



Connections - Sept. 14, 2022

*Happy Child Welfare Worker Appreciation Week!*



*From left, CCKids Indian River County Director Caryn Toole and CCKids CEO Carol Deloach meet with state Rep. Erin Grall to discuss local initiatives and needs in the local child welfare system of care. Grall, who is running for state senate, represents District 54, which includes the Vero Beach area.*

## Former Foster & Adoptive Mom of Eight Becomes CCKids' First Kinship Navigator

**Port St. Lucie** – Communities Connected for Kids unveiled its Kinship Navigator Program earlier this month to help relative caregivers access local

resources to help them successfully care for and keep children out of foster care.

And it's first hired employee knows a thing or 10 about navigating the system.

Rose Bailey has been involved with the local child-welfare system of care for more than 30 years. She and her husband, Brian, are former foster parents and are the adoptive parents of eight children.



She has been the turn-to person whenever someone was needed to speak to the public or to the media about foster care. And she served as a foster parent mentor for 16 years.

In fact, Bailey launched CCKids' Foster Parent Mentor Program in 2006, when she was asked to help new foster parents acclimate to their roles.

"I started with the program, and I was with it all the way to the end," she said on her first day as Kinship Navigator. "It's a bittersweet day."

The mentor program was gradually sunset as CCKids' child-placing agencies – those like Camelot Community Care and 4Kids, which train and license foster parents – took greater roles in retention activities.

As a kinship navigator, Bailey will apply the same skills she used as a foster parent mentor to helping another population of caregivers – relatives and non-relatives. (Non-relatives are neighbors, teachers, etc. who care for children but who are not related to them and are not fully licensed foster parents).

A second navigator – Farrah Whittaker – also joined the program this week, and another two are expected to be hired in the coming weeks.

Navigators will be the first points of contact for relatives and nonrelatives when children are placed in their homes. They also will help prepare them for Level 1 Licensing, a type of child-specific licensing that will open additional resources to caregivers.

Whittaker comes to CCKids with 15 years of early childhood development experience. She recently completed her bachelor's degree in human service with a concentration in youth and families studies.

Poole said she can't think of a better team to start the program.

"They will both help our caregivers navigate the dependency system successfully," Poole said. "And Rose comes with such a wealth of knowledge and lived experience," she said. "I can't imagine doing this program without her."

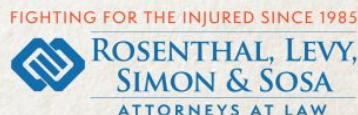


# INTER GENERATION MONTH

## 2022 Essay Contest

- ◆ All ages are encouraged to submit  
**This year's theme is:**  
"What We Learn in the Gap"
- ◆ Must feature characters from more than one generation, illustrate the contributions one generation can give to another & be no more than 400 words
- ◆ **Deadline is Monday, Sept. 26**

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Prizes!

## Two Weeks Left to Submit Your Essay for a Chance to Win \$175

**Port St. Lucie** - [Communities Connected for Kids](#) is hosting an essay contest this September to celebrate National Intergeneration Month and to raise awareness for the impact that relative caregivers - many of them grandparents - have on our community of care.

There are two categories - one for CCKids staff and families, and the second for anyone in the community.

Please consider submitting an essay.

Entries must be no more than 400 words and feature characters from more than one generation. Essays can be fiction or non-fiction but must demonstrate what the generations can learn from one another.

Essays must be submitted by September 26 through CCKids' online portal [here](#).

The winning entries will receive cash prizes sponsored by the law firm of



## Keep Your Kids Safe at School - In This Month's *In the Clinic*

**By Lisa McBride, RN, BSN**  
CCKids Nurse Care Coordinator

There are many ways to prepare our children for school safety, but it takes some planning.

For example, if your child has a medical condition, make sure she has a "backpack note" containing her name, medical conditions, medications and emergency contact information.

If a school emergency were to happen and your child was separated from the group, or was unconscious, having this information readily available for medical professionals is vital. Medical alert tags and bracelets are also useful.

Make sure the school personnel know what medical conditions your child may have and ask them to store extra supplies or medications for emergencies.

Make sure that the medications sent to school are not expired and that the school has a signed order from the prescribing physician for these medications as well as the physician's contact information.

There are diabetic, asthma and seizure management plans that your physician can send to the school that detail protocols to be followed while your child is in school, as well as defining when a trip to the emergency room is warranted.

Of course, not all emergencies are medical. Make sure you teach your child about safe surroundings and who to reach out to in an emergency. Understand your child's school evacuation plan and where to pick up your child in the event of an emergency.

Most important, help your children become their own advocates.

Communication is essential to keep our kids safe from environmental as well as medical emergencies in the school setting.

Do not be afraid to ask the tough questions—keep informed and keep open the lines of communication with your child's school.