

The MANicure MovementSM

In partnership with Embrace Families



Communities
Connected
for Kids

The CCKids Connector



Easter Bunny makes surprise visit to foster kids

Port St. Lucie - The Easter Bunny, Mr. Spock and Batman walk into a foster parent meeting.

This is not the opening to a joke. It is an act of kindness – one that started when members of the [Treasure Coast Cosplayers](#) decided to bring some Easter fun into the lives of St. Lucie County foster children.

Several members of the cosplay group visited the April meeting of the St. Lucie County Foster Parent Association and treated the children to fun, games and baskets of gifts and candy.

Cosplay, a portmanteau of the words costume play, is a performance art in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes to represent fantasy characters.

The Treasure Coast group is 400-members strong and gets involved with several community initiatives throughout the year, like child-abuse and bullying prevention, event coordinator Laura Richardson said.

“This is cosplay with a purpose,” she said. “It matters because all these issues either affect us, our children or anyone we care for.”

Want to get more involved? Find out how to become a foster parent by calling Jerra Wisecup at (772) 249-3188 or visit cckids.net. Or, if you are interested in being a Volunteer Child Advocate, call Nicole Hughes at (772) 785-5804.

Child abuse is a national health crisis.

1 in 5 children will be abused before their 18th birthday

5 children die every day as a result of child abuse or neglect

1 person can make a difference

Join the movement, start a conversation

Communities Connected for kids continues its celebration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month with several activities planned throughout April. We began on April 10 with the launch of the [MANicure Movement](#), which is now spreading throughout our community - including at all St. Lucie County Boys and Girls Club locations and fire houses, much of CCKids' child-welfare network and several schools.

Check out our Facebook Live interview at Renaissance Charter School [here](#).

Check out our WQCS interview [here](#).

This simple initiative - meant to draw attention to the fact that one in five children experience abuse by age 18 - is already generating increased interest in foster parenting and other forms of volunteerism, including interest in the [Circuit 19 Guardian ad Litem](#) program. It has generated so much interest that we are now out of MANicure kits. But don't worry! All it really takes is one bottle of blue nail polish - keep the conversation going all month long.

Headlines and Other News of Note

[Domestic Violence Connection Missing, Study Says](#) [Chronicle of Social Change - April 12, 2019](#)

In "The Child Welfare System in U.S. News: What's Missing?" researchers from the Berkeley Media Studies Group explore why the news media might be failing to highlight domestic violence in its reporting on the child welfare system.

[2019 Sheriff's Summer Camp](#)

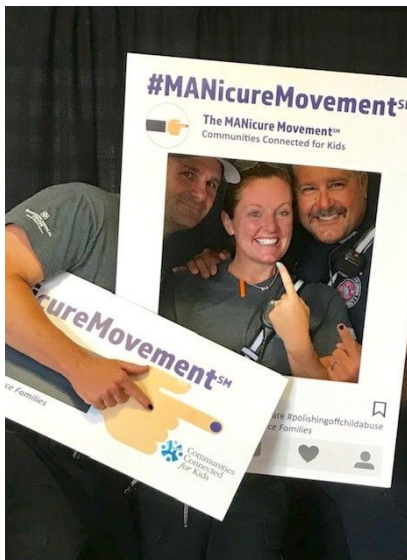
Sign ups for the 2019 Okeechobee County Sheriff's Summer Camp is scheduled from 8-10 a.m., May 3, at the School Board Operations Center, 938 NW 38th Street.

This year's youth camp, for children ages 8-11, is the week of June 3. A teen camp, for ages 12-15, is planned for the week of June 10. Children must be signed up by a parent or guardian.

[Check out our new blog](#)

CCKids has a blog - the latest place to share our stories with the community. This month, we're featuring thoughts on child abuse prevention, shared by some of those closest to the work: Foster Parent [Mark Young](#), former youth in care [Jeromy Wilkins](#) and, coming soon, CCKids Board President Kathryn Hensley.

This month in pictures



Joining the MANicure Movement at the April 10 kickoff event are, from left, St. Lucie County Fire Rescue Engineer Scott Miller, Firefighter Michelle Thieson and Lt. Lewis Clanton.



Treasure Coast Cosplayers laugh and dance with children during the April meeting of the St. Lucie County foster parent association. The visit has become an annual tradition for the group. Like last year, the group came with about 30 Easter baskets and a contagious spirit of holiday fun.

Also starting a conversation are, from left, Port St. Lucie Police Chief John Balduc SLC Property Appraiser Michelle Franklin and SLC Fire Chief Nate Spera.

CCKids staff members Jody Boyer and Tom Trumpore aren't afraid to paint a nail blue to raise awareness for the sad truth that one in five children are abused by age 18.



CCKids challenged the Circuit 19 Guardian ad Litem program, Camelot Community Care and several other agencies to wear and post the most blue on Wear Blue Day - a child-abuse prevention celebration. GAL won this fabulous prize crafted by our own Jerra Wisecup (center), who vows to bring the prize back home in 2020.