



**Family Partnerships
of Central Florida**

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE

Annual Report

2024-2025



**Protecting Children
Strengthening Families
Changing Lives**



From the CEO



Dear Community Partners and Friends,

This time of year is especially memorable for me as we take a look back on our accomplishments while at the same time set our sights on the journey forward. 2024 and the first half of 2025 couldn't have been more momentous, in my view, in the history of our organization. Just last March, our family grew to more than 430 employees and began serving four counties in Central Florida – a tremendous honor and testament to how we're fulfilling our obligations and delivering on our important work of building stronger families and protecting children.

As one of the lead Community-Based Care organizations in the state, our team is focused, passionate, and incredibly talented at every level of Family Partnerships. We need that tremendous talent base as I believe nothing is more important than the work we do – looking after the well-being and safety of children, making families stronger, and laying foundations for positive relationships throughout our communities. Our tremendous caseworkers are the very heart and soul of Family Partnerships.

When I entered the field of child welfare more than 30 years ago, the same truths were still in place – people make all the difference, building others up. Whether it's through mentoring, listening with empathy, having an open heart free of judgment, or providing the skills and knowledge parents may need to overcome a life hurdle, we consistently deliver. I couldn't be prouder of the Family Partnerships team.

In terms of reflection, last year's results were stellar. Our impact on families was powerful. Inside this publication, you'll see where we finished and read about some of the families we assisted. I believe our most lasting impact is on the families we kept united and on helping find new homes for abused and neglected children. That critically important work has a ripple effect across our communities, the state and our nation.

As we press on for the remainder of 2025, we're focused on further harmonization of our organizational efficiencies, employee recruitment, engagement and retention, ongoing development of innovative services, and achieving even greater wins in bringing new families together. I'm confident the best is ahead for Family Partnerships and the children and families we serve.

God bless and thank you for all you do to support Florida's children and our communities.

Philip J. Scarpelli
President and Chief Executive Officer

2024 - 2025

Board of Directors

Eric Austin
Board Chair

Bishop Merton Clark
Director

Jennifer Muntz
Director

David Hill
Board Treasurer

Stephanie Larkin
Director

Philip J. Scarpelli
President and CEO

Dan Rodgers
Emeritus Board Chair

Sean Kostelnik
Director



Board member Stephanie Larkin at a Holiday Magic event with the Health First team.



Our Mission

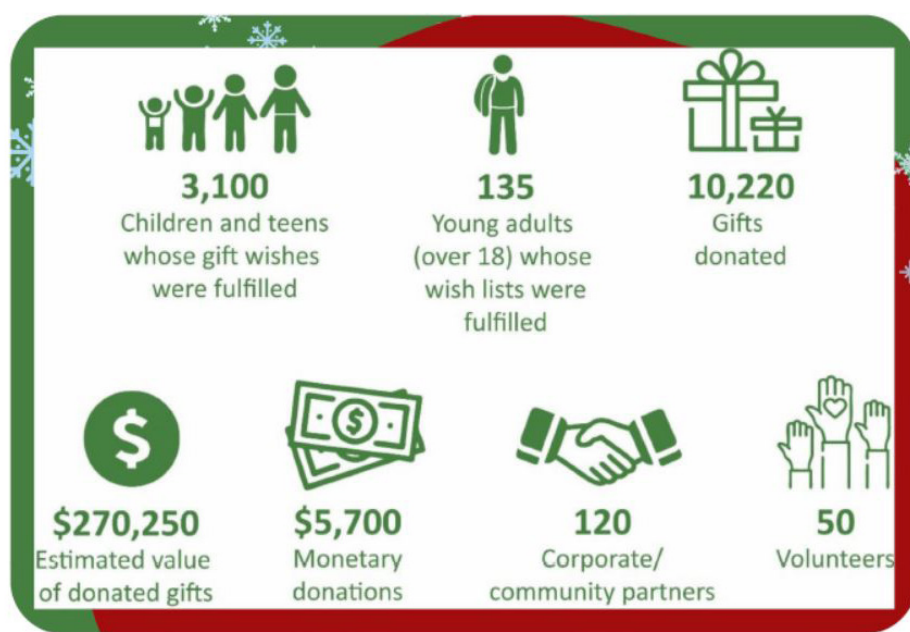
To protect children, strengthen families and change lives through child-abuse prevention and the operation and management of a comprehensive, integrated, community-based system of care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families.

Holiday Magic Drive Delivers Community Impact

December 2024 was a whirlwind of activity preparing for the holidays – matching hundreds of generous sponsors with the gift wish lists of our kids, receiving and sorting gifts, and best of all, delivering them to very grateful recipients.

Thanks to very generous donors and sponsors, volunteers, and our case managers, we succeeded in making the season happy and bright for the young people in our care.

With all this support, we were able to provide thousands of gifts to more than 3,200 children, teens and young adults in our four-county area through the Holiday Magic and Youth Services' wish-list drives.





Romandetti Family Welcomes Foster Child to Their Home in 2025



Giving back to their community comes natural for Tracie and Joe Romandetti. Ten years ago, they moved from New York to Melbourne, Fla., and began the loving work of foster parenting nine children since that time. Having been adopted herself, Tracie knows how important it is for children to have loving homes and supportive parents.

“We began thinking about adding to our family when our son, Ryan, was around 9 years old,” said Tracie, who works in the child-welfare field. “We always knew we wanted more children, but couldn’t have our own for medical reasons. We knew foster parenting was the right option for us.”

At a Child Abuse Prevention Task Force event earlier in the year, the Romandettis were honored with a Caregiver Award for their selfless service and foster parenting.

Tracie says the goal with all the children has been reunification. “We try and stay in touch with all the children and their families after reunification, forming lifetime friendships,” said Tracie. “We’ve often become extended grandparents and maintain contact and see children who’ve left us on the weekends.”

With their current foster child, the Romandettis visit with the biological parents four hours weekly through care-center visits, meeting with the caseworker at least monthly for case plan reviews, along with quarterly reviews and annual Devereux foster-home licensing renewals. They share parenting responsibilities, with Joe working in a local government capacity.

Fider Family Changes Lives Through Adoption and Foster Parenting



Wendy Fider was 10 when she knew she wanted to help children who needed a temporary home or assistance. While hearing a community educator speak about foster parenting and remark that, “no one wakes up and wants to be a foster parent,” Wendy knew something was very wrong with the statement. “I spoke up and told him, that’s not true for me!”

She became a foster parent in 2017, achieving her lifetime dream. Her and her husband, Deuel, have gone on to care for seven permanent foster children, keeping them for approximately two years each until reunification with biological families. Last year, the Fiders adopted a child who they received from the hospital when he was 10 days old and who is now four.

The family lives in Palm Bay, Florida, where Deuel works as an engineer and coaches basketball at a local high school, while Wendy serves as a stay-at-home mom. The Deuel family also have two biological children at home.

“All our foster children have been reunited with their families except the child we adopted,” she said. “The best part of fostering is building relationships with the biological families, because I think that connection is so important for the foster child to see. After the child leaves our home, we become a part of their extended family forever and we cherish that.”



Foster Hope. Foster Love. Foster a Child.

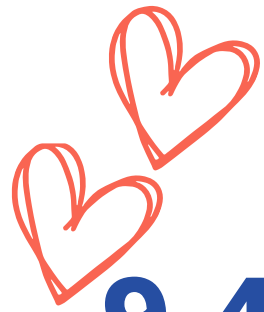


66 New
Licensed
Foster Homes



ADOPTIONS

440



9,459

Total number of
clients served in four
counties, counting
in-home and out-of-
home prevention and
diversion programs



269
Young Adults Supported
by Family Partnerships' Independent
Living Team



**Foster
Homes**
441



493
Family
Reunifications



\$363,096

In-kind
donations

** non-monetary
donations made by
organizations in four
counties served*

** Pictured are adoption families*





From the Board Chair

Dear Community Partners,

This past year was one of significant change and accomplishments for Family Partnerships of Central Florida (FPOCF). We went from serving one county in Brevard, to adding Osceola, Seminole and Orange to the counties we serve. Through our expansion, we increased the number of families and children we assist with adoption and foster-parenting services, with the team delivering more innovative, comprehensive, and caring child-welfare services.

Between the four counties, there are more than 326,440 families with 645,000 children. As the population continues to grow across the state and right here in Central Florida, our mission of strengthening families and protecting children becomes even more important.

Fortunately, we have hundreds of passionate child-welfare advocates in the communities we serve. Our team now numbers 430 professionals – team members dedicated to delivering impactful care and support to children. Family Partnerships works with more than 80 nonprofits throughout the counties to deliver services, essential partners in delivering the consistently compassionate care families need. We also have tremendous allies in Tallahassee as well as in the other Community-Based Care (CBC) organizations in the state.

Helping guide the organization's growth and progress has been our Board of Directors, composed of amazing champions who care deeply about the communities they call home. I want to thank them for their hard work this past year, as well as FPOCF staff and caseworkers whose commitment and selfless dedication makes a difference every day.

Behind every statistic there is a story – a story of a family strengthened through training and awareness, a family kept together through perseverance, and a child protected. On the following pages there are both. While reaching our goals is critical, so too is the lasting impact we have on the lives of those we touch. The stories of hope and promise are abundant, thanks to the amazing FPOCF team!

I hope you enjoy learning more about our organization and encourage you to connect with us on social media and say hello at our community events.

Wishing you all the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Austin'.

Eric Austin, Board Chair
Family Partnerships of Central Florida



Impactful Community Events



MANicure Movement® started in Central Florida in 2017 as a grassroots effort designed to raise awareness about child abuse as a national health crisis. Throughout April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we and other child welfare agencies worked in tandem with community partners to highlight the important prevention work that is being done to create strong families. Pictured are Family Partnerships volunteers.



Thanks to generous donations for our back-to-school drives, we assisted Central Florida children and families with valuable assistance in 2024.

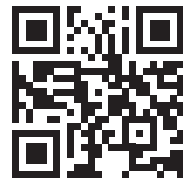

470
Children & teens served


500+
Backpacks donated


\$14,252
Estimated value of supplies from corporate & individual partners


\$1,780
Monetary donations


45
Giveaway days volunteers



Thank you to our donors and volunteers! Your support throughout the year helps provide stable homes and makes all the difference in the lives of Florida children. For more information about charitable donations, scan the above QR code.



Family Partnerships donated 125 holiday baskets with turkeys to families for Thanksgiving in 2024. (Top right) Osceola County foster parent Yaniris Pichardo accepts a donation.



This year's annual Fore Our Kids golf tournament, held at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Lake Nona, Florida, raised awareness for foster parenting and adoption throughout Central Florida. Pictured left is the volunteer team.

FORE

KIDS
GOLF TOURNAMENT

At NCFIE, the team trained 128 students

Launched SAMHSA grant: Brevard Behavioral Health expansion grant designed to expand the system of care to serve more youth and families of youth with emotional disturbances

2025 National Wraparound Conference hosted over 198 professionals



NCFIE team members donned their hero capes at this year's wraparound conference.

Ways to Support

The heart of our work is devoted to helping children and families. It drives us as individuals, and as a lead child-welfare agency serving four counties. As partners, donors, volunteers and supporters, you too are helping care for children and families in need. It's as simple as that.

There are many ways you can help children and families in crisis.

- Foster or adopt a child
- Sponsor a fundraising event
- Become an Everyday Hero via monthly giving
- Donate holiday gifts, school supplies or basic needs
- Follow Family Partnerships on social media and share our posts
- Educate others and advocate for children and families
- Volunteer
- Mentor

