

Irene M. Toto
CEO



Don Martin
Board Chair

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Message from the CEO



Greetings. Spring is in the air and so are some changes at KFF. With mixed emotions, we announce the retirement, from her full time role at KFF, of our Chief Program Officer, Nora Milne. We are happy that Nora will have more time to enjoy her family, including her many grandchildren, but we will miss her daily presence around our office. Nora spent over 30 years with the Department of Children and Families and tried to retire in 2006, but after initially coming to KFF as a consultant, she decided to stay. Her wisdom, experience and her absolute commitment to the children we serve, helped bring KFF to the next level of quality. While overseeing our Program's Team, Nora focused on her belief that every child deserves a loving home and worked tirelessly to make that happen. She is a dedicated leader, a mentor and an advocate. Early mornings, late evenings, weekends and even on days off, Nora made herself available to take the call and to provide needed guidance. The details matter to Nora, and her post it notes helped her keep track of them all.

At KFF, we recognize that providing care for at risk children and families is an enormous task, one that involves the entire community. Nora has helped to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones, with families, foster families, the faith based community, local businesses, schools, law enforcement and other community resources. We know that these ongoing partnerships have truly benefitted the families we serve.

Jennifer Clark, KFF Program Director says, "Nora's contributions to KFF are truly immeasurable, and she will be greatly missed." She always lived by the mantra, "No matter what, we will always do what is best for our kids!" and that showed in every decision she made, whether the conversation was placement, services, education, or permanency. She instilled this motto into her staff, and this is the culture of our agency. Although she is retiring and moving into the next chapter of her life, her dedication, commitment, and values will continue with those of us that were lucky enough to have her as our leader and mentor over the last ten years."

Nora will be continuing to provide support in a part time capacity for our licensing staff, and we are excited to welcome Joanne Robertson to the KFF team as our new Chief Operating Officer. We look forward to working with Joanne as she builds upon the strong foundation that has been set.

Here's a familiar quote that you may know, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." – Forest E. Witcraft

As we wish Nora well and look forward to hearing of her adventures in retirement, I want to thank her for her years of service and for all I have personally learned from her. She has truly made a difference. ~Irene

[Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parents](#)

Brian & Rhonda Ockay

Corey & Laura Patterson



Pinwheels for Prevention Truck Tour

In observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Pinwheels for Prevention Truck Tour is coming to Clay County. The county-wide event, focused on "Building Community, Building Hope" for children who are victims of abuse, will include fun, family friendly activities and is scheduled for:

Thursday, April 13th, from 4:00pm-6:00pm
327 N. Orange Avenue; Green Cove Springs

The event is sponsored by the Clay County Sheriff's Office

For more information on this, and similar events, visit: <https://www.ounce.org/capevents.asp>

For more information on ways to support child abuse prevention, visit:

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-welfare/capm>



**ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO OUR 2nd ANNUAL
 "COMMUNITY EVENT UNLIKE ANY OTHER"**

REVERSE RAFFLE

Proudly Presented by



GRAND PRIZE \$5,000.00

ONLY 149 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!

**ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE CHILDREN,
 ADULTS AND FAMILIES SERVED BY
 CLAY BEHAVIORAL AND KIDS FIRST**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH AT 7PM
 THE HILLTOP RESTAURANT
 2030 WELLS ROAD, ORANGE PARK, FL 32073**

\$100 DONATION FOR EACH TICKET

EACH TICKET INCLUDES:

- A GOURMET DINNER, FEATURING PRIME RIB, SEAFOOD & MORE (VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)
- DANCING
- CASH BAR
- ENTRY INTO REVERSE RAFFLE FOR \$5,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

**FOR TICKETS, SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OR INFORMATION
 PLEASE CONTACT ERNIE COHEN 904.710.5148**



Financial Assistance for Summer Camp

It is getting near that time of the year to register your children for summer camp. We have limited funds available for children in out-of-care with KFF and children adopted through KFF that are in financial need and/or meet certain other criteria/requirements. If you are interested in summer camp, please contact your assigned Family Services Counselor for children in out-of-home care, or Tiffany Morales at tmorales@cbkn.org, for adopted children. The deadline to complete the application process is Tuesday, May 15th.

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

Post-Adoption Support Group

The next Post Adoption Support Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th, from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the KFF office located at:

1726 Kingsley Avenue, Suite 2, Orange Park, FL 32073.

Guest Speaker: to be announced.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Tiffany Morales at tmorales@cbkn.org or 904.278.5644 ext. 2083.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting!

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:

tmorales@cbkn.org

Caregiver Support Group

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

Monthly meetings will be held the 1st 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

Clay County Resource Guide

For an On-Line Clay County Resource Guide, Visit:

http://www.ecs4kids.org/parent_fin_clayres

The guide contains information about education/employment, food/nutrition, rent/utilities/housing, financial assistance, health/mental health, legal assistance, clothing, special needs/disabilities, recreation/mentoring, relative caregiver, child care referrals, transportation, and other miscellaneous topics. There is also a link to a printable resource guide.

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

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. 2111

Vanessa Byerly

Program Director, ext. 2080

Robin Briseno

Program Director, ext. 2019

Willie Davis

Foster Parent Payments

Ext. 2091

Christie Brady

Licensing, ext. 2066

Diahann Sutton

Licensing, ext. 2100

Sarah Bridges

Placement, ext. 2072

Eric Wetzel

Independent Living, ext. 2047



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

**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>

Don't forget to provide all certificates of completion to your Licensing Counselor

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.