

Partnerships in Parenting



**"Building Strong Links for
Children in Need"**

A Publication for Foster Care & Adoptive Parents

Winter 2011



Happy New Year to all of our amazing foster and adoptive parents! Looking back at the past year in child welfare, I am pleased at the new steps we have begun to take to improve our efforts in the recruitment and retention of foster parents. Later in the newsletter, you will read about a project called the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). QPI is a joint project of the Youth Law Center, Florida's Department of Children and Families, 14 Community Based Care Agencies and the Eckerd Family Foundation. The project

is aimed at ensuring that every child removed from his or her home is cared for by a family that provides skilled nurturing partner, helps him or her maintain their connections with their family and is a respected partner.

The key to the success of this project will be the input that we receive from existing foster parents. To begin that important step; Children's Network has developed a Foster Parent Focus Group. So far, we have had three meetings with our group. The first order of business was to explore the complexity of teen placements. The goal was to find out what made foster parents take teenagers and what prevented them from not taking teenagers. Ideas were given, experiences were discussed and friendships have formed.

We will continue to meet with our foster parents regularly to get their valuable input on many different issues. If you are interested in becoming a part of the focus group, please feel free to email us at info@childnetswfl.org. As always, thank you for everything you do for our children and families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hazel Smith".



Welcome New Foster Parents

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the families who were newly licensed October 2010 and December 2010.

Lutheran Services Florida

Nohora and Charles Rivera

Amber and Doug Binoniemi/Trevino

James and Lorraine Krisinski

Victorine Charles

Family Preservation Services of Florida,
Inc.

Mary Ely

Bethany and Yoan Smith/Saavedra

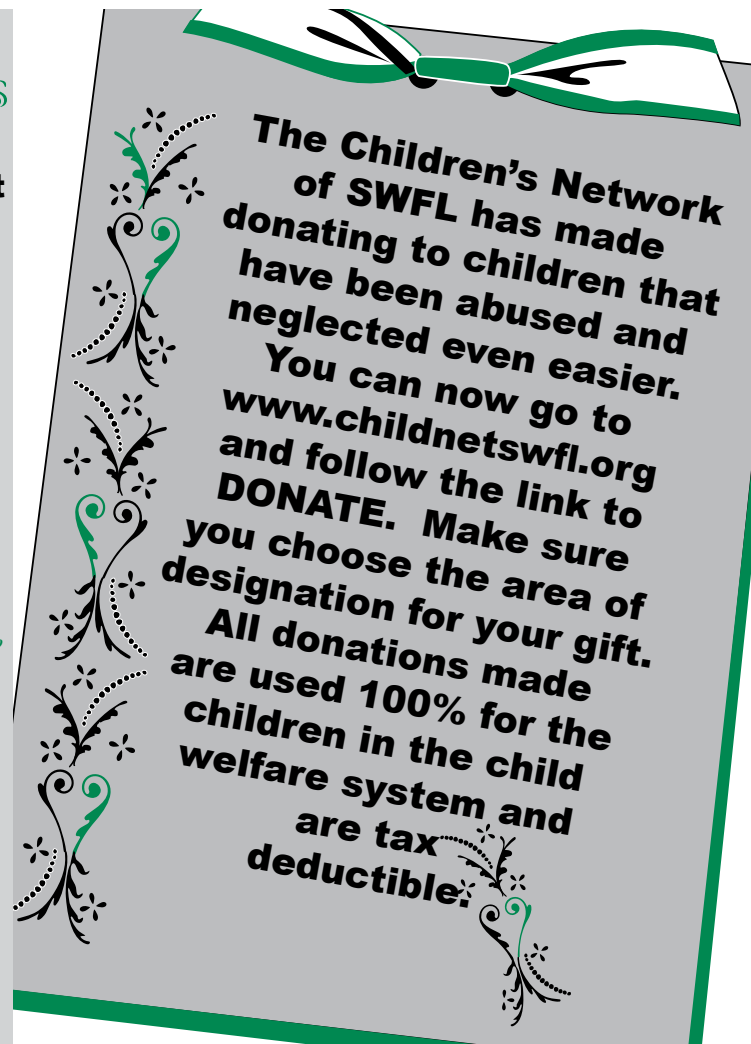
Connie and Martin Pinckney

Maria and Oscar Montalvo

Cindy and Tony Horrocks

Florida Baptist Children's Home

Sara and Mark Failor



The Children's Network of SWFL has made donating to children that have been abused and neglected even easier. You can now go to www.childnetswfl.org and follow the link to DONATE. Make sure you choose the area of designation for your gift. All donations made are used 100% for the children in the child welfare system and are tax deductible.

SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

1. **Twenty Life Transforming Choices Adoptees Need to Make** – Eldridge, Sherrie
2. **Try and Make Me** – Levy, R. and Hanlon, B.

SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

Early Childhood – ages 2-5

1. **A Koala for Katie** – London, Jonathan
2. **The Day We Met You** – Kasza, Keiko

Childhood – ages 5-10

1. **Mommy, Did I Grow in Your Tummy?** – Gordon, Elaine
 2. **“Why Didn't She Keep Me?”** – Burlington-Brown, Barbara
- Older Child and Teenager – ages 10+

1. **Lucy's Family** – Schreck, Karen

***Let us know what you, or your child, thought about any of these books!



Email us at info@childnetswfl.org.

Crib Alert Brings Changes for Foster Parents



Recently it was reported by the South Florida Sun-Sentinel that after dozens of deaths, drop-side cribs have been banned. They reported, "The government outlawed drop-side cribs on Wednesday December 15th after the deaths of more than 30 infants and toddlers

in the past decade and millions of recalls.

Around for decades, drop-side cribs have come under scrutiny in recent years because of malfunctioning hardware, sometimes cheaper plastics, or assembly problems that can lead to the drop-side rail partially detaching from the crib. When that

happens, it can create a dangerous "V"-like gap between the mattress and side rail where a baby can get caught and suffocate or strangle.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission voted unanimously to ban the manufacture, sale and resale of the cribs that have a side rail that moves up and down, designed to allow parents to more easily lift their child from the crib.

Beginning in June, the new standard requires cribs to have fixed sides.

Drop-side cribs have been blamed in the deaths of at least 32 infants and toddlers since 2000 and are suspected in another 14 infant fatalities. In the past five years, more than 9 million drop-side cribs have been recalled, including cribs from big-name companies such as Evenflo, Delta Enterprise Corp., and Pottery Barn Kids.

Though drop-side cribs have become scarcer at well-known baby stores, many parents still have drop-sides in their homes. They also can be found at secondhand stores.

During the next few weeks, if your home has a crib, the case manager or licensing specialist will be checking for the drop down side. If one is found, we will be sending you a check in the amount of \$150.00. It is to be used to purchase a new crib immediately and you need to save the receipt as the case manager will be collecting it at their next home visit. If you have any questions, please call us at 239-226-1524.

SPEAKERS WANTED!!

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida is always looking for foster and adoptive parents that are willing to speak to the community about becoming a foster parent and share their own personal experiences.

If you are interested in joining our speaker's bureau, please contact us at info@childnetswfl.org



CHILDREN CONTINUE TO FIND PERMANENCY

The Children's Network of Southwest Florida would like to offer a huge congratulations and thank you to our newest adoptive families from September 2010 and November 2010. These families have made the ultimate commitment: providing a safe, loving and permanent home for children that might never had a family to call their own. We would also like to thank the adoptive Child Welfare Case Managers who work long hours to help these families be successful and reach their goals. Listed below are our newest families:

LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA, INC.

Jeffrey & Julie Watson	varez Dale & Nancy Reisen
William & Kathy DallaCosta	Rex & Nora Duley
Bruce & Vanessa Holston	Kathy Nance
Loraine Wallace	Tim & Beth Cherry
Richard & Laurie Carley	Lakesa Marion
Jason & Amanda Hoffman	Lorn & Leah Bovill
Daniel & Michele Norman	Charles & Vanessa Null
Connie Singleton	Kevin & Patricia Keller
Ramiro & Evelyn Acosta	Michael & Kathy Cahill
Richard & Monica Miller	James & Cathleen Kenny
Donald & Teresa Johnson	Essie Robinson
Duane and Robin Levingston	Michael and Leila Varcoe
Sheila Atkinson	Wade Leon
Armando & Kimberleigh Al-	

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES OF FLORIDA, INC.

Patricia Perez
Stephanie Austin
Elizabeth Navarro
Orlando and Julie Corona
Elaine Erney
Eric and Jody Daly
Ron and Ameer Rachu
Yolanda Gregory



MEET THE CHILD



MEET MALAKAI

Malakai is a wonderful boy with a heart of gold. While he does have a limited vocabulary, he is able to speak a few words, like "yeah and go". Malakai also loves to wander from room to room and listens actively to conversations or music. He displays a great sense of hearing and loves to listen to television shows such as Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. Malakai can even hum the Jeopardy theme song.

Malakai attends a specialized school and his teachers work well with him. He responds positively to touch and auditory stimuli. Malakai would do well with a family that has the time, energy and willingness to dedicate to his special needs. Both parents should also be very loving and nurturing. Despite his tough start in life, Malakai has made great strides and will continue to do so, with the right family.

Whoever makes a commitment to this child should realize that it is for a lifetime. They must be his advocate, willing to go the extra mile and take the steps necessary to provide the best environment. The family that adopts Malakai will see that he is a blessing and will make a wonderful addition to their family. If this sounds like your loving and nurturing family, give Malakai a call today! If you are interested in Malakai or adoption, please contact our Adoption Specialist at 239-226-1524.

CELEBRITY ADOPTION QUIZ

Take this quiz and test your celebrity adoption knowledge.....

1. Adopted as an infant, this famous country singer reunited with his/her mother?
 - a) Tobey Keith
 - b) Faith Hill
 - c) Garth Brooks
 - d) Reba McEntire
2. Which of these famous African American artists was adopted?
 - a) Duke Ellington
 - b) Whitney Houston
 - c) Aretha Franklin
 - d) Bo Diddly
3. Which businessman was adopted as an infant?
 - a) Bill Gates (Microsoft)
 - b) Michael Eisner (Disney)
 - c) John Welch (General Electric)
 - d) Steve Jobs (Apple)
4. Which Olympic gold medalist for figure skating was adopted?
 - a) Kristi Yamaguchi
 - b) Dorothy Hamill
 - c) Scott Hamilton
 - d) Alexei Yagudin
5. Which former Minnesota Vikings football player was adopted?
 - a) Chris Carter
 - b) Chuck Foreman
 - c) Daunte Culpepper
 - d) Ciatrick Fason
6. Which actress grew up in a foster home in Maine?
 - a) Victoria Rowell (The Young & The Restless)
 - b) Tichinia Arnold (Everybody Hates Chris)
 - c) Phylicia Rashad (The Cosby Show)
 - d) Nia Long (Guiding Light)



Answers:

1. B 2. D 3. D 4. C 5. C 6. A

LEE COUNTY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Date / Time	Topic	Location	Registration
January 6, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm	<u>F BCH Foster Care Support Group Meeting-MAPP Refresher 5 & 6</u>	Summit Church 19601 Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy. (Activities Room) Fort Myers, Florida	Contact Terry Hartz (239) 275-7151
Jan. 12, 2011 8:30AM Jan. 22, 2011 8:30AM Feb. 12, 2011 8:30AM Length: 8 hours. Course fee: \$62.00	First Aid/CPR/AED Courses	7051 Cypress Terrace Fort Myers, Florida	Lee County American Cross 239-278-3401
January 12, 2011 through March 16, 2011 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<u>Peer to Peer Classes</u> 10 wks. Recovery education course open to any person with a serious mental illness	SWFAS - 3763 Evans Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33901	Contact Jonathan Rhynes w/ NAMI (239) 337-9024 www.namilee.org
February 9, 2011 6:00pm to 9:00pm	<u>Family to Family Classes</u> 12 wks. For families/friends of individuals with a serious mental illness	To be announced	Contact Jonathan Rhynes w/ NAMI (239) 337-9024 www.namilee.org
For available dates & times please call to register	<u>Basic Classes</u> 6 wks. Education program developed for parents and other caregivers of children who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness or experiencing serious emotional disturbance	To be announced	Contact Jonathan Rhynes w/ NAMI (239) 337-9024 www.namilee.org
March 3, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm	<u>F BCH Foster Care Support Group Meeting-Foster Parent Train Group: Guest Speaker</u>	First Assembly of God (School Building) 4701 Summerlin Road Fort Myers, Florida	Contact Terry Hartz (239) 275-7151

COLLIER, HENDRY & GLADES COUNTIES FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

Date/ Time	Topic	Location	Registration
February 3, 2011 6:30pm to 8:30pm	<u>FBCH Foster Care Support Group Meeting-Review of Foster Parent Handbook</u>	First Baptist Church of Naples (Education Building) 3000 Orange Blossom Drive Naples, Florida	Contact Terry Hartz (239) 275-7151
For available dates & times please call to register	Water Safety (Spanish classes available)	For Locations in your area please call to register	Contact Julie Spellman (239) 770-0641 waterwonders@swlfa.rr.com
For available dates & times please call to register	Speech/language, behavioral and occupational therapy for children	Building Blocks, Inc. 681 Goodlette Rd N. # 150 Naples, Florida	Contact the main number (239) 434-9512
For available dates & times please call to register	Training/Support group for parents and children with a mental health diagnosis	NAMI 6324 Trail Blvd Naples, Florida	Contact Kathryn Hunter (239) 434-6726
Every Monday @ 6:30 For available dates & times please call to register	Parenting Programs	Collier County Counseling, Inc. 3375 Tamiami Trail E. Suite 200 Naples, Florida	Contact Collier County Counseling (239) 417-0181 ccnaples2272@aol.com
For available dates & times please call to register	Independent Living Workshop	Children's Home Society 1940 Maravilla Ave. Fort Myers, Florida	Contact Sue Clark (800) 940-0102 x 308
For available dates & times please call to register	Infant/Child/Adult CPR & First Aid	Collier CPR and Safety Training 3823 Tamiami Trail East # 276, Naples, Florida	Contact the main number (239) 537-0495
For available dates & times please call to register	Nutrition, health education, prenatal and infant health care program, school health program, facts about WIC	Collier County Health Department 3823 Tamiami Trail East # 276 Naples, Florida	Contact Deb Millsap (239) 252-8220
For available dates & times please call to register	Cyberspace Bullying/ Internet Safety, Safe Streets & Homes: Including Gangs, Child Abuse, Neglect & Drugs	Naples Alliance For Children 660 9 th Street North, Suite 35D Naples, Florida	Contact Judy Gross for more information on upcoming workshops & seminars (239) 649-5260
For available dates & times please call to register	Hurricane preparation plans, Community services in the area and Child	Hendry/Glades County Health Department 1140 Pratt Boulevard	Contact the Health Department's for further information: (863) 674-4041 x149

	development	Labelle, Florida 1100 South Olympia Avenue Clewiston, Florida 956 Hwy 27 SW Moore Haven, Florida	(Labelle) (863) 902-3311 (Clewiston) (863) 946-0707 (Moore Haven)
January – 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	ACT (Abuse Counseling Treatment) Topic- Are you dealing w/ an angry child?/ Domestic Violence affects on children	Harlem Daycare 944 Harlem Academy Ave. Clewiston, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134
January- 6:00 pm -8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	NAMI- Topic-Overview of children and Infant mental Health/ Attachment disorders, and post traumatic stress disorder	Family Preservation Services 2606 Horseshoe Drive S. Naples, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134
January- 6:00-pm-8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	ACT (Abuse Counseling Treatment) Topic- Is your child acting out?/ Domestic Violence affects on children	Family Preservation Services 485 East Cowboy Way, Labelle, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134
February- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	Felix O, Pardron,Psy. Topic-Caring for Children in Crisis	Family Preservation Services 2606 Horseshoe Drive S. Naples, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134
March- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	ACT (Abuse Counseling Treatment) Topic-Affects on Children from sexual Abuse	Family Preservation Services 485 East Cowboy Way, Labelle, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134
March- 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm For available dates & times please call to register	ACT (Abuse Counseling Treatment) Topic- Affects on Children from sexual Abuse	Family Preservation Services 2606 Horseshoe Drive S. Naples, Florida	Contact Lynette Soares FPS Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 213-4134

CHARLOTTE COUNTY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Date / Time	Topic	Location	Registration
1 st Thursday of the month	Support meetings	To be announced	Contact Barbara Atkins LSF Foster Parent Support Coordinator (239) 461-7691
For available dates & times please call to register	Adult CPR/AED No scheduled Dates	Charlotte County American Red Cross 1300-D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Jennifer Prescott (941) 629-4345
For available dates & times please call to register	Infant CPR/AED No scheduled Dates	Charlotte County American Red Cross 1300-D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Jennifer Prescott (941) 629-4345
For available dates & times please call to register	First Aid No scheduled Dates	Charlotte County American Red Cross 1300 D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Jennifer Prescott (941) 629-4345
For available dates & times please call to register	First aid/ Adult CPR No scheduled Dates	Charlotte County American Red Cross 1300 D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Jennifer Prescott (941) 629-4345
For available dates & times please call to register	Water Safety	Charlotte County American Red Cross 1300 D Enterprise Drive Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Jennifer Prescott (941) 629-4345
To be scheduled on Tuesdays per request	Anita Kos- Identity theft	Dept of Children and Families 19500 Toledo Blade Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Naomi Johnson (941) 613-3908
To be scheduled on Tuesdays per request	Anita Kos –Care Teen Dating Violence	Dept of Children and Families 19500 Toledo Blade Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Naomi Johnson (941) 613-3908
To be scheduled on Tuesdays per request	Anita Kos Sexual assault on children	Dept of Children and Families 19500 Toledo Blade Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Naomi Johnson (941) 613-3908
To be scheduled on Tuesdays per request	Anita Coss Safe dating	Dept of Children and Families 19500 Toledo Blade Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Naomi Johnson (941) 613-3908
To be scheduled on Tuesdays per request	Anita Kos –Care Effects of Domestic Violence on Children	Dept of Children and Families 19500 Toledo Blade Blvd. Port Charlotte, Florida	Contact Naomi Johnson (941) 613-3908

****For more resources please contact your relicensing counselor for items through the Children’s Network Resource Library or the following websites:**

www.qpiflorida.com

www.fosterparentclub.com

www.fosterparentcollege.com

COOK'S CORNER

Blueberry Cake Dessert

Submitted by Foster mother, Jeanne Basso (Aunt Vivian's Recipe)

Crust - one stick Oleo, one cup flour, 1/2 Cup Nuts.

Mix & press into 2 qt. dish size 13 x 9 x 9 inches.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes - let cool.

Topping - 9 oz. Cool Whip, 8 oz Cream Cheese, and one cup powdered sugar. Mix & put on cooled Crust.

Top with a can of Blueberry Pie Filling. Refrigerate.

