

Irene M. Toto  
CEO



Don Martin  
Board Chair

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## NEWSLETTER

September 2018

### Message from the CEO

Greetings. In our plugged-in world of today we have access to news twenty-four seven and the news is often not good. There's no shortage of tragedies and scary events. As parents and caretakers, as caring adults in the lives of children, we take seriously our responsibility to those children. It's our role to provide reassurance, to help kids feel safe, protected and loved. We'd like to take a good news break, to say Thank You to the amazing partners of KFF for the wonderful job you do in that task.

You take late night and early morning phone calls, you open your homes and your hearts to children when they need it most. You show patience with youth who may not be used to that. You get frustrated, but you don't give up. You teach, and you learn. You talk, and you listen. You give, and you take (sometimes more than you thought you could). You're firm and yet you're fair. You dry tears and you share laughs. You work through disappointments and you celebrate successes. You offer hope, help and healing. You stick with a system that is sometimes less than perfect and you offer suggestions for how to improve it. You do all of this not for rewards or recognition, fame or fortune, but because you care. You care about children, about families and about making a difference.

We applaud each of you and the value you add to our overall system of care. It's because of you and the contributions you make that we are able to keep children safe, to reunify families and to find forever homes for children. We know that no one person agency or entity can do it alone, it takes each of us working together to build a healthier community and to work towards a day when all children feel loved and protected no matter how scary the news may be. You're the helpers and we thank you for all you do. *Irene*

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### Free Hair Cut Coupons for Children

Through a generous donation from the Hair Cuttery, coupons for a free children's (up to age 18) shampoo, cut and blow-dry are available on a first come, first serve basis to children in need. The coupons are valid Monday through Wednesday only until October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. If you would like a coupon, contact Mary Elwood at [Mary.Elwood@firstinclay.org](mailto:Mary.Elwood@firstinclay.org) or 278-5644 ext. 2090.

### 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

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Please Join KFF in Welcoming Our Newly Licensed Foster Parent

Erica Moyers and Ashley Sieminski

**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 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, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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: Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Second Class: Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Third Class: Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Forth Class: Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Fifth Class: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Sixth Class: Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**  
**Seventh Class: Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Eighth Class: Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 September 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**Hurricane Season Lasts Until  
November 30<sup>th</sup>**

In the Northern Atlantic, hurricane season peaks in late August through September. Below is a checklist of things to do BEFORE a tropical storm or hurricane. Don't wait until a warning is issued.

- ✓ **Know your zone:** Do you live near the Gulf or Atlantic Coasts? Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office or by checking: <http://flash.org/2017EvacuationZones.pdf>
- ✓ **Put Together an Emergency Kit:** Put together a basic emergency kit. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters. Visit: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ **Write or review your Family Emergency Plan:** Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Start at <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- ✓ **Review Your Insurance Policies:** Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.
- ✓ **Understand NWS forecast products,** especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings. Visit: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-ww>
- ✓ **Source:** <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan>

## 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](mailto:Latoia.Dantzler@Firstinclay.org).

## Caregiver Support Group

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

Monthly meetings will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 Thursday, October 18, 2018 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](mailto: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

Eric Wetzel

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



**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.