



Heartland for Children

FOSTER CARE NEWSLETTER

December 2024

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Happy
Holidays

Wow! It's hard to believe that the holiday season is here!

To kick off the season of merriment, check out the Rudolph updates on this page and some of the ways our foster homes celebrate on page 2.

At the bottom of page 2 is some information about frequent visitors you may need to know and updates from the TLC Association are on page 3.

December is also your last chance to get your entries in for the Foster Caregivers as Recruiters Campaign drawings! See page 4 for the updated leader board and some tips on how to recruit in 60 seconds.

As always, important dates are listed on the last page.

From the Heartland family to yours: May your home be filled with love, peace and joy this holiday season and throughout 2025!

Updates from the Rudolph Team!



Thank you for sending us the wishes for the foster children and teens in your care! Donors have been busy shopping and are starting to bring wishes to the warehouse.

Gift pick-up will start on Monday, 12/2/24. Watch your phones and emails for messages that your foster children's gifts are ready!

Warehouse Location: Heartland Youth Village, 3350 East State Road 60, Bartow, FL 33830 (across from Peace Creek Baptist Church). We will be in the first building on the right. Please follow the signs to the back of the building and call 863-452-7300 to let us know you arrived!





How Do You Celebrate?

For our family, we do Yule together on Dec.21, where we celebrate the winter solstice with everyone wearing new pajamas and unwrapping a book. We all sit and read together and play games as a family for the day. Then we've got a great following week as we celebrate Christmas with our kids' biological families and our families. The kids get to be a part of four family gatherings in a week!

We celebrate Christmas and one of our favorite family traditions is to drive around nearby neighborhoods and look at their holiday light displays. We do it most weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. In addition to the beautiful and fun sights, it has bonus of helping the kids wind down and get ready for bed!

Winter Holidays

Almost every culture around the world celebrates something during the last few months of the year and many celebrations have made their way to Florida! Check out the list below for a partial list of upcoming celebrations:

2/13 St. Lucia's Day

12/14- 22: Chanukah (or Hanukkah)

2/21: Soyal (Zuni & Hopi Nations)

12/21: Yule (Winter Solstice)

12/25: Christmas

12/26: Boxing Day (St. Stephen's Day)

12/26-1/1: Kwanza

12/31 Omisoka (Japan)

1/1 New Year's Day

1/6: Epiphany/Three King's Day

If your favorite holidays are missing, please send them to fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org and we will include it in an upcoming newsletter.

Frequent Visitor Legislation

The latest legislative buzz is around the "Frequent Visitor" parts of Chapter 39. It states that a frequent visitor is someone who visits your home for 5 consecutive days and/or 7 days in any given month. The following groups of people who meet this definition will now need to pass backgrounds screens before coming into your home:

1. Any individual who provides care or supervision in the home (this includes medical care)
2. Any individual aged 12 years and older (other than a child in care)

If these changes apply to your home, please contact your licensing specialist to get this requirement met.



From the TLC Association

December Happenings

TLC will be hosting a Christmas Celebration for all TLC members on December 7th. Reservations are required as there is limited space. Invitations have been sent to all TLC members with the link to RSVP.

Please note: There will not be a training/ meeting in December.



Care Closet

TLC was blessed with a large donation of clothing, toys, and supplies. Our Care Closet will soon be updated with new items for you!

TLC Care Closet is open on Wednesdays (10:00 am - 1:00 pm) and the 2nd Saturday (10:00 am - 1:00 pm) each month.



Become a Member!



Interested in becoming a member of the TLC Association? It is as easy as scanning the QR code on the left to go to our website for details on how to join.



Be Prepared!



Take a CPR or First Aid course

<http://www.redcross.org>

Fees associated with this course are the responsibility of the attendee.



The 60 Second Recruiter

You are standing in line at the grocery store. The person behind you asks you what your "Bonus Parent" shirt means. This a great opportunity to do a little recruitment! All you have to do is smile, tell them a little of your story, give them a recruitment card (make sure your name is on it) and encourage them to call us or go online to learn more about fostering. For your story, include details such as how long you have been fostering, why you got into it and why you continue fostering. Just keep it short; 30 - 60 seconds is all you need to get them interested! If they ask questions you can't answer, tell them that HFC's Licensing Team would be happy to talk with them.

Need more recruitment cards? Please contact Tray Deal at (863) 746-6517 or tdeal@heartlandforchildren.org.

November Leader Board For Recruitment Campaign

M.V. - 11 points

T.F. - 8 points

A.S. - 2 points

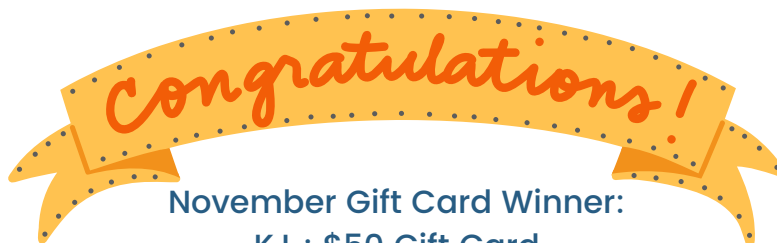
T.A. - 9 points

G.Z. - 6 points

S.H. - 1 point

K.L. - 9 points

S.T. - 3 points



Foster Home Score Board

FY 2024 - 2025

Goal:

70

New Homes

Current Homes

165

Newly Licensed Homes

13

Relicensed Homes

64



Important Dates in December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

12/7 - TLC Christmas Gala

12/10 - Board Rate Payments Disbursed

TLC Care Closet is open on Wednesdays (10:00 am - 1:00 pm) and the 2nd Saturday (10:00 am - 1:00 pm) each month.

No Foster Caregiver Advisory Council Meeting this month.