



## The C.C.Kids Connector

### Local couple represents the best in adoption



A Port St. Lucie couple who adopted eight children and fostered many more during the last 20 years was recognized for their contribution July 1 during the 2018 Florida State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Conference.

Rose and Brian Bailey received the 2018 Forever Hearts Award, an accolade given annually to honor those who provide permanency and a loving family to children in care.

"The award is given with a specific focus on those who help adopted children maintain connections and who support and mentor other adoptive families," said

Communities Connected for Kids Caregiver & Adoption Support Supervisor Jill Poole, who nominated the Bailey's for the award.

The Bailey's were Treasure Coast foster parents for almost 20 years, adopting their eight children during that time.

"They made lifetime connections with all their children's families, some of whom they are still in contact with," Poole said.

Even after they stopped fostering, the Bailey's still opened their home to care for a talented teenage football player who would later go on to join the NFL and the Miami Dolphins.

The Bailey household is a little quieter these days, with four of their children now grown and living successful, independent lives. But four teenagers at home, including 19-year-old twins, and Rose's job mentoring other foster and adoptive parents keep the Bailey's busy.

"Rose attends all St. Lucie County foster parent meetings, assists with appreciation events for our families and is always available for any other event, committee or activity we need her for," Poole said. "Rose and Brian have spent a lifetime dedicated to children and families in the child-welfare system, and they don't have any plans of slowing down soon."

The award was a surprise of colossal proportion, said Ms. Bailey, who thought she was there to witness her colleague, Jerra Wisecup, receive the award.

"I'm smiling at her, she's looking at me," Ms. Bailey said. "Then they call my name, and I'm thinking, 'Now, that can't be right'."

In fact, Ms. Wisecup, Ms. Poole and even Mr. Bailey were in on the surprise.

"I was floored, very surprised and deeply honored," Ms. Bailey said. "The award is sitting proudly on my mantel."

For more information on becoming a foster parent, please visit us at [cckids.net](http://cckids.net).



#### Make a Difference to a Child

*The following excerpt was originally published in the Florida's Center for Child Welfare July 1 newsletter. Information about the center can be found at [The Center for Child Welfare](http://The Center for Child Welfare):*



#### Share a Haircut

Hair Cutterly once again will donate back-to-school haircuts to children who need it most. From August 1-15, for every child up to age 18 who purchases a haircut at one of Hair Cutterly's

July is National Make a Difference to a Child Month and is held annually to focus on children's education, health and growth. A critical aspect of healthy development for any youth is a sense of normalcy. While there is no single "normal" childhood experience, "normalcy" refers to age and developmentally appropriate activities and experiences that allow children and youth to grow. Indeed, normalcy for youth means being able to do what is considered "routine" for many teenagers - participating in sports and clubs, attending choir and dance classes, volunteering, and spending time with friends. It also includes opportunities for youth to take on additional responsibilities and freedoms such as learning how to drive, working a part-time job or having a later curfew as the youth approaches adulthood.

*Make a difference to a child this month by helping us collect school supplies for children in foster care. Sign up for volunteer opportunities at [Stuff the Bus](#).*

16 local salons, one free haircut certificate will be donated to a foster child and other special-needs children in the community.

Certificates will be distributed through local government and non-profit organizations, such as Communities Connected for Kids. Since 2003, foster children in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties have received nearly 4,600 free haircut certificates valued at \$59,800.

*If you participate in the drive, take a picture of your child in the Hair Cuttery frame (pictured above) and send it to [Christina Kaiser](#). We love to show off our support!*

