

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

Call us at (772)873-7800



News & Media

Sanctuary offers virtual tour of new home

Port St. Lucie – Guardians for New Futures and Living Faith Church invite the community to a virtual tour of Sanctuary4Kids, a temporary shelter for children awaiting placement into foster care.

The tour is scheduled from 2-4 p.m., January 22, at Tradition Town Hall, 10799 Civic Lane, Port St. Lucie. Actual tours of the home will remain unavailable to the public in order to protect the privacy of children staying there.

Sanctuary4Kids began less than a year ago as 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.

The three-bedroom home will offer a child-friendly safe place where up to six children who have been removed from home can take a nap, do their homework or have a hot meal.

"It's a comfortable alternative to waiting in a child-welfare professional's car or office," said Carol DeLoach, Devereux Community Based Care Chief Executive Officer. "We are very eager for the home to open."

That's expected to happen soon, officials said. The home received its certificate of occupancy just before Christmas and is being deeded over to Hibiscus Children's Center for day-to-day operations.

Children will be referred to the home by child protective investigators or Devereux Community Based Care when immediate placements are unavailable.

Sanctuary4Kids was the center of Devereux's 2016 community outreach and social media efforts. A community relations campaign was built around the concept and featured a series of community breakfasts and letters to the editor from local caregivers and former youth in care, including Kansas City Chiefs Wide Receiver Albert Wilson.

Gus the Dragon also made a debut during the campaign as Sanctuary's furry, green mascot. Throughout the year, he could be found on Twitter and Instagram, meeting with local legislators, business owners, foster parents and child-welfare providers in the area.

Gus - and the Sanctuary concept as a whole - was the brainchild of Debbie Butler, Guardians for New Futures president.



Sanctuary will offer a friendly, home-like environment for children who are waiting for a foster home.

"This will provide a safe and nurturing place for children, and it's all thanks to the community," Ms. Butler said. "Sanctuary4kids was built and furnished within a year - this is truly a community coming together for the benefit of the children."



Debbie Butler gives a special tour to local child welfare advocates.

More News:

[Active](#)

[Archived](#)

January 20, 2017

Contact: Christina Kaiser
(772) 528-0362



• *Inspiring hope. Empowering lives. Since 1912.* •

Devereux CBC • 10570 S. Federal Hwy. Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 • (772)873-7800

Special Notice: If you require Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations to participate in any Devereux CBC event or activity, please notify Rusty Kline, Single Point of Contact, by phone at 772-873-7800 or by email to flbccivilrights@devereuxcbc.org within at least seven (7) days of the event. Accommodations will be provided at no extra charge.

Sponsored by the state of Florida Department of Children and Families

©Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health • 444 Devereux Drive, Villanova, PA 19085 • (800) 345-1292