Foster Parent CONNECTION
Newsletter

Eckerd Community Alternatives | Hillsborough

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Recognizing our Families
The embodiment of QPI

We wish to thank all our great Foster Parents for all you do every day for the youth in our county. We wish to highlight some of your colleagues that were recogized in our recent Foster Parent Appreciation event.

Juanita Jubity balanced her professional work and calling as a foster mom beautifully. She went to court, testified on behalf of the child and fought to maintain the placement and relationship she had with this young woman. In order to maintain the placement Juanita and this young woman even had to relocate to a hotel for a period of time. We never had to ask Juanita to sacrifice, she always offered whatever was needed without hesitation.

As new foster parents, **Tricia & Kevin Bradberry** really took the time to include the biological family in the life of the child as they would supervise visits with the biological grandmother and would inform all parties involved in the changes in the case. They attended staffings and court hearings in an effort to be informed. They have only had one placement and did everything you would desire from a family. They have embraced the QPI mentality and truly fostered a family.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1 **System of Care Action Committee**
9:30-11:30 am @ Family Place
9391 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL
Conference call: (855) 244-8681
Participant code 74072326

QPI - sub committee
(Teen recruitment & retention)
3rd Wed. of the month
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Communication - sub committee
3rd Thursday of the month
9:30-10:30 am

Photo by Jonathan Ridgely

Meet Ashanti
Age 13

"I love music!"

Little Ashanti has many obstacles to overcome every day. And every day, for all of her thirteen years, she has tackled these obstacles with strength and tenacity and a big smile. She loves interactive toys and being talked to, listening to music and watching television. Welcoming Ashanti into your family will be different than other thirteen year 2 old girls, but having this sweet soul in your life is an indescribable joy. She carries with her warmth and serenity, and she deserves the love and consistency of a forever family. Ashanti will do best in a nurturing, supportive home able to care for her medical needs.

Meet Emmanuel "Manny"
Age 17
"I'm the next big thing!"

Photo by Dan Weisberg

Manny is an awesome kid with a ton of charisma. His friendly, outgoing energy is infectious and he's often in the center of a group of friends. He has a strong creative side, especially for music, and he enjoys playing the piano and writing song lyrics. Manny's talented on the basketball court, and he knows his way around the kitchen, too. Despite the setbacks in his life, Manny retains an optimistic and open outlook, and has an amazing strength of character. When he grows up he wants to be involved in the music industry, whether it's behind the scenes or right up front, and the coolest thing he was able to do last year was to record a song in a real studio. Manny's a great kid with a ton of potential, and needs the love, guidance and encouragement of a forever family to keep him on course. He's ready and open to being part of a family, and he'd do best as the only child in the home.

To learn more about adoption, please visit:
heartgallerytampabay.org
Photos provided by:
Children's Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay

Hillsborough County Family Partnership Alliance

President's Corner

Hello HCFPA Families,

Fall is in the air and the holidays are around the corner. Let's make this holiday season an amazing time for our children.

I would like to welcome new members to the HCFPA family. Our membership consists of foster and adoptive parents, relative and non-relative caregivers. HCFPA offers members support, great trainings, the clothing closet, food pantry, fun free events, a monthly Respite (baby sitting), advocacy, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Home Depot and other wonderful items for your family.

I would like to thank the HCFPA board for all they do for our membership. HCFPA is run by an all volunteer board of foster and adoptive parents who donate time and energy to make HCFPA a great alliance. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact a board member.

We aim to keep you informed regarding the many changes in the System of Care.

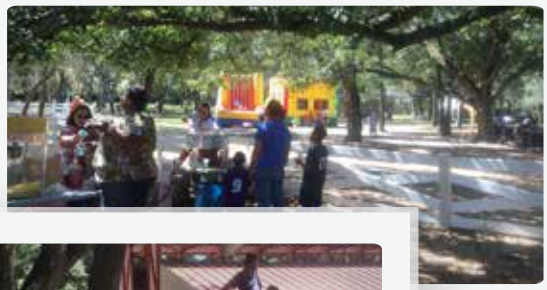
God Bless,

Kimberly Hernandez

Hillsborough County Family Partnership Alliance, President

Fall Frenzy

The HCFPA Fall Frenzy was a great event. We were even blessed to have the Star Wars Storm trooper's including Chewbacca spend time our kids. There were snow cones, cotton candy, popcorn, horseback riding, bounce houses, face painting and barbecue for all. HCFPA would like to thank Devereux for their sponsorship of this event and for the wonderful volunteers.



Member testimonial for

Fall Frenzy

Thank you to the board members and all of the volunteers of HCFPA the event on Saturday. It was a wonderful event.

My grandkids always enjoy the horses as a highlight of the day, lunch was great the bounce houses were wonderful and the entire event was just perfect. I know how much work it is to plan an event of this size. We just want to say we thank you, and God bless everyone of you for all that you do for hcfpa families.

God bless you.

Pastor Clyde and Michele Stutts
Relative Caregivers

Membership Applications: *HCFPA Membership applications are available online at HCFPA.org. Applications are also available before every monthly meeting and during the Clothing Closet operation hours.*

HCFPA meetings held the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.
at The Family Place office located next to Eckerd Community Alternatives on the corner of Busch Blvd. and N. Florida Ave.

HCFPA Food Pantry

HCFPA and community members can receive HCFPA Food Pantry donations once per month after they self-attest that they have a need for food. Please complete your food pantry request forms and submit them when you come in during the Food Pantry's hours of operation.

Volunteers are welcome on the 1st Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help prepare the food distribution. This institution is an equal opportunity program.

Pantry Hours
2nd and 4th Friday of each month
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

HCFPA Family Clothing Closet

HCFPA's Family Clothing Closet serves infants, children, teens and adults. We thank Eckerd Community Alternatives for their partnership with HCFPA Family Clothing Closet. Please help us support this wonderful resource by donating your gently used or new clothing and shoes. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathryn Melendez at (813) 830-6260.

Clothing Closet Hours

1st Friday	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
2nd Friday	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
3rd Friday	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
4th Friday	9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
5th Friday	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

HCFPA Board of Directors

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Emily Binder
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Fundraising Chair
Renee Holmes
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Congratulations!

Foster Parent Anniversaries

	Date
Nancy Mackey	11/02/1995
Robin & Scott Vandenberg	11/02/2012
Ryan & Shira Martin	11/03/2011
Jennifer & Charles Acton	11/05/2014
Janice & Jake Powell	11/06/2013
Alice & Michael Pietrafesa	11/07/2008
Barbara & Jose Ruano	11/07/2012
Harry & Lori Dubia	11/07/2011
Joan & Adolphus Washington	11/07/2007
Lynn Gruber	11/07/2007
Jamie & Jimmy Martell	11/08/2013
Dolores Johnson	11/09/2004
Melissa & Matthew Dupuis	11/09/2009
Peter & Sharon Henfield	11/13/2000
Terry & Karen Joiner	11/13/2000
Catherine Lee	11/14/2014
Marissa & Thomas Sander	11/21/2014
Ruth Benson,	11/22/2005
Karen & Emmett Queen	11/24/2008
Kristin & Justin Chapman	11/24/2014
Stephanie & James Phillips	11/24/2014
Amanda & Ryan Casper	11/26/2014
Angela Harn & Elyse Loderhose	11/26/2014
Carol Lopez	11/26/2014
Elizabeth Digby	11/26/2014
Jennifer Adams	11/26/2014
Lois Mcdougall	11/26/2014
Paola Hurtado & Jorge Bielostozky	11/26/2007
Nilda & Jesus Castellanos	11/27/2012
Kathy Guertin	11/29/2004
Anna Cutler	11/30/2010
Brenda Taylor	11/30/2009

Licensed in October 2015

- Allison & Jean-Paul Brissett
- Daisy Akiboh
- Katherine Clarito
- Katie & Josiah Winter
- Lisa and John-L Lykins
- Lyndon & Leslie Schmidt
- Melinda Murray
- Nakia Sturrup
- Pamela Wilcher

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Avanel and Edward Gato have been Licensed Therapeutic Foster Parents since May 12th 2004. In 2013, The Gatos accepted a sibling group of two children. The initial case goal was reunification with the children's biological mother and as the mother struggled to complete her case plan the Gatos routinely encouraged her and provided appropriate support and empathy. Despite the Gato's efforts, the biological mother's rights were ultimately terminated due to non -compliance.The Gatos actively participated in the transition by establishing a favorable relationship with the identified adoptive family.

Joan & Adolphus Washington have been licensed with Families First since 2007. From 2008 to 2015 they maintained the placement of 3 boys. Though each boy demonstrated many behavioral and mental challenges, the Washingtons never gave up and worked with therapists, GALs, their licensing agency and the case managers to ensure the boys received the highest quality of care possible.

Kia and Natalie are wonderful examples of excellent parents and they partner exceptionally well with the birth families and case management teams for their children. They allowed parent-child therapy sessions to take place in their home for the one sibling group to address defiant behaviors, took children to visit their father in jail in order to support and strengthen the connection, stayed in the hospital with a bio mom for one of their sibling groups in the hospital when she gave birth to a new baby and have continually supported bio parents. They frequently have the parents over to their home for dinner, birthday parties and other special occasions.

Jamie and Stephanie Phillips opened their lives by phone, text and skype, first to the biological, mother, then grandmother and then to others in the extended biological family of the children. The Phillips also provided transportation to and from doctors and therapists appointments, visits with the biological family, worked with the case management team, school personnel, day care providers, church ministers and lay leaders, therapists, Guardian Ad Litem, Licensing personnel and others to provide the safest, healthiest, most nurturing environment possible for the children in their care. In addition they provided excellent email, voice and text communication of progress in the lives of the children.

Gary and Jocelyn Randolph worked with the bio-father and showed him direction on how to care of the children prior to him dropping the kids off with him. When the bio-father stopped contacting him and the children, he reached out to the agencies to put them back in foster care status so the children would have medical insurance. When the bio-father reappeared, the Randolph's once again reached out to him. When the Randolph's heard the news recently that the bio-mother of their current foster children had another baby, they did not hesitate to take in that child as well.

HAPPY Thanksgiving

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any program or activity receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance and administered by Eckerd Community Alternatives System of Care. Foreign language and sign language interpreters will be made available at no charge to the client.

No se discriminará ni se le negará a ninguna persona, por su raza, color, religión, nacionalidad, sexo, edad o incapacidad, la participación o los beneficios de cualquier programa o actividad que reciba beneficios de ayuda financiera federal y que sea administrado por el "Eckerd Community Alternatives System of Care." Se pondrán a disposición servicios de interpretación de idiomas y señas sin costo alguno para el cliente.