

Irene M. Toto
CEO



Don Martin
Board Chair

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Message from the CEO and KFF Team

Greetings. We hope that you and your families are enjoying this holiday season and that you will have many opportunities to make some lasting memories. Those memories will last long after the presents are forgotten. All of us at KFF wish each of you a Happy Healthy Holiday – you are a gift to us and to the children and families that we serve every day.

Sharing some wishes and thoughts with you from our KFF Team-

Thank you to all our foster parents for providing a loving home for our children during the holidays. We couldn't do it without you. Each and every one of you are an angel in someone's life.
– Rickey

Happy Holidays to our wonderful Foster Parents. -Cleon

This holiday season we would like to say thank you for partnering with us to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our children. We wish you all the best throughout the holidays and a peaceful, hopeful, joyous New Year. – Joanne

This time of year, Clay County never disappoints. It is because of our community partners over 200 children are able to open presents chosen specifically for them on Christmas morning. As you can imagine, holidays are tough on our children. Some are away from their families, and some are faced with challenges that most of their peers do not have to encounter. With deepest gratitude, we thank all of you. From our family at Kids First to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays!
- Valerie

Thank you for the ongoing encouragement and support that you give to Kids First of Florida and to the children we serve. We couldn't do what we do without you. Many blessings to you and your family this holiday season!! – Robin

Hoping you make wonderful holiday memories...thank you for being a part of our KFF family. – Louise

May all the blessings that this season brings be yours. Wishing your family a holiday filled with love, laughter and joy for this season and the upcoming year. – Laurie

Happy Holidays to all! In the true spirit of the season, wishing everyone peace and joy. Happy New Year! - Julie

Happy Holiday's! The KFF Judicial Team would like to thank each and every family we work with for your dedication to the children and families we serve every day. We hope your holiday season is extra bright and cheerful as you celebrate together. – Tami

May the spirit of the Holiday Season be with you and your family throughout the New Year.
– Debbie

You are the heart of all we do. While we have many opportunities to grow and develop, our foundation is strong and together we are making a difference. Take good care – Irene

Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parent

Elena Maldonado

**Attention:
Foster and Adoptive Parent Classes
Are Starting Soon**

There is a great need for safe and loving foster and adoptive homes in our area. One of the first steps in becoming a foster or adoptive parent is to complete a program called PRIDE. PRIDE stands for Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education. It is a program used to prepare and educate families that are interested in providing foster care or in becoming adoptive homes for children in the foster care system. PRIDE also helps prepare prospective foster and adoptive parents with important information on how trauma impacts a child's growth and development. The program consists of an orientation session and 7 classes that are three hours long each.

If your family, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, Kids First of Florida is holding an orientation session in April.

**PRIDE Orientation Session:
Tuesday, January 8th, 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

The additional 7 classes, on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, will continue into through January and are listed below.

**First Class: Thursday, January 10th, 2019
Second Class: Tuesday, January 15th, 2019
Third Class: Thursday, January 17th, 2019
Forth Class: Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019
Fifth Class: Thursday, January 24th, 2019
Sixth Class: Tuesday, January 29th, 2019
Seventh Class: Thursday, January 31st, 2019**

The orientation session and classes will be held at:

**Grace Anglican Church
5804 Highway 17 Fleming Island, FL 32003
(The red barn in the back of the church)**

Due to limited seating, please RSVP no later than December 28th, 2018, by contacting:
Isaac Fuller at 904.278.5644 ext. 2066.

Please do not bring children to the orientation session or classes.



National Adoption Month Proclamation

On November 13th, 2018, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners declared November National Adoption Month. Melba Williams and her son, Miziah Brown-Revalee, accepted the Proclamation.

Between July 2017 and June 2018, 74 children in Clay County were adopted through KFF. Many more children are awaiting adoption. KFF is committed to helping older youth find a permanent, loving home through adoption as well. If you are interested in adopting an older child or teen, please call Joan Underwood at 904.278.5644 ext. 2075 or Joan.Underwood@firstinclay.org.

Did you know, November was National Adoption Month and November 17th was National Adoption Day? National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 110,000 children in U.S. foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This annual, one-day event has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families.

In total, since its inception in 2000, National Adoption Day has helped nearly 70,000 children move from foster care to a forever family. Communities across the county celebrate the Saturday before every Thanksgiving. In 2017, nearly 5,000 children were adopted by their forever families during the 18th annual National Adoption Day celebration in more than 410 cities across the United States.

Source www.nationaladoptionday.org

Christmas Gift Sponsors

KFF would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for sponsoring Christmas gifts for children in foster care:

Adams and Harper, P.A., Certified Public Accountants
Eagle Harbor Golf Club
Grace Episcopal Church, Orange Park,
Orange Park United Methodist Church
Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Orange Park
Saint Luke Catholic Church, Middleburg

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.

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

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. The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 18th, 2019, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Childcare will not be provided at this meeting so please do not bring children.

For more information, please call 904.278.5644 ext. 2083 or email Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org.

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

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

Tami Gonyea

Program Director, Ext. 2080

Willie Davis

Foster Parent Payments

Ext. 2091

Diahann Sutton

Licensing, Ext. 2100

Isaac Fuller

Licensing, Ext. 2066

Rickey Walters

Placement, Ext. 2072

Marlene Miller

Independent Living, Ext. 2047



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.

**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

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.