

September 2024

# News You Can Use

## Foster Parent Newsletter



Dear Tita,

Each month, we include a spotlight featuring a foster family. We are so inspired by their stories, but also by the commitment and caring of each of our foster families.

That's why we provide this resource — to share important information that helps caregivers meet the needs of the children in their homes and make their work a little easier.

And we've got lots of information to share in this issue, including an update on county leadership points of contact, details about the October foster parent meeting, in-service training sessions and the plan for the 'Mix & Mingle' recruitment opportunities.

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## Court Ordered Reunification or Change of Placement: How it Affects You

When a judge orders reunification or a change of

placement, the change is effective the date the court order is signed, unless the order specifies otherwise. Legally, the child is no longer placed in foster care, which affects the ability to seek medical care for the child if needed. And FPOCF is not able to pay room and board after the court-ordered move date. If you encounter a situation where a judge has ordered a placement change and you are asked to keep a child longer, please alert your relicensing and support coordinator of the situation.

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## Invite Friends to Mix & Mingle

We're restarting our Mix & Mingle foster parent information sessions, and we need your help to host a session.



Here's how a Mix & Mingle works:

- You invite three or more families to your home to learn about becoming a foster family. They can be friends, neighbors or family members.
- You provide light refreshments for your guests.
- You share your experience being a foster family.

It's one way you can help Family Partnerships increase the number of homes available for our children and youth. And you can earn a \$250 referral bonus if one of your guests takes a placement after becoming licensed. If you're interested in hosting a session or have any questions, contact [Lisa.Walters@fpocf.org](mailto:Lisa.Walters@fpocf.org).

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## Attend the Next Foster Parent Meeting

Join us for the foster parent meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m., via Teams. The new tri-county foster and adoptive association leadership and Circuit 18 Guardian ad Litem

program will present during the meeting. We'll also share information on licensing topics and issue training certificates. Join the meeting by clicking on the Team link below:

### [Join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 236 409 578 755

Passcode: YRwTxw

## In-service Training Opportunities Available

Family Partnerships of Central Florida has developed **training on navigating mid-year changes that is mandatory for all foster parents**.

We're offering two training dates via Zoom and recording the session to make it easily accessible for everyone. In-service training hours will be provided for caregivers who attend.

**Oct. 2, 12-1 p.m. & Oct. 24, 7-8 p.m.**

### [Join the training](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1212 8061

Passcode: 868531





## Church Opens Foster Closet

Nona Church, Moss Park Campus, has launched Nona Closet for foster parents. Located inside the church at 11221 John Wycliffe Blvd., Orlando, Nona Closet offers new and gently used baby gear, diapers/pull-ups/wipes

and clothing, sizes infant through child 14/16. The closet is open every Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Organizers hope to offer appointments and occasional Saturday openings in the future. Contact Candis at [candis.oa@gmail.com](mailto:candis.oa@gmail.com) for more information.

## Points of Contact for Counties Have Changed

There have been some changes to the leadership team for Osceola and East Orange. Below are the points of contact who will help answer questions and resolve issues for the tri-county area.



### Tri-county Operations

- Orange (Camelot and One Hope United) – [Nikki.Riggsbee@fpocf.org](mailto:Nikki.Riggsbee@fpocf.org), 407-906-8234
- Seminole (Camelot) and Osceola (Gulf Coast) – [Nicole.Musgray@fpocf.org](mailto:Nicole.Musgray@fpocf.org), 407-600-4202
- Case Management and Permanency Administrator – [Jennifer.Williams@fpocf.org](mailto:Jennifer.Williams@fpocf.org), 321-588-5172
- Licensing – [Kim.Pleasants@fpocf.org](mailto:Kim.Pleasants@fpocf.org), 407-775-8413



## Reminders

### Foster Care Board Payment Schedule

As we have shared previously, foster board and childcare subsidies are issued the second Thursday of the month following the date of service. Below are the

payment dates for the remainder of this year:

- September services reimbursed Oct. 10.
- October services reimbursed Nov. 14.
- November services reimbursed Dec. 12.
- December services reimbursed Jan. 9.

### On Call Support

The foster home/caregiver support line has merged with the intake and placement on-call line. For all support needs after hours and on weekends, call **321-300-0466**.

### Reporting Mid-year Changes

While the items below have always been required, the state will be audited by the federal government beginning late next year for compliance tied to federal IV-E funding. Please notify your relicensing and support coordinator immediately to report any of the following changes to your household so we can help keep your home in compliance with code requirements:

- **New household members.** Any individuals ages 12 and older must be background checked immediately. If you know in advance that someone new will be living in your home, the licensing team will work to process their background screening in advance to prevent your license from being out of compliance. Having any adult living in your home who has not been background screened can impact placement of children in your home until the background checks are completed.
- **Renovations** to your home.
- **Changes in sleeping arrangements**, such as adding or removing beds in rooms.
- **Marriage or divorce.**

### Sunshine Health Accepted at More Pharmacies



Sunshine Health is now accepted at CVS, Walgreens and Publix pharmacies. And have you used the over-the-counter benefit this month? Through Sunshine Health, each participant can receive up to \$25 worth of over-the-counter items every month. Use this benefit to purchase items like baby wipes, vitamins and Tylenol tablets. You can also get everyday items like laundry detergent, soap and toothbrushes. Visit the [Sunshine over-the-counter web page](#) for details.

You can get the benefit online or in the CVS store where you'll find a catalog of eligible items. The zip code to set up an online account is 32751. If you have problems accessing the benefit or have questions about anything related to Sunshine Health, contact Sabrina Beharie at [Sabrina.Beharie@fpocf.org](mailto:Sabrina.Beharie@fpocf.org) or 407-490-6665.

## September Foster Parent Spotlight

In our September foster parent spotlight, Katrina and Frederick Williams have been recognized by the GAL and case manager for the kids placed in their home:



"Mr. and Mrs. Williams are medical foster parents who took the boys in after a series of night-to-night placements and days at the office. For the last seven months, Mrs. Williams has gone above and beyond to ensure that these boys got all the medical, emotional and behavioral treatment they needed. The boys had never been to the doctor before being sheltered, and so Mrs. Williams had to start from the beginning. Once taken to the pediatrician, it was clearly obvious that the boys had numerous health problems, both physical and mental. Mrs. Williams has diligently ensured that the boys received all the care they needed. This included the boys seeing a psychologist, psychiatrist, neuropsychologist, gastroenterologist, ENT specialist, school diagnostician, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, behavior therapist and more.

"The boys now receive the appropriate care for their numerous medical and mental health needs. The effect has been truly amazing. The boys are visibly happier, and you can see improvement in many areas of development. This is all due to Mr. and Mrs. Williams and their

outstanding work. No matter what the barrier, Mrs. Williams never let anything stop her from getting the best care for these boys. Her work here has been nothing short of astounding.

"In my interactions with Mrs. Williams, I am always impressed by her kindness and warmth. This foster family embodies the best attributes one can want in foster parents."

## We Appreciate You!

### About Family Partnerships of Central Florida

Family Partnerships of Central Florida is committed to protecting children, strengthening families and changing lives through a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care that provides adoption, foster care and independent living services for children and families in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

Contracted with the Florida Department of Children and Families as the lead child welfare agency in the four-county area, Family Partnerships of Central Florida's mission is to ensure that the children it serves thrive in safe, healthy and loving families.



**Family Partnerships  
of Central Florida**

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE

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