

Irene M. Toto
CEO



Don Martin
Board Chair

NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Message from the CEO

Greetings. Fall has arrived and the good news is we are closer to the end of Hurricane Season. We hope that all of you are doing well after our recent visit from Hurricane Irma. While we recognize that many people, including several of our own staff, suffered serious losses, we are so grateful that the damages were not more widespread. As we prepared for the storm, KFF spent time contacting families to insure that children were safe and that families were prepared. We all had some anxious moments as we faced the uncertainty. In the interest of safety we closed our office on Friday and remained closed Monday and Tuesday. Though many of our staff were without power at home, they began outreach and follow up efforts to families as soon as the storm passed. Most staff returned to the office on Wednesday and fortunately we had electricity and phones and email capability.

As we look for the positive in a bad situation, we are thankful for the many great examples of team work and of people coming together before and after the storm. We recognize that the recovery process for individuals and communities that were affected will take time, and we encourage you to reach out to us at KFF if there is anything we can do to assist.

Our team at KFF was also deeply affected by the loss of one of our own shortly before the Hurricane hit our area. Regina Hollaman, a supervisor at KFF, tragically lost her life in an auto accident on September 6th. Regina was a valued and well respected member of the KFF team. She spent her career advocating for children and families; and was committed to making a difference. Regina's smile brightened any room she was in. We feel fortunate to have had her on our team and we will miss her greatly. KFF is keeping her family and friends in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with their enormous loss.

There's a sign in the KFF office that reads, "Tough times don't last but tough teams do". That sentiment captures the spirit of our agency and of all the members of our team including staff, families, children, parents, foster parents, caregivers and community partners. Resiliency is the ability to recover from setbacks, to be able to spring back into shape after being stretched. It's that ability to take care of ourselves through disaster, through loss, through whatever the challenge may be. Having support and knowing to when to ask for help can increase the chances of successful recovery. We know that by working together and supporting each other we can get through the challenges we face. We remain grateful for the many partners we have in our mission to keep children safe and to build a healthier community, one family at a time. Together we make a great team. Take good care. *Irene*

Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parent

Alfreda V. Hyatt

Hurricane Assistance Helpful Links

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>: A website managed by FEMA that provides access to disaster help and resources including information, support, services, and a means to access and apply for disaster assistance (FEMA Helpline 1.800.621.FEMA (1.800.621.3362); TTY 1.800.462.7585 or Florida Relay 711 or VRS 1.800.621.3362).

<https://www.fema.gov/faq>: FEMA's 10 Most Popular Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, including will FEMA pay for a generator, lost food or lost wages?

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/fff/>: *Food for Florida* program offers emergency food benefits to victims of hurricane Irma who are not currently receiving food benefits through the SNAP program (1.866.762.2237 or Florida Relay 711 or TTY 1.800.955.8771).

<http://www.claycountygov.com/departments/emergency-management>: Clay County Emergency Management Department that provides local information on disaster assistance (904.284.7703 Fax: 904.529.2273 Toll Free: 1.877.252.9362).

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month

October is SIDS Awareness Month. SIDS is defined as the sudden death of an infant less than 1 year old that cannot be explained. About 1,500 infants died of SIDS in 2014. SIDS is the leading cause of death for infants aged 1 to 12 months.

Reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death by:

- ✓ Always placing infants on their backs when putting them to sleep for naps and at night.
- ✓ Using a firm sleep surface, such as a mattress in a [safety-approved crib](#), covered by a fitted sheet.
- ✓ Sharing your room with an infant, not your bed. Infants should not sleep in an adult bed, on a couch, or on a chair alone or with anyone.
- ✓ Keeping soft objects, such as pillows and loose bedding, out of an infant's sleep area.
- ✓ [Not smoking during pregnancy or around an infant because these are strong risk factors for SIDS.](#) (https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/health_effects/index.htm#sids). The risk of SIDS is even greater when an infant shares a bed with a smoker. To reduce risk, do not smoke during pregnancy, and do not smoke or allow smoking around your infant. For help in quitting, call the quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or visit [smokefreewomen](#).

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/sidsawarenessmonth/index.html>

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Nationwide, about 21% of student's ages 12-18 experienced bullying and survey in 2015 found that 20% of students in grade 9-12 report being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.

To learn more about bullying and how to prevent and respond to it as parents, caregivers, school staff and other caring adults, visit <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>.

For Halloween Safety Tips, Visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/index.htm>

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. 2075 or email Joan.Underwood@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. 2075 or email: Joan.Underwood@Firstinclay.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

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

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
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Jennifer Clark
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Vanessa Byerly
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.