

# Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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## News & Media

### Community Meets Adoption Goal for Year

With a month left to go, Devereux CBC has met its adoption goal for the fiscal year.

As of May 22, 120 children from Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast have been placed in adoptive homes. The goal was 120.

"This is due to the steady, ongoing and tireless efforts of our adoptions provider, Children's Home Society," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux CBC, the non-profit organization that oversees the local child-welfare system. "We are particularly excited about the increasing number of people willing to adopt special needs children."

Much of that is owed to the Heart Gallery, a Children's Home Society project that features the pictures and stories of children who traditionally have been more difficult to place.

Nearly 25 percent more Heart Gallery children have been adopted over the last two years than the previous two years, said Frank Avilla, Heart Gallery coordinator.

"The increase in adoptions from the Heart Gallery and from adoptions overall is partly due to the number of people willing to adopt sibling groups," he said.

Teens, sibling groups and children with disabilities typically are more difficult to place.

There are 35 children currently on the Heart Gallery. Of those, 10 have been matched with potential homes. That's nearly a third of the gallery - a great improvement from the 10 percent who once could expect adoption, Avilla said.

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