



Heartland for Children

FOSTER CARE NEWSLETTER

November 2024

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Truly Grateful for you.

In keeping with tradition, November is a time for us to stop and acknowledge all that we are grateful to have. For us, here at Heartland for Children, our foster caregivers are at the top of that list. Thank you for the healing you bring to children and teens, for the support you give to each other, for all the laundry and cooking and lessons and... Well, there's no enough left of 2024 to finish that list!

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. We have updates for our Rudolph Round-Up Toy Drive and the Foster Caregivers as Recruiters Campaign. The TLC Association has some announcements on page 2 and we welcome some new staff on page 3. The last page is a poster with great information about safe sleeping habits.

Updates from the Rudolph Team!

As of 10/30/24, we have wishes for all but 4 children/teens placed in foster homes. Thank you all so much for getting the wishes in so quickly!

If a child or teen is placed with you between now and Christmas, please contact Faye at fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org to see if we have a wish list on file for him/her. If not, she will send you the link immediately.



In mid-November, we will be setting up the warehouse and asking donors drop off their Christmas goodies!

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! The message will include the address as well as dates & times the warehouse will be open.

How Do You Celebrate?

November, December and January are filled with some amazing and joyful holidays filled with traditions. We would love to hear how you celebrate! Please send a couple sentences about which holiday(s) you celebrate and your favorite traditions to fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org by 11/15/24. All submissions will be printed (without your name) in our December newsletter.



Be

Prepared!



Take a CPR or First Aid course

<http://www.redcross.org>

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



From the TLC Association



Please make plans to join TLC Association on Friday, November 15th at 6:00 pm for our monthly T.L.C. ASSOCIATION, INC. dinner, social time, and training meeting. Our speaker and topic will be announced shortly. As always, TLC will provide a free dinner for your family and free childcare for your children during our training. Please contact Lori Chapman Peacock at loriapeacocktic@gmail.com to reserve your childcare with ages of the children and to let us know how many to prepare dinner for.

We will be meeting at:
Trinity Baptist Church
6633 Old Rd 37
Lakeland, FL 33811

Our Care Closet will be open for you to browse and free food to give away from 5:00 to 6:30 before the meeting.



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.



Save-the-Date!

The Annual TLC Association, Inc Christmas Gala will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 1:00 pm. This event is only for TLC members.



Spotlight on Our Licensing Team

You may have heard...We have some new staff! This month, we would like to introduce you to two of newest Licensing Specialists: Lorie Smith and Ashlyn Falcon!



Lorie Smith

In 1993, I was encouraged to apply for an officer position in Corrections. My plan was to work in this field until I complete my degree, then move into another aspect of public service. I ended up there for over 21 years. From there to Juvenile case management to dependency case management in 7 years. I feel like I fell into Foster Care. In any case, my calling is to be a public servant, and I have No Regrets.

Ashlyn Falcon

I have experience working in a group home, where I provided support and care for children and teens in need of stability. My passion for foster care developed from seeing firsthand the impact of creating a safe and nurturing environment for young individuals facing challenging circumstances. I am excited for this journey as a licensing specialist to help individuals license their home and open their doors to children and teens to provide them with a loving, supportive, and safe environment.



Who Do I Call?

If you ever find yourself in need of an emergency respite after regular business hours, please contact our Placements team at (863) 519-8900 ext. 275. Once they take care of you, please contact your Licensing Specialist.



What's Happening with the Recruitment Campaign?

Wow! It has only been 2 months since the start of this campaign and already we have families who were referred by foster caregivers register for class! It will be exciting to see what you accomplish in November.

If you made some referrals, but don't see your initials below, please contact Faye at fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org. There are two families who couldn't remember the name of the person they talked with about fostering, but they told us where the conversations happened. We'd love to give you credit for your efforts!

Read upcoming Weekly News! emails for full details of this campaign.

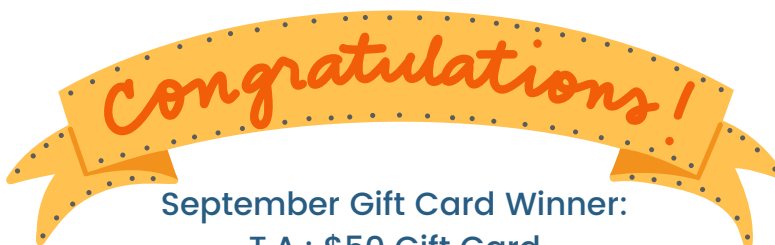
October Results

Points Leader Board

T.A. - 9 points

M.V. - 7 points

S. T. - 3 points



September Gift Card Winner:
T.A.: \$50 Gift Card

Foster Home Score Board

FY 2024 - 2025

Goal:

70

New Homes

Current Homes

165

Newly Licensed Homes

11

Relicensed Homes

57



Important Dates in August

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

11/13 – Board Rate Payments Disbursed

11/15 – TLC Meeting & Training

11/21 – Foster Care Advisory Council Meeting 12:00 – 1:00 pm

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.

REMEMBERING SAFE SLEEP IS AS EASY AS ABCD!

A blue letter 'A' on a wooden block with horizontal lines, set within a circular frame.

ALONE

Babies should always sleep alone in their own safe sleep environment such as a crib. There should be no blankets, pillows, toys or bumpers inside the crib.

A red letter 'B' on a wooden block with horizontal lines, set within a circular frame.

BACK

Always place Babies on their Back for nap time and night time sleep. It is the safest position for baby to sleep.

A blue letter 'C' on a wooden block with horizontal lines, set within a circular frame.

CRIB

Babies should be placed in a crib, portable play yard or bassinet with a firm mattress and fitted sheet.

An orange letter 'D' on a wooden block with horizontal lines, set within a circular frame.

DEVELOP A SAFE SLEEP PLAN

Develop a Safe Sleep Plan that describes where your baby will sleep, coping strategies to use when baby is fussy and who you can call for added support when you need help.