

Irene M. Toto
CEO



Don Martin
Board Chair

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Message from the CEO

Since 1983, April has been recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It's a time for events and activities designed to bring awareness to this important issue. According to the Child Maltreatment 2015 report published by the US Department of Health and Human Services, in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, an estimated 683,000 children were victims of child abuse or neglect; and 1,670 children died because of abuse or neglect. The report states that the majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that may be preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive.

The Center for Disease Control offers a guidance document in preventing child abuse and neglect at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf>, which outlines evidence based strategies and approaches shown to prevent abuse to children. It is the task of child serving agencies and their partners, including federal, state and local government, law enforcement, schools, churches and faith-based organizations, businesses, civic groups, neighborhoods and individuals to relentlessly pursue these strategies and utilize available best practices to provide relevant, accessible, sustainable programs and services to families in need. It is clearly not a task that can be accomplished by any one group, but instead requires the collaborative commitment of many.

Our team at Kids First of Florida believes that every month is Child Abuse Prevention Month, as every day our team is focused on preventing abuse and protecting children. We use the collective wisdom and resources of our many partners to continue to develop a system of care that meets the needs of the communities we serve. No family's situation is exactly the same, and there is no one size fits all. KFF is fortunate to have a committed Board of Directors, dedicated staff, loyal volunteers, amazing foster parents, quality provider agencies, and a growing list of supporters and friends. At the core of everything we do, is the belief that every child deserves a loving home. Preventing child abuse is an achievable goal, and as we work towards increasing the protective factors that keep children safe we must keep that goal in mind.

Let the Blue ribbons and pinwheels you will see this month be a reminder to you to get involved, to do your part to provide a safe healthy childhood for all children. Together we can build a healthier community, one family at a time. We'd love to highlight how you and your family are getting involved, let us hear from you. Until then, 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 Parents

Michael and Valerie Shuman-Wylie

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 8 classes that are each 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 10th, 2018, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

The additional 8 classes, on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, will continue into May and are listed below.

- First Class: Tuesday, April 17th, 2018**
- Second Class: Thursday, April 19th, 2018**
- Third Class: Tuesday, April 24th, 2018**
- Fourth Class: Thursday, April 26th, 2018**
- Fifth Class: Tuesday, May 1st, 2018**
- Sixth Class: Thursday, May 3rd, 2018**
- Seventh Class: Tuesday, May 8th, 2018**
- Eighth Class: Thursday, May 10th, 2018**

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 April 4th, 2018, by contacting:
Isaac Fuller at 904.278.5644 ext. 2066 or
Diahann Sutton at ext. 2100.

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

Help Build Brighter Childhoods

On April 10th, KFF will be accepting a proclamation from the Clay County Board of County Commissioners proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, KFF encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Clay County a better place for children and families. Communities have a profound influence in families' lives. Just as plants are more likely to thrive in a garden with good soil and plenty of sunlight and water, families are more likely to thrive in nurturing communities. Everyone can get involved and play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect and promoting child and family well-being. Strong, nurturing communities that are supportive of families can build brighter childhoods and strengthen families. 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 3rd 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 13TH AT 7PM
THE HILLTOP RESTAURANT
2030 WELLS ROAD, ORANGE PARK, FL 32073

\$100 DONATION FOR EACH TICKET

EACH TICKET INCLUDES:

- A FABULOUS GOURMET DINNER
- 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



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. 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.

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
Rickey Walters
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.