



COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Devereux CBC announces 2016 community outreach campaign for Sanctuary

Port Saint Lucie – Devereux Community Based Care announced this month that it will direct all 2016 outreach efforts in support of Sanctuary4Kids, a local grassroots movement to create a “safe place” for children awaiting placement into foster care.

The movement is a community initiative driven by Guardians for New Futures, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to meet the unfunded needs of children in foster care.

Sanctuary4Kids will offer a child-friendly safe place where children who have been removed from home can take a nap, do their homework or have a hot meal – a comfortable alternative to waiting in a child-welfare professional’s car or office.

“We need Sanctuary4Kids in our community,” said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care, the nonprofit organization that oversees the child-welfare system in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. “We’re going to focus all outreach efforts this year on raising awareness and support for it.”

Those efforts will begin later this spring, she said.

Devereux CBC will launch a community awareness campaign called Devereux Community Based Care for Sanctuary during an upcoming State of the Circuit Address, during which organization CEO Carol Deloach will present the successes and challenges faced in the dependency system during the past year.

The address will be part of Devereux CBC’s annual Community Breakfast Series, scheduled for 9 a.m. April 27 at Nutmeg’s in Okeechobee, April 29 at the Children’s Services Council of St. Lucie County, and May 6 at the Women’s Center of Stuart. Each breakfast is free thanks to community support from NutMeg’s, Guardians for New Futures and the Junior League of Martin County.

Some outreach efforts already are underway thanks to the social-media savvy of a stuffed green dragon named Gus.

The #wheresgus campaign was launched earlier this month as a way to build interest for the campaign and the upcoming breakfasts. Every Wednesday leading up to the breakfasts, Gus will visit new people and places in the child-welfare community and post his adventures on Facebook.

The idea is to get people talking about Sanctuary, Kaiser said.

“This movement is Community Based Care at its finest,” she said. “Community based means that everyone has a part in the child-welfare system, and this is a great example of the community identifying a gap in services and rallying to fill it.”

For more information about Sanctuary4Kids, visit www.sanctuary4kidstc.org or click on the banner at the top of this page.

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