

Irene M. Toto  
CEO



Don Martin  
Board Chair

## NEWSLETTER

February 2018

### Message from the CEO

Happy New Year Greetings to our KFF partners. We hope that your 2018 is off to good start. We are looking forward to a productive year of positive changes for the children and families that we serve. As we look back on 2017, we are grateful for both the successes and the challenges that we experienced, as we learned from them all. A new year is often a time for resolutions to change behaviors or habits, it's an opportunity to make a pledge to do better and to be better. As the Community Based Care agency serving Clay County, our team at KFF remains committed to quality improvement, to meeting our goals, to developing our strengths, and to expanding our community partners.

You may have heard that Batman joined us at our Home for the Holidays event in December, it was exciting to have my favorite Super Hero at our celebration, but as I looked around I realized that I am surrounded by other Super Heroes every day. They are the children, the foster and adoptive parents, the Family Service Counselor's, the attorneys and judges, the families and friends, the teachers and educators, the teams from law enforcement, local government, state legislators, healthcare providers, behavioral health providers, faith based communities, the Dept. of Children and Families, supportive individuals and businesses, the list goes on and on. What better job for a team of super heroes, than to work to keep children safe and in loving homes?

As we start the New Year, we are excited about the many opportunities ahead and we look forward to hearing your heroic stories. Together we are making a difference. Take good care. *Irene*



### **Alert: Foster Homes Needed for Teenagers and Large Sibling Groups**

#### **Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent?**

**There is an urgent need for foster homes that can accommodate teenagers and sibling groups so that teenagers do not have to be placed in group homes and siblings do not have to be separated.**

**Please contact Diahann Sutton for more information at 904.278.5644 ext. 2100**

## Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parent Santoria Carter & Sydney Odom

### Would You Like to Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent?

Orientation for PRIDE (foster and adoptive parent) training is January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at  
Grace Anglican Church, 5804 US 17, Fleming Island. Training will be in the Red Barn.  
Call 904.278.5644 ext. 2016 for more information.

### Attention Foster Parents: Annual Cost of Living Increase for Room and Board

During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(4), F.S., which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase. Effective January 1, 2018, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted to reflect that increase. If you have any questions about the increase, please contact Willie Davis at 904.278.5644 ext. 2091.



### Home for the Holidays

KFF celebrated its first Home for the Holidays event on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The event helps to ensure children being adopted through KFF have a forever home in time for the Holidays. The event also helps to raise public awareness about adoption and the many children in foster care who are still awaiting adoption. During the event, 20 children were adopted. Seven of those children were adopted by Steve and Heidi Henrikson (pictured to left). In total, the Henrikson's have 12 children. If you are interested in adoption, please call 904.278.5644.

### One Church, One Child Events in Clay County

Through its affiliation with One Church, One Child, a private, non-profit, faith-based organization that provides adoption related services, St. Simon Baptist Church in Orange Park brought attention to foster children through a 4-day weekend of events ending with a breakfast and awards ceremony. The 4-day event, hosted by Rev. William Randall, coincided with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and focused on foster and adoptive children and raised funds for foster children statewide. This year's events started on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, with a dinner and celebration of local foster and adopted children, followed by a food giveaway on Saturday, regular church services at St. Simon Baptist Church on Sunday and a breakfast on Monday.

During the dinner, a local 17-year-old, Angelina Cierra Mungin, spoke of her experience in foster care before being adopted by her foster parents at age 14. Due to abuse and neglect, Angelina entered foster care when she was a young child and was placed in several different homes before being adopted by her foster parents. It took Angelina a long time to open up and let her adoptive parents love her but now she speaks positively of the loving home that she has with them. She hopes to become a Special Education Teacher.

## Post-Adoption Support Group

The Post Adoption Support Group is a great way to meet new people, exchange information and link into a support system. Meetings are held monthly at the KFF office on Kingsley Avenue. Feel free to submit a topic of interest for those meetings. Child Care may be available by calling in advance and refreshments are provided.

For more information, please call 904.278.5644 ext. 2083 or email [Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org](mailto:Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org).

## Post-Adoption Services Available to Clay County Residents

KFF provides services to families in Clay County who are in the process of or have adopted children, including children adopted by relatives/non-relatives, foster parents, through the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) and private adoptions. Pre- and post-adoption services consist of case management, including referrals to community resources, crisis intervention and counseling. For those in the process of adopting, "Core Adoption" classes are also provided. These classes offer an overview of the adoption process. For those who have already adopted, post adoption support group meetings are held monthly at the KFF office.

To access these services, or to obtain more information, please call 904.278.5644 ext. 2083 or email [Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org](mailto:Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org).

## Caregiver Support Group

**Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents, Relative Caregivers, this group is for YOU!**

Monthly meetings will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Russell Baptist Church, 2299 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

This is a great opportunity to network, receive important updates and get your training hours.

**Please contact Tracy Watford for more information: [watfordtracy@yahoo.com](mailto:watfordtracy@yahoo.com)**

## Help a Child and Earn a Little Extra Spending Money

Current KFF Foster Parents, Refer a Friend!

**That's right current KFF foster parents, refer a friend to be a quality foster parent with KFF and you will receive \$100 after they are licensed.**

Call 904.278.5644 ext. 2016

## Don't Miss the Signs

**All Floridians are legally obligated to report suspected child abuse or neglect.**

Child abuse or neglect includes actions or omissions that result in imminent threat of serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or death of a child under age 18 by a parent or other caregiver. To report abuse call 800.962.2873/TDD: 800.453.5145 or visit <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/> for instructions on how to report child abuse or neglect online or by fax.

**Main Office:**  
1726 Kingsley Avenue  
Suite 2  
Orange Park, Florida  
32073  
Phone 904.278.5644  
Fax 904.278.5654  
Because every child  
deserves a loving home!

### **KFF Contacts**

Main Office: 904.278.5644  
Irene M. Toto, CEO, ext. 2013  
Kevin Davidson, CFO  
Ext. 2006  
Joanne Robertson, COO  
Ext. 2007  
Jennifer Clark  
Program Director, ext. 2080  
Robin Briseno  
Program Director, ext. 2019  
Willie Davis  
Foster Parent Payments  
Ext. 2091  
Diahann Sutton  
Licensing, ext. 2100  
Isaac Fuller  
Licensing, ext. 2066  
Alyson Durant  
Placement, ext. 2072  
Eric Wetzel  
Independent Living, ext. 2047



**Did You Know?**  
**You Can Apply for Public Assistance  
On-Line at:**  
<http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>  
Or at the KFF Office by Contacting  
Tanya Miller at 904.278.5644 ext. 2040

**Florida Kinship Center Warmline  
800.640.6444**  
A toll-free listening line for grandparents  
and other relatives raising children in  
Florida. The Warmline provides  
caregivers with emotional support and  
informational services.

### **Online In-Service Training Hours**

As a licensed foster parent, you are required to receive 8 hours of ongoing training per year to be eligible for re-licensure. Free training opportunities can be found at:

<http://www.qpiflorida.org/justintime/pages/training.html>

### **Dental Provider in Clay County**



The Baker County Health Department, in cooperation with the Clay County Health Department and the Clay County School District, provides dental treatments to local children and young adults ages 3-20. For an appointment, call 1.866.617.8708 ext. 2283 or 2311. Children can be seen at the Green Cove Springs office or on the dental van which serves 4 schools in Clay County. The program serves children who have Medicaid, Access Health Solutions, or KidsCare Atlantic Dental Insurance. If a child in your care, who is served by Kids First of Florida, does not have the above-mentioned insurance and needs dental treatment, please contact Mary Elwood at 904.278.5644, ext. 2043.

### **Preventive Health Care Periodicity Schedule**



**Physical Exam:** 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 3 years of age and annually thereafter  
**Dental Exam:** every 6 months, beginning at age 3  
**Vision Screening:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 15 years of age

### **Prevention in Florida**

For more information about:

**SAFE SLEEP**  
**HOT CAR SAFETY**  
**WHO IS REALLY WATCHING YOUR CHILD?**  
**WATER SAFETY**

Visit: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/childfatality/prevention.shtml>.

### **Free Food Distribution**

Food is available for foster and adoptive families and families of children in relative and non-relative care. Waste Not, Want Not is a great program. Each month, food is distributed and available for pick-up from foster/adoptive parent, Tracy Watford. Items often include white & wheat bread, specialty breads, bagels, cakes, cookies, donuts. Sometimes they have juices, salads, sodas, etc. Please call Tracy Watford at 904.704.6012 for more information and to get on the distribution list.