

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

New Radio show gives listeners a peek behind the child welfare curtain

Port St. Lucie – Devereux Community Based Care unveiled a weekly radio show this month designed to raise awareness for the issues of child abuse and neglect.

The launch coincides with National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month and a series of planned springtime outreach and appreciation activities.

Devereux Community Based Care offers a behind-the-scenes look at the dependency system of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties in a weekly, half-hour format.

“There are so many great things happening throughout the state and in our own community, and we thought radio was a great venue for getting that news out,” said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care, the nonprofit organization that oversees local child-welfare services.

For example, adoptions continue to increase as does the number of children reunified within a year. And local programs, like Devereux CBC’s Road to Success, have resulted in more young people graduating high school and seeking college degrees.

“Florida was one of the first states to extend foster care to age 21 – that’s huge,” said Kaiser, the show’s host. “That was the end of, ‘Happy birthday, you’re 18 and you’re homeless’ – these are the stories we want to talk about on the show.”

In fact, the show’s co-host, Miracle Thomas, is a young adult who lived in foster care as a teenager and who continues to receive services thanks to the law that extended foster care two years ago. One week out of each month, Miracle will interview another young person whose life has been impacted by abuse or neglect.

“The idea is to have at least one show each month about youth, and by youth,” Kaiser said. “No one can talk about the issues of foster care like those who live it.”

The show will run for an initial 13 weeks, airing at 10 a.m. every Wednesday on WSTU 1450 AM. The community can also learn more about the local child-welfare system and efforts to establish a six-bed assessment center for children entering foster care during a series of complimentary breakfasts, beginning April 27. For more information, or to register, [visit or Sanctuary page](#).

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