

# Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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## News & Media

### Devereux Community Based Care marks third anniversary

**Port Saint Lucie** – Devereux Community Based Care of Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast turned 3 today, marking its birthday with a long list of improvements to the local child-welfare system.

"This anniversary is more about the community than it is about any one system," said Carol DeLoach, CEO for Devereux Community Based Care, the non-profit organization that coordinates and oversees child-welfare services in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. "Staff and volunteers from many different agencies make the system what it is, so they are responsible for any successes attributed to it," she said.

"We wouldn't be celebrating today if it wasn't for them."

Some of the most recent successes include an increase in adoptions and in the number of foster homes, a reduction in the number of children served out of the area or in group care and an overall reduction in caseloads.

Devereux Community Based Care also implemented a County Director model in two of its four counties, bringing the administration of services closer to local families, and reversed a projected \$1 million deficit in its first two years.

Others achievements include establishing a local version of the nationally acclaimed Permanency Roundtable model to ensure children find permanency safely and quickly, and stabilizing turnover of dependency case-management staff, particularly in St. Lucie County, where the turnover was more than 80 percent in 2013.

For more information about Devereux Community Based Care, visit us at [www.DCBCKids.org](http://www.DCBCKids.org).

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