May is National Foster Parent Appreciation Month!

Each May provides an opportunity for people all across the country to not only focus their attention on the needs of children in foster care, but to also show our appreciation of the foster parents and professionals who work with our children and families each day.

Did you know there are more than 400,000 children in foster care across the nation?

Locally, as we continue to try and raise awareness about the magnitude of the issue, we ask you to please help us to raise awareness of our foster care needs, motivate others to help foster and encourage adopting children from the foster care system.

As foster parents, you show kids real love as a family. You provide them a safe home, give them a hopeful future and help with homework! Most of all, you all help calm their fears and wipe their tears.

Thank you for your continued commitment to support our children in care. We honor you as our heroes and would like to show our appreciation to you all during this special month!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21  HCFPA
       Respite Program
       Theme: Detective
       10 am - 2 pm @ The Family Place
       9391 N Florida Ave., Tampa, FL
       RSVP required at HCFPA.org
       Childcare | $2 per child

June 4  HCFPA
       Membership Meeting
       10 am - 12 pm @ The Family Place
       9391 N Florida Ave., Tampa, FL
       Childcare | $2 per child

July    HCFPA
       Membership Meeting
       No Meeting in July

July/Aug. HCFPA
       Respite Program
       No respite during July and August months

Meet
J.J.
Age 13
“T’m a mini-bike fanatic!”

There are a lot of things J. J. loves, but nothing more than the freedom and fun he finds on a mini-bike. He’s happiest when he’s outdoors -- whether he’s running or mowing the lawn or riding bikes -- and he’d love to be part of an active family to share that with. He does well in school, especially in math, and when he grows up he’d like to be a mechanic (though with his uncanny skills of negotiation, he’d make an excellent lawyer, also!) J. J. has strived over the past few years to make positive changes in his life and he would benefit greatly from the consistent love and encouragement found in a forever family. He’ll do best in a patient home that has plenty of time to devote to him.

To learn more about adoption, please visit:
heartgallerytampabay.org

Photos provided by:
Children’s Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay
President’s Corner

Hello HCFPA Families,

Spring is here! 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, May 21st, 2016 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at The Family Place.

This month’s theme is “DETECTIVE”.

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.

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

HCFPA Meetings

HCFPA Mother’s Day event:
HCFPA celebrated our special mothers during our Saturday membership meeting on May 7 with a full meal of chicken, ham, a baked potato bar, homemade fudge, deserts, a beautiful fruit tree, gift cards and gift baskets!

This was our way of showing a little appreciation for the wonderful care of these foster, birth, adopted, relative and non-relative mothers who look after our children.

Thank you so much to the HCFPA board members that worked so hard and the volunteers that helped as well.

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.
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.

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.
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

To include foster parent stories and information in a future newsletter, forward to: nlefever@eckerd.org • (813) 225-1105 ext. 1197

Congratulations!

Foster Parent Anniversaries

- Kai & Brandon Boykin 5/2
- Yvonne Woods 5/2
- Kimberly & Stephen Shouse 5/3
- Beatrice & James Leysath 5/4
- K’Charis Drewery & Joseph Freese 5/6
- Elizabeth & Darren Aguero 5/7
- Jacquelyn & Eric Most 5/7
- Ida Thomas 5/8
- Sally & Robert Harris 5/9
- Annette Rivera 5/10
- Cynthia Jacobs & Kevin Gonlag 5/10
- Erica & Ryan Cortner 5/10
- Mary McGee 5/11
- Debrah Whitaker 5/14
- Philomene Fabiola Mehu 5/17
- Teresa Martin 5/17
- Ambrose 5/19
- Christina & Shawn Sallustio 5/19
- Nicole & Keith Bell 5/19
- Roshanda & Dwight Copeland 5/20
- Alicia & Joey Lightsey 5/22
- Marise Whitaker 5/22
- Yadira & William Andino 5/23
- Kim & Maury Leach 5/26
- Frances Martin 5/27
- Michelle & Dean Davis 5/27
- Chriscatina Ellison 5/28
- Danielle & Chris Fellerhoff 5/28
- Esther De Las Mercedes Nicholas 5/29
- Teri & Daniel Claassen 5/29
- Carol Cahalin 5/30
- Tonya & Victor Junco 5/30
- Jerome & Mershell Godbolt 5/31
- Marco & Erica Noel-Williams 5/31

Licensed in April 2016

- Aleida Sherrard & Emilio Almodovar
- Alice & Peter Naku
- Antonia & Octavia Colon
- Ashley & Ryan Cabrera
- Christy & Timothy Harvey
- Daphney & Hollis Branham
- Helen (Brooke) Thompson-Cenal & Walter Cenal
- Jennifer & Mark Thomas
- Kristi & Derrell Gooddine
- Linda Oxendine
- Lisa Madalon & Todd Noel
- Marie Cherubin
- Nydia Bonafe
- Wanda & Bruce Chabot

We didn’t give me the gift of life.
You are the gift life gave me!