

November 2024

News You Can Use

Foster Parent Newsletter



The winter holidays and break are right around the corner. Have you shared your travels plans?

Reminders about what to do to prepare for your days away and other helpful tips are included in this issue of News You Can Use, along with information about a post-adoption support group that's available at no cost to adoptive parents. We've also included a link to our point of contact guide in case you missed it in the last edition.

If you'd like to know about a topic we haven't covered, or you'd just like to learn a bit more, please reach out to us at communications@fpocf.org. We'll try to include information about the topic in an upcoming edition.

As always, thanks for all you do!



Agency Offers Post Adoption Support Group

[Residing Hope](#) offers a post-adoption support group designed to help families through the “normative crises” of every adoption — situations connected to the core issues of any adoption, including experiences of loss, memories of the

biological family and post traumatic symptoms.

Residing Hope's post-adoption treatment team is a group of therapists specially trained to help families address these issues. Specialists are trauma trained and “adoption competent therapists” who have completed intensive training. Many are certified clinical trauma professionals.

The support groups are available at no charge and held the second Monday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., via Zoom. Those who would like to participate may complete [a referral form](#) or contact Residing Hope's main office at 386 259-5413.

In Brief & Reminders

Plan Ahead for the Holidays

Family Partnerships of Central Florida will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

Please remember to communicate your out-of-state travel plans as soon as you know them or at least 14 days prior to leaving to give all parties the opportunity to agree or object and for a court involvement if needed.



New 'Visitor' Definition, Background Screening

This summer, a new definition of visitor and updated background screening requirements were implemented. “Visitor” means a person who provides care or supervision to a child in the home at any time or who will be in the child's home at least five consecutive days or seven days or more in one month. This means that anyone who acts in a caregiving capacity in a foster home must be fully

background screened. This includes babysitters, people who care for the kids as additional support, and medical professionals, such as nurses. If someone provides care to the kids placed in your home but has not been background screened, please let your relicensing coordinator know right away so the screening process can begin.

Sunshine Health Over-the-Counter Benefit

Sunshine Health is now accepted at CVS, Walgreens and Publix pharmacies. And have you used the over-the-counter benefit this month? Through Sunshine Health, each participant can receive up to \$25 worth of over-the-counter items every month. Use this benefit to purchase items like baby wipes, vitamins, Tylenol tablets, laundry detergent, soap and toothbrushes. Visit the [Sunshine over-the-counter web page](#) for details. If you have problems accessing the benefit or have questions related to Sunshine Health, please contact one of our nurse care coordinators: Sabrina Beharie at Sabrina.Beharie@fpocf.org or 407-490-6665 in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties and Lauren.Madden@brevardfp.org in Brevard County.

Point of Contact Guide

We now have a [point of contact guide](#) to help you quickly connect with the person best able to meet your needs when you have inquiries and questions about licensing, adoptions, youth services, subsidies and much more. It's available [online](#).



November Foster Parent Spotlight

The Brocks are an amazing medical foster family. They are very easy to work with. They take the children to all of their appointments. They are very welcoming to case management. They also advocate for the best interests of the children. They love them deeply and consider each child part of their family. They

are genuine. — Heather Talley, Case Manager

Jennifer and Matt Jamieson received their foster parent license four days before Christmas in 2022. They, along with their three kiddos, were excited and ready to welcome children in need into their home. Ten days into the new year, a set of 14-month-old twins were brought to the home in the very early hours of the morning. That would be the start of an 18-month journey that would eventually end with the Jamieson's celebrating the twin's reunification with both parents and their four siblings. Getting to the end of the journey was not easy. There were many challenges and barriers to overcome for both the twins and their parents to finally reach the intended outcome. Jennifer reports that there were times she was unsure if the babies she loved so much would be able to return to the care of their parents. However, the family never gave up on working hard to ensure the girls had all that they needed to thrive in their home, while also keeping them connected to their parents and siblings.



The Jamiesons advocated to get the needed services to address the children's delays, as well as for the bio parents to receive the services they needed to help them overcome the barriers to reunification. The family is now living in a nice home, both parents are securely employed, and all six of their children appear to be thriving. Jennifer credits the work of the entire care team that surrounded the girls and their family as the reason they are doing so well now. Jennifer and Matt remain in contact with the girls and have become part of the extended family support for their parents. They were able to take the girls out to celebrate their birthday this month, with a special outing to the zoo. The bio parents have expressed their gratitude to the Jamiesons for giving their daughters a stable, loving family, while they worked on their case plan and for consistently praying for their success. We are grateful to the Jamieson family for understanding that change takes time and for being there to support birth families and children during and after the reunification process. — Cheryl Distler, Foster Parent Licensing and Relicensing Support

We Appreciate You!

About Family Partnerships of Central Florida

Family Partnerships of Central Florida is committed to protecting children, strengthening families and changing lives through a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care that provides adoption, foster care and independent living services for children and families in Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

Contracted with the Florida Department of Children and Families as the lead child welfare agency in the four-county area, Family Partnerships of Central Florida's mission is to ensure that the children it serves thrive in safe, healthy and loving families.



Family Partnerships of Central Florida

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE