



Connections - March 24, 2021



Volunteers gather at Covenant Baptist Church in Stuart to assemble Easter baskets for foster families in Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast. Pictured below are Ericah and Sabrina Brinson, co-founders of the Treasure Coast Foster Closet, which organized the Easter basket event.

Foster Closet Volunteers Hop into Action

Stuart – Just like an Energizer Easter Bunny, you can't stop Ericah and Sabrina Brinson, co-founders of the Treasure Coast Foster Closet.

The sisters-in-law and CCKids foster parents organized a springtime community event that landed Easter baskets into the hands of foster parents



across Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast, and even a few in the Palm Beaches.

"We were so happy we could raise enough money; it's been such a hard year financially for so many people," Ericah said.

The duo, together with volunteers from their Stuart-based Foster Closet, raised more than \$6,000 - money they used to create Easter baskets for 100 foster families, serving a total of 308 children.

Each family who pre-registered for the project received a single family basket filled with enough candy, chalk and bubbles for each child in their home, as well as individual \$20 gift cards with which they could create custom baskets.

"In the past, we made baskets for every child, but that was a lot of work," Ericah said. "This year was a lot less work, and the families seemed to really like it.

The baskets were distributed in a drive-through line at the Covenant Baptist Church, in Stuart. Residents who support the Foster Closet were asked to sponsor a basket for \$25; every child in the home - foster, biological and adopted - were included.

"This was a hard year for everyone," Ericah said. "We wanted to offer a bright spot in a hard time - something to make us all feel normal."

Foster Closet was established in 2017 and has grown from a storage unit on U.S.1 to a storefront. Local foster parents have around-the-clock access to the closet, which provides toys, clothing, furniture and other donations to caregivers served by the CCKids community of care.

The closet accepts donations from the community, although there is currently a freeze on toys and furniture. Check it out on Facebook [here](#).



SOCIAL WORKERS
ARE ESSENTIAL

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

March 25
AT 7 p.m.

LIVE!
@connectedforkids

Social Services Professionals Discuss Impact of Pandemic

St. Lucie West – Join us on Facebook at 7 p.m., March 25, for a special roundtable discussion about social work during the pandemic.

Ask questions of our panel of social-work professionals, or just sit back and listen to learn how the helpers have been coping with the

additional trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's all part of our community-wide celebration of National Social Work Month.

Each panelist represents a different area of social services, from dependency case management to advocacy and placement.

First Come, First Served Vaccine

A long-term COVID-19 vaccination site opened in Fort Pierce this week and is available to residents for free on a first- come, first-serve basis.

The site, located at the Fort Pierce Recreation Center on South 21st Street, is the first to open locally that does not require appointments.

Officials anticipate giving about 200 shots per day to those who meet the state requirements: Individuals 50 or older, those considered extremely vulnerable with underlying medical conditions, health-care workers with direct patient contact and long-term care residents and staff.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., weeklong. For additional vaccination sites and requirements, visit the CDC's [VaccineFinder](#).