

Dear stakeholders:

You may have seen recent media coverage about the unusually high numbers of Hillsborough County children being removed from their homes, and the challenges this has created in finding appropriate placements for some of these youths. We wanted to share some information with you about this issue.

In recent months, youth have been coming into our system of care in Hillsborough County at twice the rate of the rest of the state. We are working with local stakeholders to understand the root cause of this spike, but in the meantime we continue to work diligently on finding placement for every child who enters our care. During May and June, we had youth who have acute treatment and behavioral needs that limit their placement options. With no other immediate alternatives available, they were housed overnight in a secure and supervised office environment.

Any time a youth is not found proper placement, it is a failure of



the entire system of care. We are currently working with Hillsborough County to make all eligible facilities available to children in the foster care system, expanding our capacity and allowing more options for youth that have these especially challenging circumstances. Additionally, a local stakeholders workgroup with representatives from the Department of Children & Families, Eckerd Kids, the Hillsborough Sheriff's Office, the Thirteenth Circuit Judiciary, Children's Services Council, the Guardian Ad Litem's Office, and the Office of Attorney General has been formed to address the increasing rate of children entering the Hillsborough foster care system. We have also asked Casey Family Programs to be part of this group as well to help share solutions from an outside perspective.

Since April, we have recruited and licensed 38 new foster homes

Continues on back>>

Photo by Pezz Photo



Meet Janiya
Age 13

“I care about others”

Kind, compassionate, and incredibly intuitive, Janiya is a natural-born caregiver. She has a big heart, and the uncanny ability to know exactly how others are feeling and what they need. She can be a little shy at first, but once she's comfortable she allows playful, fun personality to shine through. Janiya's proud of her "beautiful brown eyes" and how fast she can run. She loves to sing, swim, be outdoors, and go shopping! Janiya has overcome an incredible amount of self-doubt and difficulty in her young life, and she deserves a loving family that will celebrate and re-enforce her strength every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July** **HCFPA Membership Meeting**
No Meeting in July
- July/ Aug.** **HCFPA Respite Program**
No respite during July and August months
- Oct. 13** **Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet**
6:00 – 10:00 pm
Embassy Suites, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612



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,

I hope everyone has a fun and blessed summer.

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



HCFPA Respite Program

There will be NO Respite in the months of July and August.

HCFPA Meetings

No HCFPA meeting in July:

HCFPA will not hold a membership meeting in July. Please use this time off to enjoy with your friends and families during the summer.



"It's hot and I'm bored!"

Do these words sound familiar?

While we all love the summer break, it can also sometimes be difficult to keep the kids entertained while not breaking the bank!

Visit **FamilyFriendlyTampaBay.com** for some low-cost suggestions to beat the heat and bring on the fun!



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
10:00 a.m. - 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) 541-6623.

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.

Note: Clothing Closet will be closed on July 1, 2016 for the 4th of July weekend.



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 Board of Directors

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Event Chair

Karen Queen
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Congratulations!

Foster Parent Anniversaries

	Date
• Candi Tamney	7/5
• Oluwaremilekun "Remi" Ogunbamwo & Leroy Moore	7/7
• Cheyanna & Edwin Cooke	7/8
• Joann Pointer	7/10
• Monika Cole	7/10
• Selina Matthews	7/14
• Whitney Mitchell	7/15
• Brenda Williams	7/16
• Richardo & Johanna Bonilla	7/16
• Naomi Hamilton	7/17
• Jaimeson & Tamara Kent	7/18
• Richard & Nildeth Swogger	7/18
• Jeffrey & Michelle Manfredi	7/19
• Sharon Vickers	7/21
• Janice Salter	7/22
• Nancy Delicieux	7/22
• Debbie & Michael Sturgill	7/24
• Linda Becerra	7/24
• Tracia & Rob Heindorf	7/24
• Idolidia Carrillo	7/25
• Lourdes & Andre Chaparro	7/25
• Linda Allen	7/26
• Nadine Fanguy	7/27
• Felicia Robinson	7/28
• Jennifer & Johnathon Post	7/28
• Tara & Justin McCamey	7/28
• Christa & Justin Setzer	7/29
• Kia Snelling, & Natale Virelles	7/29
• Lacey & Johnathan White	7/29
• Lazandra Young	7/29
• Mattie Harris	7/29
• Thomas Karpowich	7/29
• Leslie Thomas & Darlene Hollister	7/30
• Alana Perry	7/31
• Myrna Negron-Montalvo	7/31

Licensed in June 2016

- Amanda & Kristopher Katzer
- Billie Gene Harris
- Charity Baker
- Chelsea & Brandon Mullins
- Dina & Michael Colegrove
- Ellissa Richardson
- Iliia Valentin &, Daniel Ramirez
- Jennifer DiMostra
- LaTamara Flythe
- Nancijane & Thomas McHenry
- Natasha Walden
- Pupo-Martinez
- Tamara & Brian Harre
- Tammy & Danny "Bruce" McGinn
- Toni Cerekwicki

(Continued from page 1)

which has increased capacity by 72 beds. We'll continue to keep you updated on this challenging issue. In the meantime, what can you do to help? Please spread the word among friends and family about the urgent need for more people to become foster parents—especially

in Hillsborough County—to increase our capacity to provide an appropriate, home-like setting for every child entering our care. As always, thank you for everything you do to help serve the needs of children and families.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

July is upon us and that means hurricane season is in full swing! Here are some helpful hints to keep you and your family safe this hurricane season:



Make sure you have a "Go Bag" prepared in the case that you do have to evacuate. Make sure it includes at a minimum your emergency health information, medications, personal items and supplies for pets.



Prepare a Supply Kit for your home in the case that you do not evacuate. Most professionals recommend having a minimum of a 3 day supply of food and water per household member in addition to a first aid kit, whistle to signal for help, flashlight and batteries, radio, maps of the area, cell phone with charger, manual can opener for food, dust masks, moist towelettes and garbage bags.

While we hope that we don't need to utilize these tips, please remember to plan ahead. Have a safe and fun summer!

We Need Your Help!

Eckerd Kids is looking for those willing to commit to children in their home, providing them with temporary loving care and serving as mentors to the child's family. If you have a friend or family member that has room in their home and heart, please refer them to call Eckerd's Foster Parent Recruitment Line or visit our website at:

P: (866) 233-0790 (toll-free)
Eckerd.org/foster

Free Foster Parent Orientations are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Family Place, 9391 North Florida Ave. Tampa, FL



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.