

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Treasure Coast Next Stop on NexGen Summer Concert Tour

The Treasure Coast is the next stop on a summer concert tour designed to draw attention to the state's need for more foster homes.

NexGen, a band composed of foster and adopted children from throughout Florida, began its tour July 31 in Tallahassee and will be at Stuart's Indian Riverside Park from 6-8 p.m. August 21.

The band was invited to the Treasure Coast by Devereux Community Based Care as part of the organization's 25 by 25 campaign to recruit and license at least 25 new foster homes by December 25.

There is no fee to attend the concert, which will also feature children's activities and educational booths as well as local food trucks.

"This is the last weekend before school starts," said Christina Kaiser, Devereux CBC director of community relations. "Even if you've never thought of becoming a foster parent, it's a great way to spend an evening – just bring the kids and a picnic basket and relax on the grass."

The idea for a NexGen band developed when a group of teenagers were overheard singing and playing instruments during their down time at a Florida State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association conference.

"They were just jamming," said David Brown, coordinator for the Florida Quality Parenting Initiative, a state approach to strengthening foster care. "An association member walked in and saw all these kids playing and thought it would be a great idea to have a band made up of foster and adopted children."

One of the best ways to recruit foster parents is to let the children lead the effort, Kaiser said.

Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast is home to about 1,300 children receiving services due to abuse or neglect. Those services are coordinated by Devereux CBC. Of the 1,300 children in care, 314 children are placed in licensed care - meaning they live in foster homes or group homes.

And nearly half of those live in a residential facility.

Some children need the services of a group home, but many more, particularly young children, do not, said Denise Natalizio, Martin County Director for Devereux CBC.



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