



# Heartland for Children

## FOSTER CARE NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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# Recruitment Edition!

*Dear Caregivers,*

It's official! Our goal for FY 2024 - 2025 is to license seventy (70) new foster homes, but we cannot do it without your help! So, from now until December 31st, we are hosting a Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign. Please see pages 3 & 4 for details about the prizes and how to earn them.

We know that you are our best and greatest recruiters. Sometimes, all you need to do is tell others your story and tell others to give Heartland for Children a call!

That is why this month's issue is focused on recruitment. In this issue, you will also find features on, Recruitment Tips (page 5) and our new Foster Home Score Board (page 3). You will also find our spotlight on a great Foster Family (page 2).

As always, it is an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,

Faye Dyer  
Foster Care Coordinator  
Heartland for Children





## Spotlight on the Smith Family

Submitted by Donna Segree-Lawson and Wendy Cheney

In December 2023, Mrs. Sharon Smith, along with her husband, received their foster care license and received their very first placement, who was a 5-year-old autistic child. From the start, Mrs. Smith created a comfortable environment for the child in her home, providing the child's favorite foods and toys, and established a sense of structure and safety. Mrs. Smith also found creative ways to communicate with the nonverbal child, helping the child to feel secure and at ease. Throughout this time, she facilitated visitation between the child and mother, along with the child's siblings. She also maintained regular communication with the mother to assure her that her child was safe and well cared for. Mrs. Smith cared for the child for four months and assisted with the transition when the child moved to a non-relative's home.

After the above child transitioned out of the home, Mr. and Mrs. Smith welcomed two boys into the home, who had been placed together in another household and needed to transition out of that home. Recognizing the bond between the boys, she made sure they stayed together, providing a nurturing and patient environment for them to thrive. Mrs. Smith took the time to engage with the boys, ensuring they felt safe and encouraged them to express themselves freely. The boys flourished under her care, feeling loved and accepted in their new home. Mrs. Smith maintained open communication with the parents, arranging visitations and ensuring the boys well-being and success. Eventually, the boys were successfully reunified with their families and Mrs. Smith continues to stay in touch with them, showing her support and care for their wellbeing.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been licensed for eight months and are already making an impact on the children they have fostered, as well as their families. Fostering is parenting, engaging, loving, providing, making sacrifices, showing up, and making a difference, which Mr. and Mrs. Smith have gone above and beyond with.

## THANK YOU, MR. AND MRS. SMITH!!!

If you would like to submit a "Spotlight on the Family" or another feature, please contact Faye Dyer at [fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org](mailto:fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org)





## Announcing the Foster Parents As Recruiters Campaign!

Heartland for Children is holding a recruitment campaign from now until the end of December 2024 to recognize and celebrate the recruitment work our foster families do for us and, more importantly, for the children we all serve.

During this campaign, foster families will have the opportunity to earn prizes and entries for the monthly drawings for doing what you are already doing – telling others about the need for quality foster families and sharing your fostering story! (Please see page 4 for all the ways to earn entries.)

Prizes: Earn seven (7) entries and you will receive a \$5.00 e-gift card. Earn fifteen (15) entries and you will receive a \$10.00 e-gift card. All e-gift cards will be sent out in January 2025.

Drawings: Winners will be contacted and publicly announced using their first name & last initial

- Monthly Prize (beginning of November, December, and January): \$50 gift card to your choice of Wal-Mart, Publix or Amazon
- Grand Prize (beginning of January): \$100 gift card to Darden Restaurants

### Campaign Contacts:

Tracy Deal  
(863)746-6517  
tdeal@heartlandforchildren.org

Faye Dyer  
(863)519-8900 ext. 289  
fdyer@heartlandforchildren.org

# Foster Home Score Board

FY 2024 - 2025

Goal: **70** New Homes

Current Homes **171**

Newly Licensed Homes **4**

Relicensed Homes **24**



## Announcing the Foster Parents As Recruiters Campaign!

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Verification</b>	<b># Of Entries</b>
Potential family contacting HFC about fostering Please make sure they know to tell us your name!	HFC Documentation	1
Potential family completing the "Getting to Know You" form	HFC Documentation	2
Potential family attending a live Information Night session Please make sure they know to tell us your name!	Sign-in Sheet	1
Potential family completing background paperwork for all adults in their homes	HFC Documentation	3
Potential family enrolling in Passport to Parenting class	HFC Documentation	2
Potential family completing Passport to Parenting class (including Diana Screening & required outside trainings)	HFC Documentation	4
Potential family becomes licensed	HFC Documentation	5
"Follow" HFC on Facebook	Send Faye Dyer a screen shot	1
"Like" and HFC Social Media Post (1 per month)	Send Faye Dyer a screen shot	1
Share an HFC Social Media Post (1 per month)	Send Faye Dyer a screen shot	2
Refer your church, business, school or group for a poster (Please confirm with them first that they are okay with this first)	Email details to Tracy Deal	2



## Recruitment Tips

By Tracy Deal and Carmen Walker, HFC Recruiters

“Foster parents are our best recruiters.” You’ve heard us say it before, but we truly believe it! Will you help us share the need?

Our goal is to have 250 foster parents, but we currently only have 174 foster parents. With dozens of children needing placement each week, the need is great! But another way of looking at it is this: we have 174 amazing foster parents, and each one has their own connections and relationships with businesses, churches, family members, and friends. What an amazing asset! We, as recruiters, have been trying to spread the message to whoever will let us, but nothing can replace a personal relationship. Keep reading for ways that you can help recruit more foster parents!

Follow Heartland for Children on social media and Like/Share our posts. This one’s easy and you never know who it might touch!

Talk to your friends and family about your experience and the need for more foster homes. If you know someone who would make a great foster parent, tell them!

Use your connections to get the word out. Let us know about locations that will allow us to put up posters or invite a speaker to come in. Some ideas of places could be:

- Churches
- Schools/Daycares
- Sports Organizations
- Social Groups
- Restaurants
- Businesses

Host a movie party at your house and show a foster care- related movie, such as Sound of Hope.

Strike up a conversation with a stranger while waiting in line about foster care. Pass out a referral card to those who express an interest.

Anything you can do to spread the word will make a difference, even if you don’t see the results immediately! Thank you for all that you do for the children in your care. It’s always worth it.

If you have any ideas or questions about recruitment, please let us know. We are here to help!



## TLC Association News



Please make plans to join TLC Association on Friday, September 20th at 6:00 pm for our monthly T.L.C. ASSOCIATION, INC. dinner, social time, and training meeting. This month Heartland for Children will be presenting "Conditions for Return." 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 [loripeacocktic@gmail.com](mailto:loripeacocktic@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

We will also have our new Care Closet open for you to browse and free food to give away from 5:00 to 6:30 before the meeting.

**SAVE *The* DATE**  
10-19-2024  
FloridaFAPA Mini Conference  
HOSTED by TLC Association Inc and HCFPA

Details to follow  
Questions, please contact  
Lori Ann Chapman Peacock,  
TLC Association Inc, President  
813-892-3016



## Important Dates in August

SEPTEMBER		2024				
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					

9/10 – Board Rate Payments Disbursed

9/20 – TLC Meeting & Training at 6:00 pm

9/26 – Foster Care Advisory Council Meeting 12:00 – 1:00 pm