Foster Parent CONNECTION
Newsletter

The first name in second chances.SM
Eckerd Kids | Community Alternatives Hillsborough

March 2016 • Volume 4, Issue 3

Foster Parents Extraordinaire

Margaret and Rick Thompson

The Thompsons provided the highest quality of care, especially for newborns and substance exposed infants. Margaret has a unique gift for this, and through her loving care, relentless attention and extraordinary skills, these children thrived in spite of their compromised beginnings. As a foster mother, Margaret documented and tracked her children's growth, milestones, and challenges. In doing so, she was their strongest advocate and prepared each of them for a successful start in life and eventual transition to permanency.

The lives impacted by Richard and Margaret are a testimony to the loving example that foster and birth parents should all aspire to be. The family will be greatly missed and their qualities hard to replace.

God Bless Richard and Margaret Thompson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 19 **HCFPA Respite Program**
10 am - 12 pm @ The Family Place
9391 N Florida Ave.,Tampa, FL
Childcare | $2 per child

April 2 **HCFPA Membership Meeting**
10 am - 12 pm @ The Family Place
9391 N Florida Ave.,Tampa, FL
Childcare | $2 per child

April 9 **Spring Fling Event**
11 am - 2 pm
Circle C Ranch
6204 Interbay Blvd., Tampa, FL
Featuring BBQ, bounce houses, horseback riding, games, face painting, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and more!
RSVP at HCFPA.org

Photo by Michael Schuhmann

Meet Anthony

Age 4

"I can turn a bad day into a bright day!"

Anthony is the kind of kid that shows you what unconditional joy really looks like. In spite of the odds he faces, he chooses every day to smile relentlessly, and to spread that hope and happiness to anyone lucky enough to be within earshot of his giggle. Anthony loves to spend time outside, and he can watch baseball for hours on end! He enjoys cartoons and calm jazz music, and likes big, fluffy dogs that nap at his feet. There's no doubt that Anthony has a difficult road ahead of him, but there is also no doubt that Anthony possesses the tenacity and determination of spirit to achieve even his wildest dreams. He has that part covered. What he needs is an affectionate, supportive family that can care for his medical needs and encourage his self-determination.

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,

Spring is fast approaching and what a wonderful time of year it is to live in Florida. Be sure to take time to get the children outside and enjoy this beautiful weather.

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

HCFPA will be offering our respite program on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at The Family Place. This month's theme is dreams. An RSVP and a $2.00 charge per child are required and can be made at HCFPA.org . Space is limited and RSVPs will be honored first come, first serve.

Valentines day cards created by kids that participated in last month's LOVE respite theme.

We will be celebrating spring at this HCFPA event with a full BBQ, bounce houses, horseback riding, games, face painting, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and more!

April 9 (11am - 2pm)

Circle C Ranch | 6204 Interbay Blvd. | Tampa, FL

RSVP at HCFPA.org

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 1st Saturday of the month and the Respite Program is held the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am at The Family Place office located at 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
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.

HCFPA Board of Directors

President
Kimberly Hernandez
kimh@HCFPA.org

Secretary
Education and Training
Gifts in Kind
Food Pantry
Jill Tyree
JillT@hcfpa.org

Parliamentarian
Mershell Godbolt
MershellG@hcfpa.org

Treasurer
Wes Binder
wesb@hcfpa.org

Clothing Closet Chair
Membership Chair
Kathryn Melendez
Kmelendez@hcfpa.org

Childcare Chair
Ericka Shumpert
Childcare@hcfpa.org

Relative Caregiver Chair
Missy Saffold
813–516–9745
MissyS@hcfpa.org

Respite Chair
Emily Binder
Emilyb@hcfpa.org

Event Chair
Karen Queen
KarenQ@hcfpa.org

HCFPA.org
HCFPA@yahoo.com

Congratulations!

Foster Parent Anniversaries

	Date
Emily & Wesley Binder	3/3
Russell & Teresa Jefferson	3/3
Jennifer & Eric Adams	3/4
Brendale & James Perkins	3/7
Tracy Edwards	3/8
Beverly & Thomas Campbell	3/9
Kimberly Hernandez	3/9
Vertyle Moss	3/11
Chelsie & Richard Jennings	3/12
Miguel & Christina Nunez-Morris	3/12
Jenny Fleming,	3/12
Marcia Spicer	3/15
Quinta & Calvin Wells	3/17
Mattie Neal	3/18
Jed & Katherine Kirby	3/18
David & Lola Calhoun	3/19
Kimberly & Kenneth Brumfiel	3/19
David & Luz Hopkins	3/19
Rebecca Dibble	3/20
Donald & Barbara Wade	3/20
Gislaine & Emmanuel Etienne	3/21
Deyanira Betancourt	3/23
Kelly & Philip Hasterok	3/24
Christina & Jon Rutledge	3/26
Ada Mitchell-Baker	3/27
Thomas Avino	3/27
Whirley & Patricia Metheney	3/27
Robert Goodwin & Lewis Simpson	3/28
Javier & Siunly Torres	3/28
Rafael & Cenia Flores	3/28
Vivian & Ronald Haney	3/28
Heather Taylor & Timothy Burkowske	3/28
Danaysi Padrino & Magdiel Zulueta	3/29
Ezell Monroe	3/29
Amanda Gary	3/30
Kelley & Timothy Klein	3/31
Lauran Brownell	3/31

Licensed in February 2016

- Ann Marie & James Warner
- Carol Griffin
- Glendrene Bryant
- Ivanka & Paul Pucovsky
- Kari Neller
- Kristen Turner
- Louise Reaves
- Minoutie & Kerwyn Madray
- Natasha Lee & Joslin Shaw
- Nosaghare Owen
- Shatonja Flower & Williams Donovan

Remembering the Godbolts

Our dear friend and fellow foster parent, Jerome Godbolt, recently passed away on Tuesday, March 1. This is the opportunity for us to support his wife, Mershell Godbolt, and her family. A meal train has been set up and people are encouraged to register at the link below:

http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=EYNU2568

Mershell and her family would like to thank everyone for coming together during this trying time. Thank you all for your support and blessings.

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.