



Brevard Family Partnership

Protecting Children, Strengthening Families, Changing Lives.



2013

Report to the Community

THE NEXT CHAPTER in Child and Family Strengthening

WELCOME



Greetings,

On behalf of Brevard Family Partnership's board of directors, I would like to offer our most sincere "thanks" to our staff and community partners for their tireless dedication to keeping our most vulnerable children safe and so many families intact. Every day, you work within a locally-developed system of care that places a priority on child safety and family preservation that is one of the best in the state, if not the country!

We have seen so many improvements to our system over the years; improvements that have resulted in less children in care which translates to lower numbers of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Working closely with our foster care partners, Children's Home Society of Florida and Devereux Florida, our adoption partner, IMPOWER, and our many service providers, we act as a team to achieve our mission.

Despite year-over-year decreases in our budget we have never turned away a child or family from the critical care they need. In fact, through sound fiscal management, we've consistently reinvested in our system, building capacity and adding additional programs and services to address unique needs and better serve those who suffer from trauma, physical, mental and emotional disorders and other issues. This is a testament to our CEO, Dr. Patricia Nellius, her executive team and their staff teams who put children and families first.

As we conclude our ninth year of serving Brevard, we look forward to doing even more to reduce the incidences of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. It is our hope that one day we may put ourselves out of business because there are no children suffering. Until that time, we will continue to do whatever we can to protect children, strengthen families and change lives!

Sincerely,
Stockton Whitten
Brevard Family Partnership Board Chair

OUR MISSION

“ It is our mission to protect children, strengthen families and change lives through the prevention of child abuse and the operation and management of a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care for abused, abandoned and neglected children and their families. ”

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to introduce our 2013 report to the community, outlining the accomplishments of our local child welfare system of care. We've been serving Brevard's most vulnerable children for the last nine years and our community can be proud of the many milestones we've reached, together, in improving the well-being of children and strengthening families.

This past year can be depicted as one that has served to chart our course for the future. I am pleased to report that Brevard Family Partnership has achieved all of the priorities set forth by Together in Partnership (TIP) and met all of the goals in our three-year strategic plan. This is exciting news but it doesn't mean we rest on these laurels. We continue to develop new capacity and implement more evidenced-based practices to improve our system. Our mission is still in clear focus: "Protect children, strengthen families and change lives," whatever it takes!

We've developed a new, five-year strategic plan that maintains our mission integrity and improves our system of care so that our children and families are better served and our staff, partners and providers can work as integrated teams to reach our mutual goals of child safety and family stability.



Our goals going forward include:

- **PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES**
Facilitate collaborations and partnerships to meet the unique needs of the families served in the community
- **PROVIDER NETWORK**
Operate and manage a comprehensive, community-based system of care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families
- **OUT OF HOME CARE**
Optimize placement options for children close to home, school, and community
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE**
Collect and use data and research to forecast needs and to improve services
- **PREVENTION**
Build an aggressive, front-end prevention and diversion program
- **INDEPENDENT LIVING**
Address the special needs of young adults in care and exiting care
- **CASE MANAGEMENT**
Promote stability and preserve institutional knowledge using a single case management model with team support
- **FAMILY PRESERVATION**
Protect children while strengthening families
- **ADOPTION**
Find permanent homes for children in a timely manner

One of the major components in our plan is the launch of a new initiative focusing on Trauma Informed Care and Positive Youth Development. Through our recent partnership with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Brevard will become only the second pilot site for the CSSP's Youth Thrive Framework. This will be a very real "system transformation" that will lead to better outcomes for our children and families, while enhancing our caregivers' and case managers' skills, and providing additional support for their work.

Recent accomplishments of which we're very proud to announce are a new, five-year contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families for continued service as Brevard's Lead Agency for child welfare for the next five years, as well as successfully and expeditiously attaining national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA).

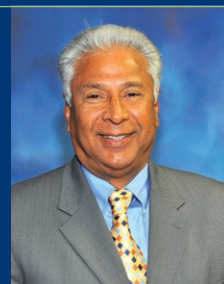
I would like to sincerely thank our community partners and providers, care managers and Guardians Ad Litem, our staff, board members and volunteers, donors and friends for outstanding service, dedication and commitment to Brevard's children. You inspire me every day and your service has made a difference in the lives of so many!

Sincerely,
Dr. Patricia Nellius
Brevard Family Partnership CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Judge Kelly McKibben
Vice-Chair, Brevard County Appointee



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Community Member



Brooke Deratny Goldfarb
Community Member



Leo Roselip
Community Member

THANK YOU!

“Thank You!” Partners, Providers & Community Supporters

Appreciating our Partners and Providers

As the lead agency for child welfare, Brevard Family Partnership manages the local system of care and works in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, several community-based organizations, the faith community, nonprofit agencies and professional businesses to provide the programs and services that benefit the children and families in our care. As every child is unique, so are the services provided to give them and their family the best possible chance to reunite and remain intact and safe, in their homes and community.

We would like to say “Thank You!” to each for their dedication and continued commitment in serving our most vulnerable citizens. Because of you, Brevard’s children are safer and more are free from abuse and neglect!

Our Community Supports Our Children

It’s the people and organizations in Brevard that contribute their time, talents and resources to help prevent child abuse and provide care to those who have endured it. We would like to thank our many community members who have made contributions that have benefited our children and families.



DONORS

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Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Brevard County Sheriff’s Office
Bright House Media Strategies
Bright House Networks
BRPH
Central Middle School Nat’l Jr. Honor Society
Chick Fil-A Viera
Children’s Home Society of Florida
Chili’s - Melbourne
Church at Viera
Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce
Community Foundation For Brevard
Country Day for Children Montessori
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Road ID
Rose Savoy
Rotary Club of Melbourne
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SCB Marketing
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Sea Ray Boats
St. John Evangelist Church
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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The Avenue Viera
The Brevard Bar Foundation, Inc.
The Devereux Foundation
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Thomas Bailey
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Up and Running Fitness
Upper Cervical Health Centers
URS/Team ISC
Watersong

COMMUNITY BASED CARE: A Community Making A Difference, Together.

211 Brevard
Achieve Success
Adult and Child Counseling & Psychiatric Center
Alternative Behavior Services
Behavior Services of Brevard
BOAT
Brevard Behavioral Consultants
Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners
Brevard County Foster Parent Association
Brevard County School Board
Brevard County Sheriff’s Office
Brevard Family Partnership Board of Directors
Brevard Health Alliance
Brevard Interfaith Coalition
Brevard Workforce
Caribbean Community Connections
Catholic Charities of Central Florida
Central Florida Treatment Center
CHANGES
Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce of Brevard
Children’s Home Society of Florida
Children’s Services Council
Circles of Care
Circuit Court 18th Judicial Circuit
Coastal Behavioral Therapy
Coastal Mental Health Center
Country Acres
Crosswinds Youth Services
Devereux Florida
Dr. Andrew Schneider-Muñoz
Dr. Barbara Paulillo
Dr. David Greenblum
Dr. Jeffrey Williamson
Dr. Robert Cross
Dr. William Eyring
Eckerd
Education Solutions International
Family Advocates of Florida
Family Counseling Center
FIT – Scott Center for Autism
Florida Counseling Centers
Florida Psychological Specialists
Hidden Potentials
IMPOWER
Jennings Applied Behavior Center
Kinder Consulting
LEAD Brevard
Leadership Roundtable Alliance
Leigh Holt
Life Paths of Florida
Links of Hope
Michael Lake
Office of State Attorney
Office of the Public Defender
Pathways Life Coaching & Support Services
Promise in Brevard
Psychological Affiliates
Riverside Counseling Services
Royal Priesthood
South Brevard Behavioral Medicine
Space Coast Foster and Adoptive Families Alliance
State of Florida, Department of Children and Families
STEPS
Terri Williamson
The Center for Drug Free Living
The Grove Counseling Center
The Haven for Children
The Women’s Center
Together in Partnership (TIP)
United Way of Brevard
Western Judicial Services
Yellow Umbrella



COMMUNITY BASED CARE LEADERSHIP Leadership Roundtable Alliance (LRA) and Together in Partnership (TIP)

We would like to acknowledge those community leaders with special thanks to the Founding Community Alliance members who served on the Leadership Roundtable Alliance during our transition to privatization, as well as Together in Partnership (TIP) who set the original agenda for our community-based system of care and continue to monitor our progress. This demonstrates the incredible, ongoing commitment we, as Brevard residents, have to our children and families.

We thank these individuals and organizations who volunteer their time and talents to ensuring our local model works to prevent child abuse and neglect and, when necessary, provide the very best services to those children and families who need our help.

Together in Partnership (TIP) Partners

211 Brevard	Citizen Volunteers and Parents
B.O.A.T.	Coalition for Hungry & Homeless
Brevard C.A.R.E.S.	Community Treatment Center
Brevard Family Partnership	Crosswinds Youth Services
Brevard Community College	Department of Juvenile Justice
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners	Devereux Florida
Brevard County Health Department	Early Learning Coalition
Brevard County Manager	Eckerd
Brevard County Parks and Recreation	Family Counseling Center
Brevard County School Board	Healthy Start Coalition
Brevard County Sheriff	Juvenile Justice Council
Brevard Interfaith Coalition	Links of Hope
Brevard Schools Foundation	Public Defender
Brevard Workforce	School Readiness Coalition
Center for Drug Free Living	SEDNET (Special Education)
Child Care Association	South Brevard Women's Center
Children's Advocacy Center	Space Coast Early Steps
Children's Home Society of Florida	State Attorney
Children's Services Council	State of Florida, Department of Children & Families
Circles of Care, Inc.	United Way of Brevard
Circuit Court 18th Judicial Circuit	Wuestoff Health Systems, Inc.
	Yellow Umbrella

Brief History/Overview of CBC in Brevard

Since 2005, Brevard Family Partnership has dramatically improved child safety by engaging the entire community, from child and family-serving partners and organizations to businesses and individuals, in a united effort to reduce the incidences of abuse, neglect and abandonment. As Brevard's lead Community Based Care agency for child welfare, we did this by making the goals set forth by the local community our priority and, in doing so, kept thousands of children safe and their families together and out of the formal judicial system. When a child has to be temporarily removed from his or her home we've made sure we have committed foster families ready to take them in at a moment's notice and help with the child's and family's healing and reunification. And, when in the most unfortunate of circumstances, a child must be permanently removed from his or her home for their own safety and well-being, we have "forever families" ready to accept them into their homes, providing them with permanency and the care of loving family for their rest of their life.

When Brevard C.A.R.E.S. was initiated in 2006, we raised the bar in child abuse prevention and family preservation. The Wraparound and Family Team Conferencing models employed by Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has reduced the number of children in formal care by almost 50%, while keeping over 13,000 children and their families out of the court's dependency system. As the programs have grown and their successes recognized, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has been invited to present its model and provide technical assistance to communities and institutions throughout the U.S.

Today, Brevard Family Partnership, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and the newly launched National Center for Innovation and Excellence are implementing best practices and developing new initiatives that will take child safety to new levels of success. We're bringing on nationally recognized leaders in child welfare to help us achieve a new set of goals for the next five years and will continue to do all we can to fulfill our mission of "Protecting Children, Strengthening Families and Changing Lives!"

THE LAUNDROMAT

Every now and then there is something that happens or someone who reminds us of why we care for children and families. This weekend I was able to see the beginning and the end result of the devotion, dedication, advocacy, community support and teamwork. It took the collaboration of DCF, the FAST team, Yellow Umbrella, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and a complete stranger to work together to stabilize a family. DCF requested the FAST team respond to a family in desperate and immediate need of support. If the needs of this family were not addressed it may have led to the removal of the children from their mother.

With the appropriate advocacy and responsiveness from several people and organizations, we were able to secure food, household cleaning items and a Pack n' Play crib for the mother's youngest child to safely sleep. It should be noted all of this took place in the evening after "close of business."

Judy, a para-professional from Yellow Umbrella spent four hours that evening at the laundromat not "just doing laundry" but teaching this mother how to properly wash, dry and fold clothing, skills most of us take for granted, including how to manage several children in a calm and positive manner. Most important, Judy implored the mother to not be afraid to ask for help.

Upon leaving the laundromat, the mother's car wouldn't start; her gas tank was empty. Judy requested to use the last of the money left from doing the laundry to purchase gas to get the mom and children home. While at the station a gentleman approached Judy and asked to fill the mother's tank. He told her he had been washing his laundry at the same time and was touched by the way Judy nurtured, coached, and guided this mother and wanted to help someone in his community. He filled the mother's tank with \$60 in gas and went on his way, never giving his name, not looking for recognition or thanks.

Here in Brevard County, we work as a team with Brevard Family Partnership, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., DCF, partners, providers and friends in the community. This gives me great hope for our future. Together we can change the world, one good deed at a time!

– Angel Haskell, Resource Coordinator, Brevard C.A.R.E.S.



GOALS

Brevard's Goals for Child Welfare Transformation Achieved

When the community came together in 2003 to transform Brevard's child welfare system, leaders created five goals that it expected the newly-formed community based care agency to achieve in order to protect children and strengthen families. We're proud to have achieved all of those goals and, in turn, have set new goals that will allow us to improve an already excellent system of care, one that is recognized nationally for its innovation, implementation and results.

The goals set by the Leadership Roundtable Alliance and Together in Partnership, two groups of business, community and government leaders that led the transformation, included:

- Implement an aggressive, front-end prevention and diversion program
- Establish a single case-management model
- Utilize Family Team Conferencing
- Create an emergency response system
- Become nationally accredited
- Maintain caseloads below 1:20
- Ensure Brevard's children remain in Brevard



△ Community Meeting

Community Input Helps Shape BFP's Future

Beginning in April 2012, BFP hosted a series of stakeholder meetings to gather information, opinions and observations about the status of Brevard's child welfare system of care from community leaders, current and former clients, care managers and front-line case workers. What we received in feedback helped to shape the new set of goals that will guide our future endeavors and ensure we continue to improve upon a system that is already considered one of the best in Florida for keeping children safe and families together.

The Future of Child Welfare – Brevard's New Goals Will Improve Care

Following three community-wide meetings, BFP's board of directors, with the help of strategic planner Leigh Holt, reviewed and prioritized the goals that will provide the best path to further reducing the incidences of child abuse and neglect, as well as keeping more families from entering the formal dependency system through aggressive, front-end prevention, diversion and preservation initiatives. These will ensure that we continue to provide programs and services that are family centered, strength based and community driven.

Brevard's updated, five-year goals include:

- **PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES** – Facilitate collaborations and partnerships to meet the unique needs of the families served in the community
 - Objective:** Prepare community awareness and outreach programs to increase public involvement and investment in child safety
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE** – Collect and use data and research to forecast needs and to improve services
 - Objective:** Maintain strong emphasis on evidence based practices and performance measures for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvements
- **CASE MANAGEMENT** – Promote stability and preserve institutional knowledge using a single case management model with team support
 - Objective:** Monitor caseloads, performance and turnover to safeguard continuity of care
- **PROVIDER NETWORK** – Operate and manage a comprehensive, community-based system of care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families
 - Objective:** Make sure that services, providers and facility locations meet the individualized needs of children and families
- **PREVENTION** – Build an aggressive, front-end prevention and diversion program
 - Objective:** Expand prevention services to divert children from case management and out-of-home care
- **FAMILY PRESERVATION** – Protect children while strengthening families
 - Objective:** Customize services to meet the unique needs of each child and family
- **OUT-OF-HOME CARE** – Optimize placement options for children close to their homes, schools and communities
 - Objective:** Recruit, train, and retain quality foster families and group homes and set performance standards for all out-of-home placements
- **INDEPENDENT LIVING** – Address the special needs of young adults in care and exiting care
 - Objective:** Create a comprehensive support system for teens and young adults to achieve independence
- **ADOPTION** – Find permanent homes for children in a timely manner
 - Objective:** Identify adoptive families that can meet the specialized needs of the children currently in care



△ After months of preparation and hard work BFP's ITN is boxed and on its way to DCF

BFP Receives Five-Year Contract to Continue Providing Services – Brevard's System of Care Retains Continuity

In early June 2013, Brevard Family Partnership completed negotiations with the Florida Department of Children and Families and received a new, five-year contract to manage the child welfare system of care in Brevard County.

With a budget of approximately \$21 million per year, BFP will continue to be responsible for managing child abuse prevention and family preservation programs, foster care services and public adoptions for children who are either temporarily or permanently removed from their homes, as well as an Independent Living program for youth and young adults that prepares them for life as an independent adult. BFP engages over 70 community partners and providers to perform these services and operate the associated programs that support them.

The new contract will extend through June 30, 2018. At that time BFP may be awarded an additional, one-time, five-year contract extension before it must again competitively bid to retain its role as Brevard County's lead agency.



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT
A COA Accredited Agency

Reaccreditation for BFP – Accreditation for Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

In 2013 Brevard Family Partnership received its reaccreditation and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. became an accredited organization through the international Council on Accreditation (COA). We're

happy to report that both organizations received an "expedited" approval from COA, meaning that there were no areas of concern and all aspects of the organizations operated in exemplary fashions. Achieving accredited status through COA is an intense and detailed process, and organizations must prove through data and outcomes they meet very high standards. This is a testament to teams within both organizations who each day strive to achieve excellence in our operations, programs and services!



Brevard County Commission Chairman Chuck Nelson presents CEO Dr. Patricia Nellius with a proclamation of the Commission's continuing support of BFP as Brevard's Lead Child Welfare Agency ▶



Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Grows in Brevard – organization now serving over 1,000 children and families each month; over 13,000 since inception

When the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. model of Wraparound and Family Team Conferencing began in 2006, the goal was to reduce the number of children and families entering the formal dependency system by providing front-end abuse prevention and diversion services to

families in crisis who were at risk of abusing, neglecting or abandoning their children. In 2005, all children - over 1,500 - were in the formal dependency system, having been removed from their homes and in many situations with no available foster or group homes to take them. Today, that number is less than half. More children and their families are involved in Brevard C.A.R.E.S. than ever before, keeping them safely together, in their homes and communities!

In the past year, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. received a contract to provide services to Healthy Start families, as well as worked with over 700 youth in the Juvenile Detention System to provide services that will keep them together with their families when they're discharged from facilities.

“The team that I have is great! I’m very grateful for all the help and support that has been given to me. Thank you C.A.R.E.S. for everything!”

“These are very caring and understanding staff at Brevard C.A.R.E.S. I feel so comfortable with them as well. They seem to do whatever is needed to help. Thank you for such a wonderful program!”

A PARENT’S STORY

Dear Amy,

I just wanted to take a minute and thank you for all your help and assistance. I graduated from the University of Central Florida on May 3 with my Bachelor’s degree in Exceptional Education and I know I never could have achieved that goal without the support and lessons you provided me.

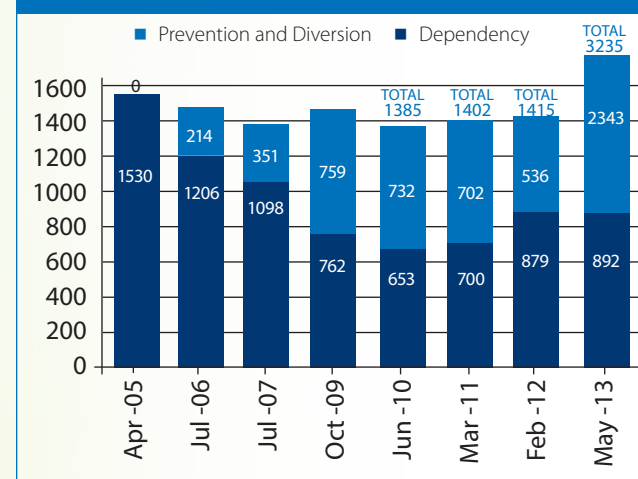
As you might remember, I discovered Brevard C.A.R.E.S. by being referred to you from the suicide hotline. I can still remember the feeling of hopelessness when I called that night. I can remember being so frustrated and exhausted and had no clue had to improve my life or my son’s and instead just saw it getting progressively worse. Meeting you changed my life. You instilled in me a sense of power and self-sufficiency that I had lost somewhere. You guided me to resources but never did it for me. You allowed me to achieve small goals so that I could build up my self-confidence which prepared me for the bigger goals.

It wasn’t easy getting my degree and there were many times I felt like I should give up because of insurmountable obstacles. But I always remembered how you told me that there is always a way and taught me to never give up. I praise your work and that of your organization all the time. I really felt like without your intervention I could have ended up in jail or dead. I feel like I am beginning a new chapter in my life and I am proud of who I am and what I have achieved.

When working with my students I often use some of the tools you taught me to help them overcome their obstacles. Again, I cannot thank you enough for all of your caring and help. You truly are a savior and a hero!

– Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Parent

OF BREVARD’S CHILDREN SERVED IN DEPENDENCY VS. ABUSE DIVERSION AND FAMILY PRESERVATION



FOSTER CARE



Quality Parenting Initiative Commitment by Case Management Agencies Improving the Lives of Children in Care

Working in a cooperative statewide effort, Brevard has been a leader in improving the lives of children and teens in foster care through implementation of the Quality Parenting Initiative or "QPI." Educating foster parents about the importance of taking an active role in their foster child's education, health and well-being, including children in family activities, and interacting with a foster child's biological parents in the reunification process all help to create better experiences and outcomes for children and their families.

BFP has taken a proactive approach to recruiting quality foster parents and ensuring they have the knowledge and tools to care for the youth in their homes. In partnership with our case management agencies, Children's Home Society of Florida and Devereux Florida, we have achieved our goal of recruiting 24 new foster homes in 2013 and providing foster parents with extensive and ongoing training, ensuring that we can care for all children who are removed from their homes and provide them with a place to safely stay, heal and hopefully reunify with their families.

**I teach math to 4th graders...
I teach life lessons, too.**

Join me. Be a Foster Parent.

Foster families are the backbone of our local system of care and some of the most extraordinary people in our community! They are your friends and neighbors who open their hearts and homes to the many children every year who suffer abuse or neglect, giving them a safe place to stay.

Join others like you and become a foster parent to a child in need.

Foster Care. Foster Hope!



For more information visit brevardfp.org
or call 321.752.4650

Sponsored by Brevard Family Partnership and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.



FINDING A CALLING TO CARE

The Pearah Family...

We have four incredible children of our own and have been involved in international and local missions for over 10 years. In early 2012 we were working with Overlook Ministries at Wickham Park helping the homeless and came upon three children living in a tent with their father. The children were hungry and in need of help and the father was not around most of the time. Food was provided for the children but their father quickly moved the family before other help could arrive.

This story and many more like them of real children living in despair in our county has moved my wife Damaris and I to get more involved. While we have found our mission work very rewarding, we really had a passion to help Brevard's at-risk children and be part of the solution. There are many great organizations helping the community but our hearts were guided to help children. In the spring of 2012, through reflection and prayer, we were led to begin Brevard's foster parent training program; by late October, our home was licensed to care for children. The fostering classes were professional and comprehensive and the background and security checks were thorough. This gave us confidence that we and others

who become foster parents are well-prepared and well-vetted, putting the child's safety and well-being ahead of all else.

Our first foster child is nicknamed "Puggie." A special-needs child, he came to us within a week of being licensed. We quickly learned that fostering, although challenging, gives us the opportunity to share a loving family with a child who needs one and that we have the ability to mentor and help children through these difficult times. While caring for him has not been easy, it's been one of the most rewarding things we have done!

This has also taught our family that true joy can be found by giving of ourselves and helping others in need. We now have two foster children in our home. With six children it can take a while to get everyone ready to go places and there's never a dull moment, but we wouldn't trade it.

BFP has been a real blessing to work with in this effort and we appreciate that their hearts are truly dedicated to the kids.

– The Pearahs

WHAT FOSTERING MEANS TO US...

The Groover Family

My husband Mark and I have three biological daughters and we wanted to make a difference and share the stability of our family with others. We became a foster family when our daughters were young; two, three and seven years old. We have been foster parents now for eight years and currently have our 24th and 25th foster children in our home.

People often ask how we do it, how we bring a child into our home only to let them go. How hard it must be and how they couldn't do it. We try to explain to them the satisfaction it gives us knowing we are making a difference in the life of another. How many people truly get to experience that intense emotion? We get to help re-

build families, mentor parents and teach them how to care for their children, and we're a part of building new families through adoption when one of these children can't go home. We get to watch children thrive, grow, learn and trust while in our care.

These are amazing things! Sure, you face frustration, stress and sadness. We are human. We grieve the loss of those children in whom we have invested so much love and energy. However, the lessons of compassion, trust and unconditional love that we teach and learn in return far outweighs any of those things. We look forward to being able to foster for years to come.

– Sharon Groover

TRAUMA INFORMED care POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

"What's happened to a child?" not "What's wrong with them?"

Innovations and evidenced based practices have opened a new window onto the ways that we, as a system of care, respond to help heal a child who has been abused, neglected or abandoned. We are learning to look at those who have been abused and the professionals working with them to ensure we understand the experiences, some traumatic, that both encounter. We also understand that most youth in care are like all others; they want to be educated, motivated, appreciated and succeed in reaching their goals!



△ Speakers Mark Anthony Garrett, Lydia Joyner and Lucas Boyce at BFP's Trauma Informed Care Summit

In June 2013, the Brevard community gathered to learn about BFP's Trauma Informed Care – Positive Youth Development initiative, a comprehensive paradigm shift in the approach we will take to addressing the traumatic experiences youth may have suffered during incidences of abuse and neglect.

Through our recent partnership with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, we will become a pilot site for CSSP's new Youth Thrive Framework; one of only two sites in the U.S. – the other is the entire state of New Jersey. CSSP will provide information and technical assistance that will help us engage our entire system of care partnership to eliminate re-traumatizing children and teens by understanding what has happened to them in their abusive or neglectful situations, which may inadvertently happen during their stays in out-of-home care or through the services and programs provided to help them heal and reunify with their families. This "system transformation" will lead to better outcomes for our children and families. It will also enhance caregivers' and case managers' skills, and provide additional support for their work.



△ IL Foster Youth Trenton Miller speaks with Brevard Family Partnership board members

Youth Voice Leads Change – Understanding What Youth Need to Succeed

As part of our Trauma Informed Care – Positive Youth Development initiative, we have convened a group of current foster teens and former foster youth to learn from them what they need from our system of care in order to thrive and succeed. What we've learned has been enlightening. This group has now teamed with class members from LEAD Brevard to develop a Youth and Young Adult Advisory Council that will provide a voice on behalf of foster youth and help guide policy, programs and direction.



△ Attorney Kelly Swartz (left) completes the final procedures for an adoptive family

Annual Adoption Goal Achieved! Over 600 Find “Forever Homes – Forever Families”

Thanks to the incredible work done by our adoption partner IMPOWER and with the support of a true family advocate, Dependency Court Judge Jeffery Mahl, Brevard again met its goal in placing children who were permanently removed from their homes with adoptive or “forever families.” 60 children were adopted in FY2012-2013, bringing the total of youth and teens in “forever homes” to 601 since BFP began operations in 2005.

Child adoptions facilitated by Brevard Family Partnership

Working with our adoption partner IMPOWER, we bring together children and families who begin a new life, together. To date, we’ve found “forever homes” for over 600 children!

FISCAL YEAR	GOAL	ADOPTIONS
2006	89	98
2007	81	89
2008	71	76
2009	63	71
2010	54	76
2011	48	59
2012	60	71
2013	60	60
TOTAL		601



△ The Kushing family grows by six with the help of their IMPOWER adoption coordinator

The National Center for Innovation and Excellence – A Dynamic Community



Dr. Andy J. Schneider-Muñoz

In January, we launched our new National Center for Innovation & Excellence. Led by renowned international child welfare expert, Dr. Andrew Schneider-Muñoz, CYC-P, and a team of nationally recognized experts in the field of child welfare transformation, The Center is a dynamic community, dedicated to improving the lives of others by working with organizations, foundations, governments and communities to design, implement and test outcomes for large scale youth development strategies and community change initiatives.

The NCIE gratefully acknowledges initial financial support from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Heinz Foundation and The Center for the Study of Social Policy. The Center will be formally launched when it co-hosts the second National Wraparound Conference with BFP in March 2014 in Cocoa Beach, Florida.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE
A Dynamic Community



COMMUNITY

Thanks to our dedicated staff and partners for supporting our community and spreading the word about the great work Brevard does in caring for its most vulnerable children. We were everywhere this year!



△ Brevard County Law Enforcement organizations meet with BFP and community partners to share information and best practices

Brevard County Public Information Officers Presentation

Public Information Officers from local and state law enforcement agencies met to learn more about Brevard's system of care, the agencies and organizations involved, and how BFP and its partners can provide support to front-line officers who encounter children or families in crisis.



△ Dependency Court Judge Jeffery Mahl celebrates with a new forever family

Celebration of Adoption

Brevard has successfully met and/or exceeded its annual goals for finding "forever homes" for children available for adoption. BFP hosted two Celebrations of Adoption events in the courtroom of Dependency Court Judge, Jeffery Mahl.



Over 100 runners were part of BFP's Inaugural Run for Love 5K △

7th Annual Walk for Love/Inaugural Run for Love 5K

Raising awareness of children in need of Forever Homes, BFP and its adoption partner IMPOWER celebrated National Adoption Month with the 7th annual Walk for Love and a new addition to the day's events, the inaugural Run for Love 5K. Hundreds turned out to run and walk and enjoy family-friendly games and activities!



Children's Week in Tallahassee

Foster and adoptive families walked the halls of the Capitol in Tallahassee and met with legislators to raise awareness about child welfare issues

Foster/Adoptive Family Appreciation Day

Hundreds of children and their foster and adoptive parents and families joined in for a day fun that included games and activities, lunch and ice cream, and a show of deep appreciation. Thanks to NASCAR legend, Jeff Bodine, who made a special appearance to meet everyone, take photos and sign autographs.



△ Central Florida News 13 Anchor Greg Pallone hosts Candidate Forum

Candidates' Forum

Several candidates vying for local and state elected office positions came together to discuss their views regarding child welfare and how they would support improvements to the system. Co-hosted by Children's Home Society of Florida, Devereux Florida and BFP, a full room of child-serving professionals and interested individuals got to better know the candidates and their positions.



△ Volunteers organize thousands of gifts For BFP's Annual Holiday Gift Drive for children in care

Holiday Gift Drive

Over 3,000 children and teens had a very happy Holiday season thanks to the kindness and generosity of community partners who donated gifts to youth in foster care and those receiving services through Brevard C.A.R.E.S., including children in Brevard's Healthy Start program.



Brevard Interfaith Coalition

Brevard Family Partnership has forged a strong partnership with local faith leaders and their communities through the Brevard Interfaith Coalition, a vital link when it comes to promoting strong families. The Coalition consists of faith organizations and houses of worship espousing a myriad of beliefs. Faith communities play a critical role in helping to protect children from abuse and neglect, and support children and families in need.

The Interfaith Coalition has developed a training curriculum for faith communities, designed to equip volunteers to identify the signs of abuse. Coalition members meet for training and to discuss common issues, working together to explore and implement best practices to keep their congregations safe and healthy.

Working with our foster recruitment and placement partner Devereux Florida, congregant members have also learned the value and benefits of foster parenting and several have opened their homes to children in need, as well as become adoptive families. They are also monitoring their congregations for signs of stressors in families that may lead to child abuse and looking for signs when abuse or neglect may have occurred. They then can take the appropriate steps to get families help and support.

We thank all of the members of the Brevard Interfaith Coalition and especially Catholic Charities of Central Florida, which has helped guide the coalition from its inception, to the dynamic association it is today.



PROGRAM SERVICES

Adoption services	\$ 3,776,859
Case management	7,831,138
Community prevention initiative	2,622,179
Diagnostic & evaluation	253,340
Foster home management	718,303
In home & family support services	707,696
Independent living	1,562,726
In-service training	126,702
Out-of-home care	3,649,347
Recruitment	13,441

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES: \$21,261,731

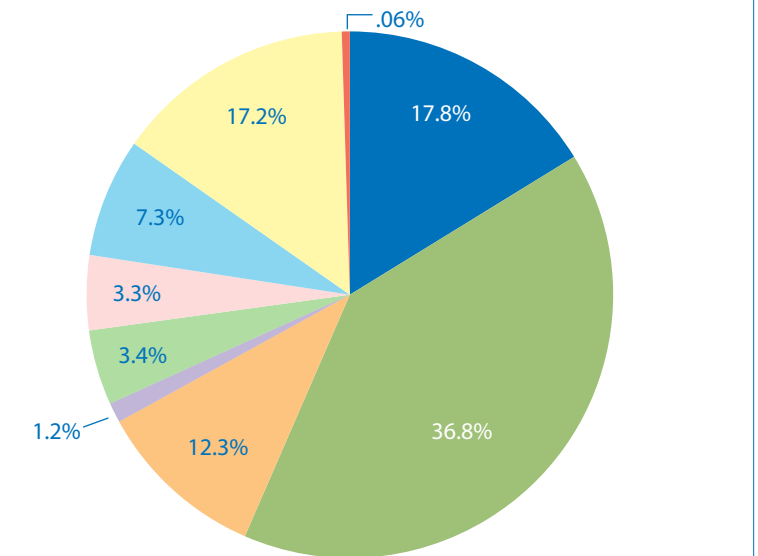
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

Indirect Expenses

Buildings & grounds maintenance	\$ -5
Communications	9,319
Depreciation	113,293
Dues and subscriptions	26,256
Equipment rental and maintenance	38,971
Expendable furniture, equipment and software	1,338
Insurance	26,895
Licenses and permits	2,405
Occupancy and utilities	76,880
Other expenses	24,343
<i>(cannot be greater than 5% of total mgmt & gen)</i>	
Personnel services	1,000,622
Postage and shipping	1,813
Printing	174
Professional services	183,464
Supplies	9,504
Travel	25,380

TOTAL INDIRECT MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$1,540,652

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



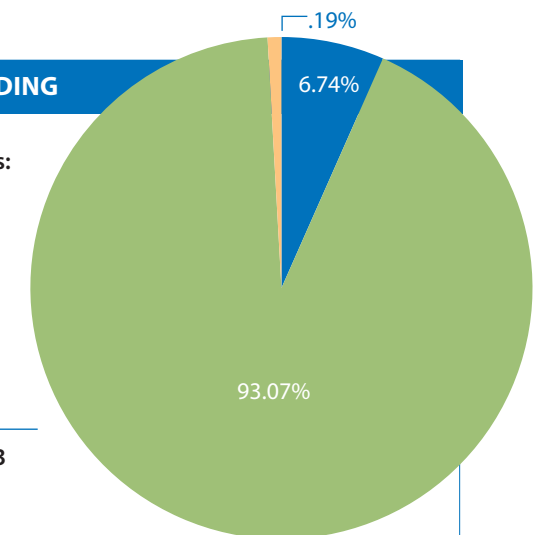
Adoption services \$3,776,859	In home & family support services \$707,696
Case management \$7,831,138	Independent living \$1,562,726
Community prevention initiative \$2,622,179	Out-of-home care \$3,649,347
Diagnostic & evaluation \$253,340	In-service training \$126,702
Foster home management \$718,303	Foster Home Recruitment \$13,441 (not pictured)

AGRES WITH FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES: \$21,261,731

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING


Direct Program Expenses:	\$21,261,731
Indirect Lead Agency - Management & General Expenses:	\$1,540,652
Fundraising Expenses:	\$41,790

TOTAL: \$22,844,173





LOVES FOOTBALL.
NEVER MISSES
AN ACTION MOVIE.
fits in your heart.

Consider Adoption. 

All foster youth available for adoption through Brevard Family Partnership share something in common: They're waiting. Dreaming of the day when they will find their loving, caring, Forever Family and a place they can finally call home.



Open your heart and home, and welcome a child inside.
Visit adoptbrevardkids.org or call 321.752.4650.

Sponsored by Brevard Family Partnership and the State of Florida Department of Children and Families.



**Brevard Family
Partnership**

Protecting Children, Strengthening Families, Changing Lives.



**I save lives ...
and help heal them, too.**

Join me. Be a Foster Parent.

Foster families are the backbone of our local system of care and some of the most extraordinary people in our community! They are your friends and neighbors who open their hearts and homes to the many children every year who suffer abuse or neglect, giving them a safe place to stay.

As part of the Quality Parenting Initiative, Brevard Family Partnership has enhanced its programs and services so that foster families receive more of the training and support they need to take an active role in the life of a child.

Join others like you and become a foster parent to a child in need.

Foster Care. Foster Hope!



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For more information visit brevardfp.org or call 321.752.4650

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