

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Devereux Community Based Care honors those who foster hope in the community

Port Saint Lucie – Three Treasure Coast foster families were among this year's recipients of the highest award given locally in child welfare.

Lindsay Wilson and Maria Fernandez, from Port St. Lucie, Marc and Tammy Ortiz, from Vero Beach, and Erica and Richard Brinson, of Palm City, received the Fostering Hope Award this month during a series of breakfasts hosted by Devereux Community Based Care to highlight successes and challenges in the local child-welfare system.

Devereux CBC is the nonprofit organization responsible for coordinating and overseeing services to abused, abandoned and neglected children in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

"This is the highest award we give each year," said Chief Executive Officer Carol Deloach said. "It's given to individuals or groups in the community who have made a significant contribution to ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children."

All three caregiver families were recognized for time dedicated to recruiting and supporting new foster parents.

"We licensed more than 40 new foster homes last year, and that's due in large part to the recruitment activities of existing foster parents, like Lindsay and Maria, the Ortizes and the Brinsons," Deloach said.

The award was also given to several groups, including Indian River State College, the Junior League of Martin County, the Exchange Club of the Treasure Coast and the Treasure Coast Assembly of God.

Each organization made a special contribution to foster care, said Christina Kasier, Devereux CBC director of community relations. The Junior League and the Exchange Club both host annual community breakfasts to raise awareness for the prevention of child abuse, while Indian River State College and Treasure Coast Assembly donate space to host monthly foster parent meetings.

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