



The C.C.Kids Connector

Foster Closet outgrows itself; invites community to see new location

Stuart - The Treasure Coast Foster Closet got too big for its donated britches. Literally.

So the founders of the Stuart-based resource moved the closet to a new location, giving them much more space to serve the growing number of foster parents coming to them for help.

The community is invited to view the new location during a grand opening from 5-7 p.m. August 25, at 110 SW Monterey Road, Suite five.

"We had such an amazing response from the community, that we were out of room," said Ericah Brinson, Stuart foster parent and Foster Closet co-founder. "You couldn't even walk in there - we knew we had to take a leap of faith and open a bigger space."

Brinson founded the closet in early 2017 with her sister-in-law and fellow foster parent, Sabrina Brinson. The two set up shop in a Stuart storage unit and made the donations they collected from local businesses available to other foster parents.



Foster families have access to the closet around the clock, while large donations are accepted by appointment. There is also a covered bin on the side of the building where people can leave donations.

"Our mission is to provide for the needs of foster families so they can focus on giving their time to the most vulnerable children in our community," Ericah Brinson said.

The Foster Closet serves about 50 children each month and is run entirely on donations and by volunteers, she said.

To help raise money for rent and other resources, the Foster Closet will raffle off a 1991 golf cart during the grand opening event. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50. they are available at

If you are a foster parent living in Okeechobee or the Treasure Coast, check out the Treasure Coast Foster Closet on [Facebook](#) and ask to join.

**August 25th
5-7pm**

GRAND OPENING

TREASURE COAST FOSTER CLOSET

RAFFLE TO WIN!

Suggested Donation
\$20 EA OR 3/ \$50

PRE SALE AVAILABLE ON
FACEBOOK AT TREASURE COAST FOSTER CLOSET, INC
AND ATLANTIC TIRE, STUART

DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!



1991
BRAND NEW BATTERIES WITH
2 YEAR WARRANTY
NEW SOLENOIDS
NEW V GLIDE
REAR SEAT WITH
DRY STORAGE

Each entry must include the individual participants name and contact information. The deadline for entry is 08/25/2018 at 6:00 PM. One entry will be drawn for each prize. Winners will be drawn on 08/25/2018 on or about 6:45 PM at the Treasure Coast Foster Closet, 110 SW Monterey Road, Suite 5, Stuart, Florida 34994. The above prizes are being donated by the Treasure Coast Foster Closet. This raffle is being held by the Treasure Coast Foster Closet, 110 SW Monterey Road, Suite 5, Stuart, FL 34994 and all donations received will go to benefit the Treasure Coast Foster Closet. No purchase or contribution is necessary to enter.



It's simple: Simon wants a family

Communities Connected for Kids is the newest partner in the Forever Family project, a Florida-based non profit that leverages the power of the media to help children and teens in foster care find loving, adoptive families.

Earlier this summer, seven local children shared their stories and dreams of adoption with CBS 12 News Channel Reporter Liz Quirantes. The first segment aired Tuesday and features Simon, a 16-year-old looking for a family that is "as loyal and loving as he is."



Simon's interview will air again at 5 p.m. tonight on CBS Channel 12; Thursday on NBC 6 Miami; and Saturday on NBC 6 Fort Myers. The run will end next week during a still unscheduled segment on WFTV Channel 9 in Orlando. But don't wait! Click the link to see Simon's [Forever Family](#) story now. Stay tuned for more Forever Family stories.



In the clinic with nurse Pam

The kids are back to school! Your children may be safely supervised by their teachers while at school, but don't forget about travel safety.

Reminding your child to travel with groups of friends whenever possible is really important. You may also want to arrange for a responsible adult to walk with your child to and from the school or the bus.

Remind your child to stay on the sidewalk and look both ways, making sure all drivers have seen them and stopped, before crossing the street.

Reiterating the importance of avoiding strangers and leaving plenty of time to catch the bus to arrive at school on time is also a good idea.

Originally from Canada, Pam became a nurse in 2011 after graduating from York University in Toronto. Her clinical experience includes emergency medicine, community nursing and sexual assault care. Pam moved to Florida with her husband (and IT wizard) Jody Boyer in 2014 and began work with Communities Connected for Kids the next year. She coordinates, assists and monitors the medical needs of children served by C.C.Kids.



Florida Community Bank donates backpacks

Communities Connected for Kids thanks Florida Community Bank for its recent donation of backpacks - the most recent gift in an ongoing partnership between the two organizations.

Bank employees have also raised money for children in local foster care as part of its Florida Community Bank Cares program, which was established in 2015 to provide employees and customers with the opportunity to make contributions to support local foster care organizations.

Other Florida Community Bank activities include participation in National Child Abuse Prevention Month, in April, which, in the past, have included a sneaker drive and educational opportunities to learn more about foster care.

The bank's most recent contribution was part of its support of local back-to-school efforts.

"We really appreciate everything FCB does for our children and families," CCK Community Relations Director Christina Kaiser said. "They really do care about their community."



Former foster youth Jeremy Wilkins to speak at open house

Guests attending tomorrow's open house at Communities Connected for Kids have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of a young man who knows first-hand how the foster care system works.

Jeremy Wilkins, 26, lived in foster care when he was younger. He was raised in Port St. Lucie and attended Treasure Coast High School, where he played football and ran track. He attends Indian River State College, where he is working on an associate's degree in criminal justice.

He wants to attend law school, and he currently is working to open a nonprofit organization to help abused women and children.

"I am a people's person, and helping is what I love," Wilkins said.

Tomorrow's open house includes a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate C.C.Kids' recent name change.

Wilkins will speak at 9:40 a.m., followed by the ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Tours of the office, which is located at 10570 S. Federal Hwy., Port St. Lucie, will be available.

