



The CCKids Connector We Moved!



Communities Connected for Kids moved to St. Lucie West on June 21 to accommodate a growing staff and to bring teams together that had been separated due to space. Our new address is 1860 SW Fountainview Blvd., Port St. Lucie, 34987.

We want you to stuff it - with school supplies

PORT ST. LUCIE, June 26, 2019 — CCKids is looking for volunteers to help Stuff the Bus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 20, at the Port St. Lucie Wal-Mart on U.S.1.

The event, now in its 15th year, is part of the United Way of St. Lucie County's Tools for Schools drive, which collects school supplies for needy children from the entrances of St. Lucie County Wal-Mart stores.

The project is expected to serve more than 10,000 children this year, with much of the donations coming from the four Stuff the Bus sites and from corporate contributors like Publix.

CCKids, which will host the U.S.1 site, will receive enough supply-stuffed backpacks for 300 children in the child-welfare system.

"We need volunteers to greet shoppers, hand out flyers and collect supplies from donors," said Christina Kaiser, CCKids Community Relations Director and site coordinator.

"It's an especially easy and fast way for high-school students to get the community service hours they need for graduation and college scholarships," she said.

To volunteer for a two-hour shift click [here](#) and scroll down to the U.S.1/Port St. Lucie Wal-Mart site.



What is the Quality Parenting Initiative?

The Quality Parenting Initiative - or QPI - is an approach to strengthening foster care by refocusing on excellent parenting for all children in the child welfare system.

It was launched by the Youth Law Center in 2008 in Florida, and is now in

more than 10 states and 75 jurisdictions. The initiative is an approach and a philosophy, but it is also a network of sites that share information and ideas about how to improve parenting as well as recruit and retain excellent families.

Communities Connected for Kids is one of those sites, and we are committed to fully supporting excellent parenting by prioritizing the needs of the child - first by defining and communicating the expectations of caregivers and then by aligning system policy and practice to those expectations

When QPI is successful, caregivers receive the support and training they need to work with children and families, understand what is expected of them, and know what to expect from the system.

In return, our system is able to select and retain enough excellent caregivers to meet the needs of each child for a home and family. When these changes are accomplished, outcomes for children, youth and families improve.

For more information about the initiative, visit QPI4Kids.org

Pictured above are members of the Circuit 19 Quality Parenting Initiative Committee, including Jamie Averett and David Brown, who are with the Youth Law Center. Brown has served as the local site leader for five years but is leaving the Law Center for other opportunities. Averett will replace Brown as local site leader, beginning this summer.

Headlines & Other News of Note

Upcoming round table series

CCKids launched its first round table discussion on Facebook Live earlier this month, garnering 37 comments and more than 300 engagements from people in the community interested in learning more about the foster care and adoption process.

More live discussions are being planned for what eventually will become a monthly series. The next round table is planned for later this summer and will focus on programs related to relative caregivers. In the meantime, check us out on [Facebook](#).

CHS adoption orientation

Children's Home Society, the organization that provides adoption services to the CCKids system of care, invites the community to attend its next adoption orientation, scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, at 3333 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach. Confirmation is not necessary to attend.

Resources for LGBTQ youth, caregivers and professionals

June may be Pride Month, but creating a safe and inclusive environment for LGBTQ youth is a year-round struggle. That is especially true in foster care, where the population is over-represented.

Although LGBTQ youth enter the foster-care system for the same reasons as other children in care, many have the added trauma that comes with being rejected or mistreated because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

All youth need a safe and stable place to live, freedom to express themselves and structure and guidance to support them in becoming responsible, healthy adults. Resources for LGBTQ youth, as well as for parents, caregivers and professionals are available at [Human Right Campaign](#).

FL: Homes to Heal Trafficked Children

[New York Times - June 19, 2019](#)

Miami is one of 13 cities considered by the FBI to be a hub for child sex trafficking. While there are no reliable estimates of how many children have been trafficked in the United States - the most conservative estimates hover around 3,000 - it's the most vulnerable children who are most often targeted. Click the [link](#) to read more.
