



Heartland for Children

FOSTER CARE NEWSLETTER

April 2024

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month!

Shawn Butler
Director of Community Relations

Heartland for Children believes all families deserve to live in communities that have adequate resources to support families and provide opportunities for healthy growth and developmental experiences for children.

In April, we will be painting our community BLUE through the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. Pinwheels for Prevention uses a simple child's toy, a blue and silver pinwheel, to remind us of the happy and healthy childhoods that all children deserve and to also remind us that everyone plays a vital role in keeping children safe. Throughout Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties businesses and organizations will be demonstrating their commitment to help Florida children live healthy and happy lives.



Keeping Siblings and their Caregivers Connected



Feature by
Kat Bigelow,
Foster Caregiver

My husband Peter and I welcomed twin 2-year-olds in 2022. Little did we know how blessed we would be by their extended family! Part of a sibling group of 8, some of their siblings were in foster care and some were with family caregivers. We were fortunate to be connected via mutual friends to all the siblings' caregivers. Over the past (almost) 2 years, we've enjoyed monthly visits with the siblings, which also involves an ongoing text message chain of 4-5 caregivers. I've grown such a bond with the other caregivers that we call each other "sister moms" and even meet up for an occasional "Moms' Night Out." We know that our bonds are special and life-long, which will facilitate even more opportunities for the siblings to spend time together!



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Important Dates

April 2024

- 9 Board rate payments disbursed
- 23 Challenging Behavior Support Group
Watch your texts for details!
- 25 Foster Caregiver Advisory Council Meeting, 12-1 pm

Loop the Lake 2024

A BIG thank you to the FSC Kappa Delta Gamma Epsilon and everyone who came out to support happy & healthy childhoods at the Loop the Lake Carnival Run on Saturday! Thanks to all of your support over \$11,000 were raised to benefit child abuse prevention efforts in Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties! 🍷🍷🍷

Do you have questions that need a Program Manager's expertise?

Chelsea Hand
Program Manager
Foster Home Licensing
O: (863) 519-8900 ext. 217
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chand@heartlandforchildren.org

Make it Yours!

This newsletter is created to be helpful for foster families - to share needed information and resources. Please let us know what features would be helpful to you to include in future editions.

Please send your ideas to Faye Dyer at fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org

Foster Home Statistics

As of 3/28/24

- 34 homes licensed since July 1st, 2023
- 72 inquiries for the month of February
- 184 homes total in Circuit 10
- 52 Children & Teens entered out of home care in February 2024

YOU are our best recruiters for new foster families! Please share your stories with others and ask them to contact us at (863)519-8900 x289 if they are interested in learning more about fostering.

Florida Poison Control

"When the unexpected happens, we're here for you!"

24/7/365 with fast, free treatment advice by calling Poison Help (1-800-222-1222). Whether it's a question or an emergency, Poison Help can provide life-saving information when people need it most and calling a Poison Center is faster and more accurate than an internet search. On average, 90% of poisonings happen in American homes each year, and more than 70% of people who call Poison Help get the help they need right where they are—saving the cost of a trip to a doctor or hospital.

2024 CHILD WELFARE PROVIDER FAIR

MAKE A SPLASH AT OUR SUMMERTIME PROVIDER FAIR
YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR RESOURCES!

APRIL 25, 2024

10AM - 2PM

BARTOW CIVIC CENTER

2250 S FLORAL AVENUE, BARTOW, FL 33830

GAMES RAFFLE TRAINING CREDIT

HEALTH SCREENINGS MASSAGES SNACKS

**VENDOR
REGISTRATION**



Pre Register by

- NO Vendor Fee
- Lunch & Snacks Provided
- Vendor Scavenger Hunt

**ATTENDEE
REGISTRATION**



April 20th to receive
an extra raffle ticket