

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Stories come alive in the Storybook Forest

Stuart – More than 200 people attended the third annual Storybook Forest Saturday, joining Pete the Cat and a host of other beloved characters from children's literature.

The event, done in celebration of Children's Week and National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, featured interactive exhibits from 24 local organizations and businesses – a sharp increase from the previous two years.

"I think the word is getting out that this is a must-attend event for families with small children," said Loretta Toth, event chairperson and executive secretary for Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee, who, along with Devereux Community Based Care, Community Care and the Guardian ad Litem program, hosted the event.

Visiting children made colorful mardi gras masks with Princess Tiana, visited Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, and learned about bats with a real life Stella Luna – and sang, danced and listened to stories under clear blue Martin County skies.

They even got a visit from Pete the Cat and Molina Healthcare's Dr. Cleo, who faced off mid-morning in a spontaneous dance challenge that drew crowds and set off waves of giggles throughout the park.

The event kicks off the statewide celebration of Children's Week, designated by the Florida Legislature to raise awareness for children's issues.



Devereux CBC's Booth at the 2017 Storybook Forest event



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