



Family Partnerships of Central Florida

BREVARD | ORANGE | OSCEOLA | SEMINOLE

Family Partnerships Connections

Families Impact

Community Events

Partners

Giving Back

Families Impact

Family Partnerships Latest Podcast



Phil Scarpelli spoke with Connell Spain, executive director of S.T.A.R. House and Erwins House group homes for the latest edition of our podcast. During the discussion, they explore the many blessings involved with child-welfare services for youth.

Listen and Follow on
Spotify



Why We Said Yes

**"Because
we can make a
difference"**

Elena Sciuto and Paul Mannix, foster parents


Foster Hope
Foster Love
Foster a Child



They've been foster parents for over 10 years now. As 25-year Florida residents, Paul Mannix and Elena Sciuto currently have five children in their home – an 18-year-old young adult and four children ages 9 to one.

As dedicated foster parents, they want to help break the cycle of abuse for foster children first and foremost. "We have a desire to help children who have experienced trauma and neglect," says Elena. "We want them to feel loved, cared for, and to know that they matter. Our mission is to provide a stable and safe home so that these children can develop emotionally and fulfill their dreams."

Foster children typically stay in their home between one and three years. They've had foster children reunite with biological parents and family members. They've also had foster children who have transitioned to adoptive families, and they've adopted two foster children themselves.

Knowing they can make a difference, Paul and Elena are committed to helping children overcome trauma and preparing them for promising and loving futures. "I always felt there was something I could do for our

community,” said Paul. “After seeing how good of a parent Elena was and learning about her past as a foster parent plus her passion for children, I felt that fostering was a great way to give back to the community.”

They recently sat down with Phil Scarpelli, President and CEO of Family Partnerships of Central Florida, to share their experiences as foster and adoptive parents. You can listen more about their journey [here](#).



Families Partnerships of Central Florida Awarded Two Sunshine Health Grants for Services

[Sunshine Health](#) has awarded Family Partnerships of Central Florida two \$25,000 grants for services. The first is for programs for youth aging out of foster care, while the second is for innovative programs supporting the post-adoption families initiative. The award were made through Sunshine Health’s Pathway to Shine Re-Investment Fund.



Community Partner CarePortal Focused on Strengthening Connections

For Tim Geil, [CarePortal](#) regional manager – Space Coast, the mission is simple: support caseworkers and others at the forefront of providing child-welfare services to positively impact at least one family / one child at a time. That’s how lasting community change will happen, and it’s something Tim believes his company and Family Partnerships of Central Florida (FPOCF) are addressing together in a powerful way.

Since joining CarePortal over a year and a half ago, Tim has helped train 40 to 50 FPOCF staff, including Family Allies team members, on how best to use CarePortal’s technology to match community and foster-child needs to those churches and donors ready step in and assist. Of those FPOCF trained, Tim says 10-20 have received in-depth training.

“Our society has a connection problem, not so much a giving or caring problem,” he says. “Where we come in is providing a technology solution that helps match those in need with those able to answer the call.”

Started in 2015 in Austin, Texas by founder Adrien Lewis, CarePortal now serves nonprofits across the country. Tim says his company partners with Florida's Department of Children and Families and has made great strides in assisting those less fortunate in Brevard County over recent years.

"We began helping in Florida in 2021," he says. "Right now, I think there are greater opportunities to assist in the Cocoa area and we're working toward that."

Most recently, Tim worked with FPOCF on a critical diaper drive in November, which began with Tim reaching out and asking how his company could assist with a priority need. "About 100 to 120 families with children will end up benefiting from these donations, which we just recently started delivering," he said. "The effort was a real blessing for these families."

The timeline for CarePortal routine requests takes seven to 10 days to fulfil, while emergency requests for assistance take 24 hours typically. Most recently, Tim and his team have served 324 families through Family Allies, with an 83 percent total completion rate. He also supports FPOCF caseworkers employing the CARES wraparound model, with 241 families served at a 98 percent completion rate.

CarePortal has an informative video that explains how their technology works, accessible [here](#). They've also been featured on television personality Mike Rowe's show, "[People You Should Know](#)," and have done work with the NFL on its My Cleats My Cause initiative, including with Johnathan Allen of the Minnesota Vikings: [NFL - CarePortal](#).

A former church pastor and youth basketball coach, Tim says a Family Allies friend first got him interested in working at CarePortal. "I'm motivated to help children and families live better lives and thrive," Tim says. "I also wanted to make a difference in the communities where I live and am passionate about the benefits of this great technology. By building new and stronger connections, we can truly change entire communities and generations of families."

Diaper Drive Key Facts

Nine incredible churches helped collect 78 diapers and wipes for 52 families, all throughout Brevard. Below is a list of the churches involved:

- Church at Viera
- Coastal Community Church (Port St. John)
- Covenant Church
- East Coast Christian Center
- Georgianna Church
- Hope Community Fellowship
- Lifepoint Church
- Space Coast House Churches
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Community

National Center for Innovation and Excellence Prepares for Fall Wraparound Training



Transforming Sustainable Systems of Care for Children, Youth, Young Adults & their Families.

Specializing in family-driven, youth-guided system reform initiatives, prioritizing diversity, equality, and inclusion efforts, scaling innovations to excellence, and expanding the utilization of high-fidelity wraparound.

[Wraparound Certification](#)[Access Resource Library](#)[Register for Training](#)

The National Center for Innovation and Excellence is a recognized leader in high-fidelity wraparound certification and child-welfare training across the United States. Their expert team delivers high-fidelity, trauma-informed care training that is both Florida accredited and nationally certified with a proven track record of impactful results.

Registration is now open. Details available [here](#).

Community Events



Holiday Wish List Drive



Every year, Family Partnerships of Central Florida join forces with local partners to ensure every child in our care has a gift to open on Christmas day.

The investments they make show the children we serve that their community cares about them. It's the season of giving, reflecting and having the opportunity to change a child's life with a special gift.

It's not too late to sponsor a child and create some magic this holiday? Email us at community.relations@familypartnerships.com.



**Holiday Magic
Donation**



Mark your calendars - Family Partnerships annual golf tournament is scheduled for April 17 at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Lake Nona.

Partners

Fostering Kindness Delivers Joyous Moments for Central Florida Foster Youth



Celebrating some of the most important days of the year – that’s what Altamonte Springs-based [Fostering Kindness Now](#) brings to Central Florida foster youth. Since January 2021, the organization, led by Founder and CEO Alison Spalding, has assisted child-welfare organizations with celebrating occasions such as birthdays, holidays, and other important times. Fostering Kindness is one of Family Partnerships’ most valued community partners.

“Much of what we do brings relief for caseworkers and those serving children on a daily basis,” said Spalding. “Often, caseworkers, because of their giving nature, end up assisting children with their own resources. By working with an active donor community, Fostering

Kindness can provide essentials and meaningful gifts so that case managers don’t have to. We also provide Comfort Bags to children newly placed in foster care, ages five and up. These bags are filled with essentials and comfort items to ease the transition into a new home.”

Spalding says her organization’s current goal is to support 1,000 children a year. Last year, they finished strong at 989 children supported, with approximately a third in collaboration with Family Partnerships. This year, she and her small team are averaging 17 birthday celebrations per month, with about five or six for Family Partnerships.

The nonprofit works with about 500 active donors, many of whom were recruited through a Facebook group which now numbers 1,600 members. The organization has also secured funding through a few grants. “Our Facebook group supports about 75 percent of our activities,” she says.

With Christmas fast approaching, Spalding says it’s important to note that Fostering Kindness supports local teens who come into foster care after all the other wish-list organizations have passed their Christmas list deadlines. “A child could enter foster care a day or two before Christmas, so we make sure we have extra gifts on short notice.” She and her Board of Directors personally deliver gifts to 12 local group homes on Christmas Eve.

40 Children Join Forever Families at Celebration of Adoptions Events



Family Partnerships of Central Florida (FPOCF) concluded its Celebration of Adoption ceremonies in Orange County Friday, Nov. 21, where 17 children were adopted by 12 families. The event wrapped up a successful month of adoptions for the child-welfare lead agency, with a total of 40 children adopted during events held in Osceola, Brevard, Seminole and Orange Counties.

"For child-welfare professionals such as myself, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing children and families united and celebrating the start of a new Forever Family," said FPOCF President and CEO Phil Scarpelli. "This is our second year of holding the celebrations across the four counties we serve. As Florida continues to grow, we'll continue to see a need for more foster care and adoptions. Our state has one of the highest adoption numbers in the nation."

Scarpelli adds that the adoption process involves many dedicated community partners to achieve. The families are supported by a large network of child-welfare professionals and caseworkers, guardian ad litem, attorneys and judicial staff in each of the circuit courts. The time to adoption finalization can vary but can typically be

reached in six to 18 months.

A unique feature of the Brevard celebration is it's at the USSSA Space Coast Complex, where legal proceedings are held on the field. This year, Judge Charles Crawford, Eighteen Circuit Court, presided over the ceremony. At the event's conclusion, children were invited to run the bases with the stadium mascot. County events also feature face-painting for children, decorative photo areas to capture family portraits, and celebratory cakes and commemorative gifts for the children and families.

Over the past 10 years, FPOCF has helped with more than 4,000 adoptions in the counties served. FPOCF works closely with Camelot Community Care on facilitating the adoption process for families. To learn more about how to adopt, visit www.fpcf.org/adoption or call 407-725-2170.



Holiday Magic Donors and Volunteers



Companies/Organizations

Bank of New York
Beach Bum Barber
Buena Vida Estates
Chaparral Restaurant
CLOIS/CCSFS
DHI Title
Discovery Village
Melbourne
DR Horton Homes
Eau Gallie Rotary
Fine Ink Winter Park
Florida Rentina Specialist
Gamma Nu Chapter of
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,
Inc - Space Coast
Health First
High Road Jeep Club and
Space Coast Jeep Club



Jeremiah's Ice
Keller Williams
Life Style Homes
LL2061/IAMAW (Machinists)
Medical Technology Transfer Corporation
Melbourne Seventh Day Adventist Church
Mosaic Church
NASA Alumni League Florida
NeoCity Academy
Northrup Grumman
Old Navy

Tiffany
Woods, Viera
Del Mar
Rehabilitation,
with LaChrista
Jones and
Madison Foor
of FPOCF.



Pictured
center is Pam
Steele with
LaChrista and
Madison at
the NASA
Alumni
League
holiday
luncheon.



Companies/Organizations (cont.)

Osceola County Corrections
PulteGroup
Riverside Presbyterian Church
Rockledge Democratic Women's Club
RSM
Sentry Management
St Mark AME Church East / Eastside Outreach
Ministry INC
Super Woman Health
Supercuts Brevard County
Surfside Social AI
Terry Laboratories
The Pointe Church
Torquenet
Trinty Fitness
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority - Epsilon Epsilon Zeta Chapter

*Thank
you!*



Individual Families

Barberich	Netwon
Joseph	Ramcharran
Karaniuk	Reed
Kellar	Rivera
Kennedy	Roberts
Kicinski	Russell
Killick	Schmidt
Lott	Venzara
Loyola	Watt
MacIntosh	Watts
Maher	Williams
Maldonado	
Martel	
Martinez	
Maysonet	
Miller	
Milner	
Moody	
Musacchia	

L3 Harris Volunteers Assist Central Florida Young Adults





During the month of November, employees from finance and government compliance at [L3 Harris](#), headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, selected Family Partnerships Independent Living program to bless with holiday giving assistance. Independent Living helps Central Florida youth transition from foster care to independence. At a thank-you reception held at L3 Harris Nov. 18, Family Partnerships was presented with 19 gift baskets for transitioning youth. Baskets contained various household items such as laundry, dining, decorative and living essentials.

“What a wonderful organization with so many considerate and caring employees,” said Keri Flynn, Youth Services administrator at Family Partnerships. “These gifts will go a long way in helping these youth transition to living on their own and succeeding in their next phases of life. As child-welfare professionals, we’re always encouraged and elated when companies and community organizations like L3 Harris partner with us in building stronger families and communities.”

Shopping with Purpose – Health First Employees Provide Christmas Gifts for Children



Phil Scarpelli highlights the importance of more foster and adoption homes with iHeart's "CEOs You Should Know" program.

[Listen Here](#)

Remembering Dr. Aida Dorsainville, founder of
[MPS Health Clinic](#)



With Deep Sadness

Family Partnerships of Central Florida is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Aida Dorsainville, a remarkable leader whose compassion, strength, and unwavering commitment to children and families made a lasting impact on our community.

Dr. Dorsainville devoted her life to lifting others—guiding vulnerable children toward hope, empowering families in their hardest moments, and inspiring all who had the privilege of working alongside her. Her legacy is woven into the lives she touched and the countless acts of care and advocacy she championed.

We hold her loved ones, colleagues, and all who mourn her loss in our hearts.

May we honor Dr. Dorsainville's memory by carrying forward the work she believed in so deeply—supporting, protecting, and strengthening families across Central Florida.

A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at [Magnus Poirier Funeral Home](#), 222 Boul. des Laurentides, Laval QC H7G 2T6. A stream of the homage portion will be available through this link: <https://www.magnuspoirier.com/fr/avis-de-deces/140558/a-da-dorsainville>



Merry Christmas

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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