):** Community Partnership for Children has been a leading participant in the QPI initiative for two years. The initiative was launched to improve the quality of care for foster children and has made a positive impact in a short time period. The program’s key focuses have been to nurture children by improving the quality of foster parents, to strengthen communities and to support families by encouraging mentoring relationships between foster parents and biological families. This is accomplished by treating foster parents as respected partners involved in children’s lives.

As a result of the initiative, Community Partnership for Children has changed the pre-service and in-service training foster parents receive, the training is now an in-house function. We have also hired a foster care liaison, who supports and advocates for foster parents, as well as works to improve the relationships between foster parents and Community Partnership for Children staff. Our team has also restructured the Placement Department, to allow for a placement support coordinator to support the foster parents when they take a new child into their home.

**Our Performance With Children And Families:** There were 8,971 abuse reports for the fiscal year, which is nearly no change from last year. A total of 663 children were removed from their home, which again was minimal change from last year. On June 30, there were 1,042 children living out of their home. During the fiscal year, 63 percent of our reunifications were completed within 12 months of removal. The target is 75 percent. An ongoing barrier to reunification is the tremendous epidemic with prescription drug abuse in our community, where parents struggle to engage in treatment and sustain sobriety.

**Forever Families Found For 168 Children:** At the end of this fiscal year, Community Partnership for Children found forever families for 168 children. Our goal was 132. Of the total adoptions, 160 were held in Volusia, Flagler or Putnam County and the remaining were held out of our region. Our adoption homefinders continue to be very successful with recruitment and found homes for 22 children.

Each year, we celebrate adoption during November, which is recognized nationally as Adoption Awareness Month. Activities and celebrations are kicked off with a Presidential Proclamation. Events held by those of us with a direct connection to adoption can often be the most effective way to promote positive perceptions. They help to draw attention to the children in foster care who wait and hope for permanent families. All of our children who are eligible for adoption can be found in our Heart Gallery on our company website www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org. We ask that you share this site with your family and friends to help support adoption.

We wish to thank our partners who help with our annual adoption matching events. Calvary Christian Center and Kidds aRe First, Inc. continue to help us hold several events each year to bring children who are eligible for adoption together with prospective parents. Our partners help make these events happen and, more importantly, have helped us find families for our children.

**Department of Children and Families Education Initiative:** The education initiative focuses on child well being and improving the educational services that children receive while they are in the Dependency system. Currently, monitoring programs review whether the
child is enrolled in school and whether the young adults receiving Independent Living services have finished high school. Although Case Managers address education at every monthly home visit, the goal of this initiative is to formalize the information that is gathered and to document this information monthly. The information gathered includes school enrollment, changes in schools, progress in school, caregiver involvement in school, as well as child involvement in extracurricular activities.

**Mentor Program Success:** The Community Partnership for Children Mentor Program has matched 292 mentors and teens who, combined, have spent over 15,000 hours of quality time together. The program focuses on extracurricular activities like going to the beach, movies or bowling. Mentors may also help with life skills activities such as school projects or help the teens prepare their resume. Some have even volunteered to teach their mentee to drive.

An unintended outcome of the program has been its natural transition to adoption. Nine children have been adopted by their mentors since 2010. This serves as the greatest outcome for the program since the children were matched with their mentor because they were unlikely to ever be reunified with their family or to be adopted.

**Looking ahead...**

Our greatest challenge remains the effects from prescription drug abuse on all levels of our System-of-Care. In November, the Substance Abuse Task Force held an awareness forum bringing together medical and law enforcement professionals with the media, so that the most accurate information would be presented to the community. In April, we held a forum in Flagler County, and a third forum is planned for October 2012. Our attention to this critical issue is helping to address the epidemic. Where Florida doctors once prescribed over 70 percent of the nation’s illegal prescriptions in the past, tough legislation and law enforcement engagement has reduced that percentage to 12 percent. Illegal pill mills in our community are being closed down. However, our families affected by the problem are still in great need of help. Our community currently does not have enough treatment programs to help the large number of families affected. We are working with our local providers and the task force to expand the services our community needs.

As we enter this new fiscal year, our focus is to continue our efforts in reducing the number of children in foster care, strengthening our community and legislative outreach efforts, and ensuring we remain a fiscally sound organization. We will accomplish these goals by continuing to engage with our tremendous community partners.

**A Child’s Wish**

An adoption homefinder shares the story of a child searching for a forever family.

A couple of weeks ago, I was taking pictures of a child for our local heart gallery as he is available for adoption. After a million posed pictures outside, the sweet 12-year-old asked me to take a picture of his ring. He told me that it was the most important thing to him. He said, a couple of years ago his dog died and he received this ring that has 'Unconditional Love' inscribed on the inside.

The child talked to me about his mother 'giving up on him' and how he felt his dog 'loved him more than anyone'. He wears the ring as a daily reminder of the important connections he has had in his life. He is looking for a mom and dad and would love to have another dog!

Amanda, adoption homefinder
Community Partnership for Children has been blessed with many wonderful community partners, volunteers, and friends who support our mission. Each year, we host several events in an effort to recruit new friends of children and engage the community in our mission. Last year, over $100,000 was raised through community gifts. Our success is made possible with your support.

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**National Adoption Day**
- Hosted at Sunset Harbor Yacht Club on November 18.
- Judges finalized adoptions for local families.

**Run to the Sun event organizers** chose Community Partnership as the 2011 charity and raised $4,500 to support the annual holiday toy drive.

**Community partner Rent Me Homes** held several fundraisers to support youth aging out of foster care, raising over $7,200.

**Suzanne Steiner**, pictured here with her mentee, Akeda, was recognized as this year’s Distinguished Friend of Children. Steiner has mentored since 2006.

**Mentors and adoptive parents** Curt (R) and Rosine (L) McCauley, pictured here with Program Manager Susan Hiltz, presented at the Friends of Children Breakfast event. This event raised $35,000.

**The Port Orange/South Daytona Rotary Club** led the toy drive and raised toys for over 500 children during the holidays. Volunteer Jennifer Ferguson smiles for the camera.

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“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” — Jane Howard
The above figures were preliminary figures at the time this Annual Report was published. To ensure our fiscal integrity and compliance, an accounting firm annually audits our financial records.

Operating Income
29,253,592

Operating Expenses
29,372,833

Personal gifts and in-kind contributions of $500 or more between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012

Signature Corporate Partners
Alexis Lenssen and Raymond James and Assoc., Inc.
Jennifer Ferguson, Symphony Financial Team
Rent Me Homes, Inc.

Corporate and Sponsorship Partners
Administrators Advisory Group
Archipelago Agency
Atlas Association, Inc.
Awnings & Tops by Tony
Books-A-Million
Copytronics, Inc.
Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Turkey Run
Doctors Neurological Services
Halifax Health
James Moore and Co., P.L.
Kids 4 the Lord
My Techware, Inc.
Ponce Inlet Corvette Club
Raydon Corporation
Realty Pros Assured
Security First Insurance Company
Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare
TD Bank
Tobacco Prevention Program
USTA Florida
Wells Fargo, Inc.

Civic and Foundation Partners
Beachside Church
Calvary Christian Center
Center for Business Excellence
Daytona Beach Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.
Kidds aRe First, Inc.
Kiwanis of Flagler County
Jefferson H. Ridgdill Memorial Fund
Lerner Family Foundation
LPGA Foundation
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Oasis Church
Port Orange Rotary Club
Rotary Club of Daytona Beach West
Rotary Club of Daytona Beach, Inc.
SunTrust Foundation

Community Partnership for Children Staff $9,300

CEO’s Circle $5,000+
Alexis Lenssen and Raymond James and Assoc., Inc.
Jennifer Ferguson, Symphony Financial Team
Rent Me Homes, LLC

Partnership Circle $1,000+
Larry Frank
Jarrett and Kelly Kwiatek
Walt and Suzanne Steiner

500 Circle $500+
Joe and Niki Bendix
Mission Statement

The mission of Community Partnership for Children is to design, implement, and manage a quality child protection system for the citizens of Volusia, Flagler and Putnam counties.

Vision Statement

Our service delivery system will achieve excellence in providing quality services that assure the safety, well-being, and life permanency of children and the stability of families.

We will foster community investment in the lives of children and families by not only participating in, but also being a catalyst of, community partnerships in improving the lives of local children.