



The CCKids Connector



Children from Kandice West's family play in front of a fence destroyed late last year by a drunk driver and replaced by local community volunteers and donors.

Community comes together to help foster family impacted by drunk driver

May is National Foster Care Month. In honor of that, we asked some of our caregivers to share a little about their lives and unique experiences as foster and adoptive parents. You can find more throughout the month on our [blog](#).

By Kandice West, special to the CCKids Connector

Port St. Lucie - Late last year, a drunk driver ran off the road and into my yard, demolishing about 40 feet of fence surrounding the back of my Port St. Lucie home and pool.



It was three days before Christmas, and my house was full of children. Needless to say, I was unable to do anything about it at the time. I was given two warnings by the city for code violation and ordered to remove and replace the broken fence.

Five companies in our community stepped up to help and support my foster family, and I'm thrilled to say that our pool is once again protected and safe. For that, I want to thank [Calvary Port St. Lucie](#), [Coastal Life Church](#), [4Kids of the Treasure Coast](#), [West Financial Group](#) and [Kuebler Mechanical HVAC](#).

These businesses contributed money to replace the fence, sent volunteers to install it and fixed miscellaneous technical problems, like broken pipes.

It's not easy being a foster parent, but these businesses heard a call for help and took some of the load off my shoulders. They rebuilt a fence, yes. But more importantly, they reinforced a family.

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. Want to contribute? Contact Christina Kaiser at (772) 528-0362.



In the Clinic with Nurse Pam

May is Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. Despite awareness and education efforts, these conditions continue to increase.

Asthma claims the lives of 10 Americans every day, and African-Americans are three times more likely to die from the respiratory disorder. Additionally, it is the most common health issue affecting children in the U.S.

An asthma attack causes swelling, mucous production and narrowing of the airways. Common asthma triggers are pollen, chemicals, extreme weather changes, smoke, dust mites, stress and exercise. Because asthma may lead to a medical emergency, it is important to know the signs of an asthma attack. Common symptoms are coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing and chest tightness.

An allergic reaction could, in severe cases, can cause rashes, hives, low blood pressure, breathing trouble, asthma attacks and even death. The most common triggers for anaphylaxis, a life-threatening reaction, are medicines, food and insect stings.

There is no cure for asthma or allergies, but symptoms can be managed with allergy shots or by avoiding triggers may help reduce symptoms. Please visit the [Asthma & Allergy Foundation](#) to find out more or speak with your doctor.

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. She coordinates, assists and monitors the medical needs of children served by CCKids.

CCKids celebrates local foster families at Stuart's Sailfish Splash

Stuart - Communities Connected for Kids celebrated foster families May 10 at its annual Foster Family Pool Party, marking the first time since the event began that it was held outside Indian River County.

"Attendance at our appreciation events had been waning the past several years, so we wanted to try something a little different," said Jill Poole, CCKids caregiver support supervisor. "So we combined what had previously been two events - a formal, adults-only dinner and the pool party - and moved the celebration to Stuart's Sailfish Splash."

The move paid off.

About 200 people attended the event - a more than 100 percent increase from attendance at last year's pool party at Gifford Youth Aquatic Center, where the event had been hosted for more than a decade.

"We have a lot of good memories there, but it was time for a change," Poole said.



Headlines & Other News of Note

Focus on pool safety [The Gainesville Sun - May 19, 2019](#)

Summer heat in Florida sends children to the pool in droves, but the leisurely activity can turn tragic in the matter of time it takes an adult to check their phone or take a bathroom break. [Read more.](#)

Florida bills that passed and bills that failed in 2019 [South Florida Times - May 10, 2019](#)

Florida lawmakers filed more than 3,500 bills for the 2019 legislative session and fewer than 200 passed both chambers of the Legislature before it adjourned its annual session last month. Read about these bills [here](#).

Global Athletic Foundation for Youth hosts local combine

The Global Athletic Foundation for Youth, a national organization that supports youth through sports, hosted an athletic skills combine Saturday, May 18, at Fort Pierce Central High School. About 50 local youth, including children in foster care, attended the event and received personal coaching and attention. Several professional football players and college scouts attended the free event, which also provided opportunities for college scholarships.

CCKids moving to new location

CCKids will move its headquarters to St. Lucie West this summer, with a target move date of June 13-14. The move to 1860 SW Fountainview Blvd., Port St. Lucie, is being made to accommodate staffing growth and to improve accessibility from its surrounding service areas of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties. All phone numbers will remain the same.
