

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.

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, April 30th, 2019, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

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

First Class: Thursday, May 2nd, 2019
Second Class: Thursday, May 9th, 2019
Third Class: Thursday, May 16th, 2019
Fourth Class: Tuesday, May 21st, 2019
Fifth Class: Thursday, May 23rd, 2019
Sixth and Seventh Class: Thursday, May 30th, 2019

The orientation session and classes will be held at:

**New 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 April 15th, 2019, by contacting:
Isaac Fuller at 904.278.5644 ext. 2066 or
Diahann Sutton ext. 2100

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

Caregiver Support Services

Today, many adults are caring for the children of their relatives or friends, some informally and others through order of the court.

KFF is available to provide caregivers who have a child in their home who is served by KFF, with the information, resources, services and supports that they need to provide a safe and loving home for these children. Caregivers can access needed assistance through contacting the Family Services Counselor assigned to the child in their care. Additionally, below are some resources that may be helpful to all caregivers in Clay County.

Community Resources/Services

United Way of Northeast Florida

Community Resource Guide and Helpline

904.632.0600 or 2-1-1

<https://unitedwaynefl.org/get-help/>

The Paul E. and Klare N. Reinhold Foundation, Inc.

Clay County Directory of Services

<http://www.reinhold.net/directoryofservices.php>

Episcopal Children's Services

Community Resources Guide

<https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/school-readiness/parent-and-community-support/parent-and-community-resources/>

Legal Services

Clay County Legal Aid

Free legal services for low income or special needs.

904.284.8410

<https://www.jaxlegalaid.org/>

Self-Help Center

For citizens who choose to be self-represented.

<https://www.clayclerk.com/self-help-center/>

Grandfamilies.org

National on-line legal resource in support of kinship caregivers.

<http://www.grandfamilies.org/>

Foster Parent Cost of Living Increase

Effective January 1st, 2019, the Department of Children and Families authorized foster parents to receive a cost of living increase. This rate increase was included in the January 2019 foster care payments. If you have any questions about the increase, please contact Willie Davis at 904.278.5644 ext. 2091.

Clay County Foster Parent Association

Are you a licensed Clay County Foster Parent? If so, this Association is for you. It is a chance for Clay County foster parents to gather and discuss concerns, ask for advice, provide advocacy, and grow as a group. In addition, the Association gathers for holidays, important milestones, and other special occasions. Trainings are provided based upon foster parent need/suggestions.

Their next meeting will be March 12th, at 6:30pm at:

Grace Episcopal Church

245 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073

Child care will be provided.

Or you may visit their Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/323272938453247/?ref=share>

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.

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 Thursday, March 21st, 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

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

**Grandparents Raising Children
Support Group**

On-line support group for grandparents
who are the primary caregivers of their
grandchildren

<https://www.dailystrength.org/group/grandparents-raising-children>

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, 15months, 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.