



The CCKids Connector



This is who we are, we are a family

Mom shares how foster care and adoption impacts her life

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. Today's editorial was contributed by Rose Bailey, who, with her husband Brian, adopted eight children from our local foster-care system. You can find more thoughts on foster care throughout the month on our new [blog](#).

By Rose Bailey, special to the CCKids Connector

Port St. Lucie - When someone asks me about my life as a foster and adoptive parent, I tell them: "It is who we are!"

It has been a long and wonderful journey with many experiences that are etched into our hearts - and with the name of every child who has passed through our home.

It has been parenting outside the box with behaviors that call for much compassion and commitment. It's watching the love you gave a child help them to blossom over time. Or the joy of being part of a family reuniting after some hard work on everyone's part.

It's seeing scared little faces turn into smiling happy ones, and watching children who were part of our family become successful adults. The empathy for others is transparent in our own eyes, and it fills my heart.

Being a foster and adoptive family has been about stepping out of our comfort zone long enough to realize that it IS our comfort zone. This is our purpose, and it has been a blessing beyond measure.

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.



“Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story.”

- Josh Shipp

May is National Foster Care Month

#FosteringFlorida #NFCM2019



It takes a village, Sometimes it takes an orthodontist

Vero Beach - During National Foster Care Month, CCKids want to recognize the contributions of community partners like Dermody Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics who help improve the quality of life for children in foster care at their own expense.

Dr. Dermody take over the orthodontic care of children who come into foster care with braces. Without their help, those braces would be removed because Medicaid doesn't pay for most orthodontia.

If you see Dr. Dermody or anyone from that practice, please thank them. And if you are an orthodontist and would like to help foster children in your area, please contact our finance director, Christine Winter, at (772) 873-7800.

According to Ms. Winter, about six children come into care with braces each year. It's a low number, she said, because so many children in care are from lower income families who cannot afford the service in the first place.

Headlines and Other News of Note

["Jordan's Law" fails to get to floor in Florida senate](#)
[Florida Politics - May 4, 2019](#)

Jordan's law would have set a 15 child maximum caseload for child welfare workers "when possible" to ensure more attentive services. It would also streamline child abuse reporting between caseworkers and law enforcement to better ensure at-risk children are protected from potentially dangerous caretakers.

[Forever Family highlights ways to get involved](#)
[News Channel 12 - April 23, 2019](#)

If you can't foster or adopt, advocate. That's the message in the most recent Forever Family segment, which uses the power of the media to find homes for children who need them. The segment runs every Tuesday at 5 p.m. on News Channel 12.

[St. Lucie County First Responders Join MANicure Movement](#)
[TCPalm - April 24, 2019](#)

The MANicure Movement wrapped up April 30, but not without its fair share of media coverage. Thank you to everyone for starting the conversation and keeping it going!

[End Summer Hunger](#)

Thousands of children along the Treasure Coast rely on free or reduced meals provided at school during the school year. For some, it's the only meal they receive each day. Without help from you and Treasure Coast Food Bank, these children will miss meals this summer. Let kids be kids this summer instead of being hungry by sponsoring their summer meals. Click [here](#) to help end hunger.

Week in pictures



The 2019 Quality Parenting Initiative Conference was held in Philadelphia. CCKids won a social media contest by tagging the greatest number of pictures while sight-seeing. Our team also managed to work in the MANicure Movement by pointing at landmarks with the campaign's signature blue fingernail. From left, are the CCKids team: Caregiver Support Supervisor Jill Poole, Foster Parent Jamie Franks, Licensing & Quality Parenting Specialist Jerra Wisecup and Case Manager Chyna Degginger.

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