



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.®
A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN



BUILDING
BETTER

Lives



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

All About KIDS CENTRAL, INC.

Our Mission

◆ PROTECTING CHILDREN ◆ SUPPORTING FAMILIES ◆ ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Our Values

◆ INTEGRITY:

We are professional and honest in our working relationships, honor our commitments and hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethics and conduct.

◆ ACCOUNTABILITY:

As stewards of the public's trust, we are responsible, transparent and dependable in our actions.

◆ EXCELLENCE:

We strive for excellence in our work and seek ways to continuously improve and ensure staff and partners have the proper competencies and capacity to exceed customer expectations.

◆ EMPOWERMENT:

We empower staff, individuals, families, and communities by respecting diversity, providing the information and authority necessary to make appropriate decisions, and ensuring they have a voice and choice in their future.

◆ COLLABORATION:

We engage community members, partners, stakeholders and service recipients in order to turn vision into action.

◆ INNOVATION:

We cultivate an adaptable, learning environment using feedback, data and innovative ideas to improve efficiencies, effectiveness and results.



The Kids Central network is accredited by
the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Produced with the
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Kids Central, Inc. is a private, nonprofit corporation, exempt from federal income tax under chapter 501(c)(3). Kids Central is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (#CH21011). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling, toll-free, 1-800-435-7352, within Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

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A Message

FROM THE CEO

***B**uilding Better Lives.* At Kids Central, this is not merely a slogan — it's our calling. Our dedicated team seeks to live out this calling each and every day with respect, compassion, and commitment equal to the enormous trust placed in us on behalf of our community's most vulnerable children and families. We measure our work against the most important yardstick we know: making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. I am pleased to report that through the challenges and trials of the past year, we have once again lived up to this high calling.

Kids Central's ability to create better outcomes for those we serve can be seen in the wide variety of effective programs that we implement and oversee. From prevention efforts such as our Healthy Start Program that helps parents care for our youngest neighbors, to our Independent Living Program that equips former foster youth for a successful future. We continue to make a positive impact that will be felt in our community for generations to come.

JOHN
COOPER
CEO



As a community-based care lead agency, partnership and a spirit of collaborative caring are written into our DNA. Our partner agencies, foster parents, volunteers, and benefactors make our mission possible, and the success of this model of care continues to be demonstrated year after year. In spite of society-wide economic challenges, the state's opioid crisis, a 70% increase in the number of children receiving out-of-home services, and flat funding, our network agility and tremendous community partnerships have allowed Kids Central to continue our pioneering approach.

I have often said that, "There is no finish line in child welfare." The journey is ongoing, and we thank you for sharing it with us as we change lives for the better along the way.



JOHN COOPER
Chief Executive Officer, Kids Central, Inc.

History

OF KIDS CENTRAL, INC.

The Department of Children and Families transferred foster care and case management services to community-based nonprofits in 2004. This innovative way of providing foster care and case management services increases accountability, resource development, and system performance to meet the individual and unique needs of children, youth, and families. Kids Central is the lead agency responsible for coordinating and delivering services to children in foster care and their families. Using the community-based model increases local community ownership by building a network of community providers to engage in delivering services.

DCF maintains responsibility for investigations of child abuse and nonprofit lead agencies assumed responsibility for abuse prevention, case diversion, case management, adoption, and foster care. DCF also monitors lead agencies for quality assurance throughout the state. Kids Central serves Florida's Fifth Judicial Circuit comprised of Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties.



A Message

FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

In FY-2018, Kids Central touched the lives of more than 15,000 children in the counties we serve. A large number of these children and their families were assisted by prevention programs which kept them from court involvement in their lives. Kids Central's core mission is to "strengthen families," and we succeed when we avoid child abuse by providing services to families before the abuse begins. Our prevention programs and family preservation services are paramount to strengthening families. By supporting families and offering them practical parenting techniques, we hope to start a trend of positive parenting that will continue when the children have children of their own. Of course, it's not always possible to keep children safe in their homes.

MAJOR
CYRUS
ROBINSON
Board Chairman



My career in law enforcement is a constant reminder of the opioid epidemic in our society, and parents abusing substances persists as the primary factor in removing children from their homes. Luckily, when this is necessary, Kids Central has some of the most caring and loving foster parents that I have had the privilege to meet. I am always moved by the courage of these families and their ability to open their hearts and heal these kids, some who have suffered alarming neglect and abuse.

It is important for people to find hope in any situation. I am proud to represent an agency who offers such hope. I envision children and families in our communities having access to the quality of services that will prevent child abuse and neglect and enable families to thrive. At Kids Central, we will continue to help families confront obstacles and face their challenges in healthy ways.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cyrus Robinson".

MAJOR CYRUS ROBINSON
Board Chairman, Kids Central, Inc.



Leadership

KIDS CENTRAL, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The community-based Kids Central Board of Directors provides governance of the agency. These community champions represent a broad range of professions and interests throughout the circuit. It is important for each county served by Kids Central to have representation.



Major Cyrus Robinson
— Chairman —



Stephen Spivey, Esq.
— Vice-Chairman —



Rebecca Schatt
— Secretary —



Matthew R. Ostrander
— Treasurer —



Sheriff Jeffrey Dawsy
— Past Chairman —



Rodney Rocker, Sr.
— Sumter County —



Gail Burry
— Lake County —



Mike Jordan, M.D.
— Marion County —



Christopher Langley
— Marion County —



Kevin Sheilley
— Marion County —

KIDS CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

John Cooper — Chief Executive Officer

John Aitken — Chief Financial Officer

Steve Lovely — Director, IT & General Services

Ellen Curtis — Director, Accounting and
Revenue Maximization

Shelly LaFrance — Director, Finance and Contracts

Lynn Nault — Director, Human Resources

Shalonda McHenry-Sims — Chief of Operations

Courtney Barnett — Director, Out-of-Home Care

Penny Beehler — Director, Training &
Professional Development

Sharon Gibbs — Director, Family Preservation
& Independent Living

Robin Lanier — Director, Quality and
Utilization Management

Debra Wise-Velez — Deputy Chief of
Prevention Services

Michelle Mongeluzzo — Director, Prevention Services

Hannah Rios — Director, Healthy Start

Jessica Gilbert — Director, Community Affairs

David DeStefano — Chief of Strategy

Aimee Gandy — Director, Strategy and Special Projects

Thomas C. Ranew, Jr. — In-House Counsel

Prevention

The best hope for reducing instances of child abuse and neglect and improving the lives of children and families is investing in families up front, before a call is placed to the abuse hotline. Kids Central's Prevention Services reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect. In this past year, Kids Central served over 14,000 children in child abuse prevention programs.

Kids Central provides several prevention programs to meet the needs of the families served:

- ◆ Neighborhood Family Resource Centers increase access to services by bringing services closer to the people who need them and engaging community partners in service coordination.
- ◆ Kinship Care assists relatives who are caring for relative children who are not their own biological children and links them with much-needed services and support.

- ◆ Healthy Start assists pregnant women, women in between pregnancies, infants, and children up to age three years to obtain the healthcare and social support needed to reduce the risks for maternal and child health outcomes.
- ◆ End Kids' Tears is a public awareness campaign established by Kids Central in 2009 to draw attention to the epidemic of child abuse in our local communities.
- ◆ Kids Central's Resource Center is filled with new and gently used donated items, including housewares, linens, clothing, hygiene products, baby care items, and pantry food to assist families going through difficult times.
- ◆ Baby Sleep Basics offers safe sleep education and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) information for parents or guardians. A free pack 'n play crib is provided to qualifying parents to ensure safe sleeping conditions.



ALACHUA AND MARION COUNTY MIECHV

Kids Central has two contracts for the Mother, Infant, Early-Childhood, Home Visiting Program (also known MIECHV). This was first established in Alachua and one was added in Marion County in May of 2017.

Parenting can be tough! Learning to parent positively by understanding a child's development and how to deal with the ups and downs of parenting is key. With funding from the Healthy Start North Coalition, Kids Central's Healthy Start of Alachua County offers a free parenting program through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting (MIECHV) program. The MIECHV program uses an evidence-based parenting model called Parents as Teachers.

The program focuses on the following:

- ◆ Educating parents on their child's developmental milestones
- ◆ One-on-one parenting support
- ◆ Connecting parents through parenting support groups
- ◆ Addressing developmental delays and/or health issues
- ◆ Assisting parents with access to books and educational toys as well as community referrals
- ◆ Empowering parents to be their child's first teacher

The program is for parents and caregivers with children from birth to 3 years of age. Services are provided in the home by knowledgeable Parent Educators.

In 2017-18, we provided 74 parents in Marion and 186 parents in Alachua with evidence-based parenting education through MIECHV.



ALACHUA, HERNANDO, AND LAKE HEALTHY START

Healthy Start offers universal risk screening for all Florida pregnant women and infants to ensure that early care is directed to those families where there is the best chance of preventing or minimizing adverse outcomes. The fundamental goals of the Healthy Start Program are to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes.

Services provided are client-centered, risk-based, voluntary and free with no waiting lists. Initial risks are determined by the prenatal or infant Healthy Start Screen completed by the medical provider.

Kids Central began providing contracted Healthy Start services in Lake County in October 2012. Our performance in providing Healthy Start services has outpaced and outperformed the services previously provided by County Health Departments. As a result, Kids Central has capitalized on our success and now provides contracted services in three counties: Alachua, Hernando, and Lake.

Kids Central's Healthy Start Programs are the only programs in Florida to have Council on Accreditation (COA) certification. Healthy Start trained Care Coordinators provide support and education on parenting, breastfeeding, childbirth education, smoking cessation and inter-conceptional education for women between pregnancies.

- ◆ Alachua County Healthy Start served over 1500 clients.
- ◆ Lake County Healthy Start served over 1700 clients.
- ◆ Hernando County Healthy Start served over 750 clients.

BABY SLEEP BASICS

In the state of Florida, more children die from asphyxiation than drowning. Asphyxiation is due to co-sleeping and/or an unsafe sleep environment (e.g., placing an infant to sleep on a couch, futon, adult bed or sleeping arrangement other than crib or bassinet). The CDC reports the leading cause of injury death in the U.S. for children less than one year old is unintentional asphyxiation (~1,000 infant deaths annually).

In the 2017 calendar year in Circuit 5, ten children died from some type of unsafe sleeping circumstance, which is a 17% decrease from 2013. Kids Central is working to stop preventable infant deaths due to co-sleeping by offering the Baby Sleep Basics Program. This program offers safe sleep education and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) information for all parents or guardians that reside in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties.

If the parents or guardian have an infant under the age of one, or are in their third trimester of pregnancy and meet income requirements, the parent or guardian may qualify for a pack-n-play upon completion of the educational training. Educational trainings are provided once monthly in each of the counties, or as needed on a case by case basis.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ 180 safe sleeping trainings (an average of 15 each month) were provided to infant caregivers.
- ◆ Kids Central expanded training to Department of Children and Families Child Protection Investigators who can now identify an unsafe sleeping environment when they are home-visiting.
- ◆ Healthy Start and Neighborhood Project staff members were provided safe sleep education and equipped to distribute pack 'n plays to appropriate caregivers.

KINSHIP CARE

To meet the need of over 14,000 children cared for by relatives in Circuit 5, a comprehensive Kinship Care Program was created. Kids Central's Kinship Care support services are part of multi-level prevention programming designed to keep children with family members in safe, nurturing homes. Kinship Care families are served in and out of the formal child welfare system. The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of the area.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- ◆ Monthly Support Groups
- ◆ Educational Support Groups
- ◆ Legal Services
- ◆ Intergenerational Activities
- ◆ Case Management
- ◆ In-Home Services
- ◆ Community Navigators/Peer Mentors
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Holiday Assistance
- ◆ Family Team Conferencing
- ◆ Family Finding

During fiscal year 2017-18, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ The Kinship Care Program served 325 caregivers and 455 children, providing them with case management services.
- ◆ Over the last seven years, the program has successfully diverted over 97% of participants from the formalized child welfare system.
- ◆ Throughout the five-county area, 78 relatives graduated from support groups.
- ◆ The Kinship Care Program supported families with assistance for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and back-to-school.
- ◆ The Kinship Care Program raised over \$18,500 in cash and in-kind donations.

END KIDS' TEARS PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Child abuse and neglect is a genuine epidemic in our communities, but it is not insurmountable. If we all take simple steps, we can make a real difference in the lives of suffering children.

The focus of End Kids' Tears and Pinwheels for Prevention is to look at the different ways child abuse can be prevented and the ways the community can come together to make that happen. Issues related to substance abuse, family violence, inadequate supervision, and environmental hazards are all causes for concern. Children deserve a childhood free of abuse and neglect.

During fiscal year 2017-18 Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Coordinated pinwheel gardens in all five counties.
- ◆ Marion County Health Department and the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership had pinwheel gardens.
- ◆ Florida Community Bank's Central Region continued to support End Kids' Tears collecting donations on behalf of Kids Central.
- ◆ Continued community awareness campaign via social media predominately on Facebook.
- ◆ The City of Ocala turned the downtown area blue and one of the fountains in the park blue for the month of April to symbolize child abuse awareness month.
- ◆ Several proclamations were held throughout Circuit 5.
- ◆ Kids Central participated in an annual Family Fun Day in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition in Marion County.
- ◆ Kids Central coordinated several events at our Neighborhood Projects for Child Abuse Awareness Month.

EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Most children have parents who monitor their academic progress, attend parent-teacher conferences, enroll them in appropriate classes, and generally ensure they receive a high quality education. Historically, foster children have experienced poor educational outcomes and frequently lack the educational advocacy necessary for successful outcomes. Without an educational advocate, they often do not receive the educational opportunities to which they are entitled. Kids Central works to ensure foster youth receive the educational advocacy and opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.

Kids Central's Education Program provides a collaborative approach for foster children in Circuit 5 by identifying unmet needs affecting school performance. The Educational Liaison supports case managers to advocate for the educational success of children. Further collaboration exists within the Circuit 5 judiciary system and Children's Legal Services (CLS). Academic performance is reported to the court during routine court and status hearings when significant academic changes for students occur and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Staffing Forms are sent to CLS.

Kids Central's Educational Liaison works diligently to advocate for over 600 school-aged children in Circuit 5. Our multi-faceted solution to improving educational outcomes for youth in foster care includes a data exchange system and policies and procedures have been developed for professionals and caretakers to further increase awareness and identify areas of focus needed by all. Through data exchange and intensive collaboration by case management, professionals and caretakers become knowledgeable and connected to all academic, medical and mental health service provisions to drive the students' academic success.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ The Educational Liaison attended over 84 school meetings (IEP, expulsion, and other meetings) on behalf of children in out-of-home care.
- ◆ Over 414 professionals were provided with resource and direction on youth served by the child welfare system.
- ◆ The Education Program worked with 512 youth on improving educational outcomes.
- ◆ 481 stakeholders trained on a variety of educational advocacy topics.
- ◆ Performed 598 Every Student Succeeds Act staffings.



NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

The Neighborhood Family Resource Centers address the prevention of child abuse and neglect by engaging families in services that promote family well-being, safety, and health. The Program started in West Ocala in Marion County, a neighborhood with high rates of abuse, unemployment and drop-out rates with a goal to strengthen families and build strong neighborhoods. The Community Facilitator in each Center increases access to services by engaging community partners in the coordination of services and bringing services closer to the people who need them. Staff continually work to engage community residents by offering solutions to isolation, poverty, unemployment, lack of education and issues of single parent households.

In 2017-18, Kids Central had active Neighborhood Family Resource Centers located in West Ocala, (Marion County), Wildwood (Sumter County) and Leesburg (Lake County). The Ocala Family Resource Center has a collaborative partnership with the City of Ocala for the building, College of Central Florida for parking, and various other community partnerships. The Wildwood Center has a partnership with New Covenant Church Helping Hand Ministry in Sumter County. The Leesburg Resource Center opened in May of 2018 and has a partnership with the City of Leesburg.

Kids Central continues to seek funding through community partners, grants and contributions to meet the needs of the clients coming to the resource centers and to expand efforts in Circuit 5.

During fiscal year 2017-18, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ The Kids Central Neighborhood Projects served 6,489 clients (9,583 children).
- ◆ 649 clients were provided with resources such as clothing and household items.
- ◆ Assisted 2,429 clients with job and educational guidance.
- ◆ Provided Christmas gifts to nearly 300 children.

Kids Central created the Self-Sufficiency Program which provides more comprehensive case management to families desiring self-sufficiency utilizing protective factors and a strengths-based approach.

Success Story

Benita's March for Freedom began in February 2018, when she came to the Ocala Family Resource Center (OFRC) for assistance. She was being evicted and needed steady, gainful employment. Through the Self-Sufficiency Program, she learned how budgeting and credit played a role in sustaining self sufficiency. She obtained gainful employment at Dollar General and subsequently accepted a position with Lockheed Martin, growing her income by 50% (an annual increase of over \$16,000).

She obtained assistance from OFRC with writing letters of appeal to Santa Fe College and College of Central Florida (CF) concerning her past due financial debts and poor academic performance and was granted appeals at both institutions. She is now cleared to attend the Surgical Technician Program at CF in the Winter term of 2019. She successfully completed the Strong Families Program and was approved for Rapid Re-Housing funding through the Marion County Homeless Coalition to rehouse her family into a new home.

RESOURCE CENTER

Many of the families served by Kids Central and its partners struggle with meeting basic needs, such as food and clothing. The Kids Central Resource Center was created at the corporate facility to help families and children going through difficult times. Through community support and private donors, the Resource Center is filled with new and gently-used donated items, including housewares, furniture, linens, clothing, hygiene products, baby care items, and food. Items donated to the Kids Central's Resource Center are available for our clients comprised of children and families in crisis.

Kids Central's Resource Center collaborated with the following partners to meet the needs of families: Junior League of Ocala, Stonecrest Needlers Quilt Club, Scrappy Angels, The Sewing Bees, Florida Community Bank, SADD Clubs of Marion County, the Pajama Program and Reading Center, and numerous private donors.

During fiscal year 2017-2018, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Kids Central received in-kind donations in excess of \$198k.
- ◆ With the help of volunteers, the Resource Center filled over 302 resource requests.
- ◆ Kids Central created a new partnership with the Wildwood Food Pantry, which provides ongoing family food bags on a monthly basis.
- ◆ Kids Central had five drives that produced 3,920 items to the Resource Center.

PREGNANT INMATE DIVERSION PROGRAM

When a pregnant woman is incarcerated, she has limited options for her unborn child. She can put the newborn up for adoption or into foster care or give the newborn to relatives to be cared for. If a parent is incarcerated, and will remain incarcerated for a significant portion of the child's life, or has committed certain violent or sexual-related offenses, a court may terminate parental rights. Once parental rights are terminated, the parent loses the right to contact the child or make decisions for the child, and the child may then be adopted.

All Florida inmates in the final term of their pregnancy are transferred to Lowell Correctional Institution, a women's prison in Marion County. In 2013, Kids Central began a formal partnership with Lowell Correctional Institution and AdventHealth (formerly Munroe Regional Medical Center) in Marion County to divert children born to inmates from the formal child welfare system. As previously described, these babies would be destined for foster and adoptive homes after the parents' rights were terminated. Kids Central's Family Preservation Staff now work with expectant mothers to identify temporary or permanent caregivers who are able to safely care for the infant.

Unfortunately, this program is unfunded by the State of Florida. In spite of saving Florida millions of dollars by placing children safely with family members, the state will not provide funds in the Kids Central budget for these services. This program is hugely successful and diverts dozens of infants from the already strained child welfare system. For these reasons, Kids Central continues to provide services to expectant inmates because we believe it's the right thing to do.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Through the Pregnant Inmate Diversion Program, 88 women received services.
- ◆ Of 60 babies born, 49 were diverted from the child welfare system and placed with relatives or friends.
- ◆ There were 11 infants sheltered, of which 6 were outside the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Diversion

Diversion programs are like prevention programs in that they are designed to prevent or reduce child abuse and neglect. Diversion services are intended to assist families in avoiding removal of the children into out-of-home placement by providing services in the home.

In order to achieve the vision of minimizing the number of children in care who require supervision, a vast array of community diversion resources is utilized by Kids Central. This offers Child Protective Investigators a wide range of effective services to provide to the families in need. This community approach allows Kids Central and its partners to put family support services in place without separating the family thereby avoiding admissions into the child welfare system.

As a key component of Family Preservation, Kids Central utilizes internal and contracted diversion programs to divert families from the formal child welfare system. In addition, Kids Central acts as a catalyst to identify, coordinate, and promote development of additional diversion programs in the circuit while effectively monitoring and providing services for those families in need.

The reduction of diversion cases can be attributed to the implementation of Safety Methodology with the Department of Children and Families. The only families qualifying for diversion services are the families that are deemed "safe" and with "high" or "very high" risk. The diversion cases that are low risk are referred to a community provider.

The following diversion services are offered by Kids Central or its contracted providers to prevent children from being removed from their home after being reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline:

- ◆ Family Connections
- ◆ Family Group Decision Making
- ◆ Family Team Conferencing
- ◆ Nurturing Parenting Program
- ◆ Safety Management Services

Over 500 cases were diverted to contracted and community-based service providers and 283 closed successfully during the 2017-18 fiscal year.





SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Safety Management Program is a wraparound approach to safety planning and service delivery, providing a trauma informed, family-centered, strength-based, needs-driven planning process for creating individualized services and supports for children and their families.

Bringing individuals, agencies and the community together as a unified decision-making entity with the central focus of safety, permanency, and well-being for the child, the wraparound process will strengthen and support families, reduce the risk of abuse and neglect, reduce the number and length of out-of-home placements and reduce recidivism. These services are provided to children referred through case management and the Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigations.

FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is an effective model of practice which addresses the needs and incorporates the strengths of families in relation to child safety, permanency and well-being. Utilizing a model that supports family involvement over the entire course of the case as opposed to a one-time event, truly demonstrates actualization of a family-centered, empowerment focused paradigm. Family Group Decision Making is provided by Devereux in Circuit 5.

The FGDM service models are considered best practice approaches to serving the needs of families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The FGDM approach considers family strengths, family engagement, and informed family decision making as core values when working with children and families. FGDM empowers families to take an active and leadership role in developing plans and making decisions to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of their children.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Wrap-around services continue to receive a great deal of attention. Family Connections is a multi-faceted, community-based service program that works with families in their homes and neighborhoods. Family Connections offers linkage and referral, case management, in-home intervention, and service plans using an evidenced-based family assessment.

The goal of Family Connections is to help families meet the basic needs of their children and reduce the risk of child neglect.

Nine practice principles guide Family Connections interventions: community outreach, individualized family assessment, tailored interventions, helping alliance, empowerment approaches, strengths perspective, cultural competence, developmental appropriateness, and outcome-driven service plans. Individualized family intervention is geared to increase protective factors, decrease risk factors, and target child safety and well-being outcomes.

Family Connections was offered by two service providers in FY2017-18. In Citrus and Marion Counties, The Centers provided Family Connections, and in Hernando, Lake, and Sumter Counties, LifeStream provided Family Connections.

Success Story

VALERIE WELLS

When I turned 30 and was still single, I decided it would be a great time to become a foster parent so I could help out some children!

My first foster placement turned into my first adoption! She was 12 months old when I got her and is now 11! I fostered for a couple years and then moved and stopped fostering for almost 8 years. I was always talking to people about becoming a foster parent and talked myself into becoming one again!

This time I have been fostering around 3 years and ended up adopting 2 more children. Jadyen began with me as a respite foster care placement and turned into an adoption. She is now 3. I just adopted Brentley, who I received as a foster placement at 3 months old, and have had for 2.5 years!

Being a single parent can be hard sometimes, but I have support through family, friends, and my community! The rewards definitely out-weigh the challenges!



NUTURING PARENTING PROGRAM

Nurturing Parenting Programs® (NPP) is a set of evidence-based curricula for prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. This in-home parenting program uses a strength-based, research-derived approach designed to ensure families receive the education and tools they need to replace negative patterns with new, positive, nurturing patterns, thus honoring the emotional, physical and spiritual health of the young ones in their care. The philosophy and approach of NPP incorporates the protective factors and aligns with the missions of Kids Central and Devereux Kids.

The program is family-centered, age-specific, assessment-based, and proven. It focuses on five parenting constructs: age-appropriate expectations, empathy, the use of alternatives to corporal punishment, proper family roles, and the empowerment and independence of children.

Referrals are received both through the Department of Children and Families and case management entities, and services are provided by Devereux Kids.

PARENTING JOURNEY PROGRAM

The Parenting Journey Program helps mothers, fathers, and caregivers increase their confidence, capability, and resiliency — as individuals and as parents. While nurturing oneself and their children, each parent lays the groundwork for strong family relationships. The program includes activities, discussion, a family-style meal, and daycare. During the final session, family and friends are invited to attend a graduation ceremony. At this celebration, we honor the participation, accomplishments, and strengths of each program participant.



Dependency

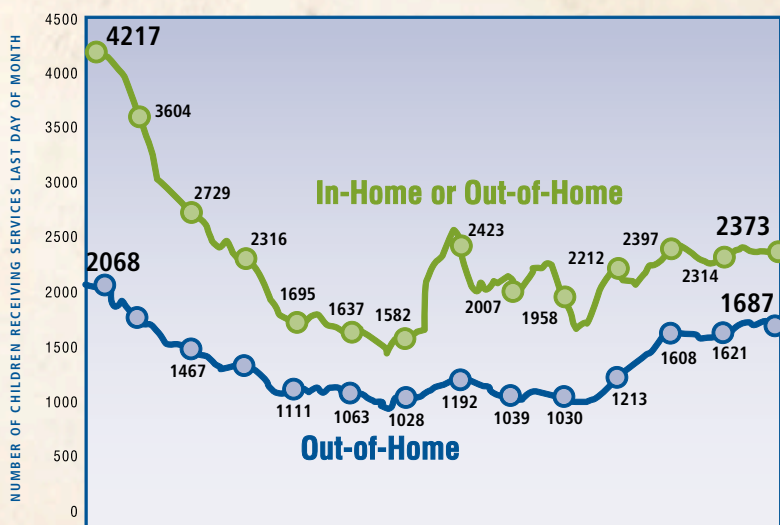
After a DCF Protective Investigator finds child abuse, neglect or abandonment, a team of professionals determine what level of intervention the family needs to ensure the safety of the children and the complexity of the issues. If the children can safely remain at home while the parents address the concerns of DCF, the family may be referred to the court to receive an In-Home Dependency Case.

If the children cannot safely remain with the parents, the children will be relocated to live with a family member, non-relative or licensed foster family, and the case is filed with the court as an Out-of-Home Dependency Case. Substance abuse remains the number one reason that children are removed from the home. The number of kids being referred for out-of-home services continues to escalate at an alarming rate, primarily because of the opioid crisis.

Our Children - 2018

CHILDREN RECEIVING IN-HOME OR OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES

— JULY, 2005 THROUGH JUNE, 2018 —



OUR CHILDREN — RECEIVED

	In-Home			Out-of-Home														Young Adults	Clients Primary Case Mgmt.	Family Support	Clients Primary	Clients Out-of-County	Clients Out-of-County or Primary	Total Clients Assign'd	Total Cases Assign'd			
	Non-Judicial	Judicial	Total In-Home	APPROVED CARE			LICENSED CARE			OTHER SETTINGS																		
				Relative	Non-Relative	Apprv'd. Care	Foster Home	Group or RTC	Licensd. Care	Adoptn.	Missing Child	DJJ, Jail or Prison	Medical Mental	Respite	Visit	Other	Other Settings									Total Out-of-Home		
Kids Central, Inc.	167	466	633	731	204	935	582	129	711	31	3	12	1	2	2	51	1697	44	2374	381	2755	680	3069	3094	1798			
The Centers	108	205	313	273	74	347	249	60	309	14	1	8	1		2	26	682	995		995	191	1180	1189	698				
LSBC	40	121	161	143	51	194	110	29	139	7	1	3		2		13	346	2	509	5	514	227	735	739	439			
LSBC Lake	9	98	107	105	43	148	102	29	131	6	1	3		2		12	291	2	400	5	405	200	605	612	373			
LSBC Sumter	31	23	54	38	8	46	8		8	1						1	55	109		109	29	137	144	82				
YFA	19	140	159	315	79	394	223	40	263	10	1	1				12	669	828		828	262	1054	1059	639				
YFA Citrus	9	52	61	118	34	152	91	15	106								258	319		319	75	393	403	246				
YFA Hernando	10	88	98	197	45	242	132	25	157	10	1	1				12	411	509		509	187	694	716	443				
Family Preservation																			263	263		263	284	137				
Evidence Based Services																			207	207		207	229	111				
Diversion Services																			56	56		56	57	28				
Independent Living																	42	42		42		42	100	98				
Kinship																			99	99		99	105	66				
Assistance																			14	14		14	14	6				

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

As the nonprofit lead agency, Kids Central is responsible for case management services to families involved in an open Dependency Court case involving children who are abused or neglected. Kids Central contracts with other nonprofit organizations to provide community-based case management and other supportive services. Each Case Management Agency (CMA) is responsible for providing services in designated counties. After a verified report of abuse, neglect or abandonment has been investigated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and accepted by the court, DCF transfers the case to Kids Central's contracted case management agency serving that particular county.

The CMA works with the family, their support system, and other professionals to identify and implement appropriate services designed to strengthen the family. The structure of service delivery varies. Case managers and permanency specialists strive to help children find a permanent, safe living arrangement, preferably within 12 months. Most families involved with the dependency system are reunified, and the children go back home; however, this is not always possible. Other children find permanency with a relative or close family friend, while the remaining children are adopted by foster families or community members.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Over 70% of siblings were placed together at the close of FY18 which is higher than the state average of 65%
- ◆ 95% of young adults aged out of foster care completed or enrolled in secondary, vocational, adult education, or training, which is over the statewide goal of 9%.
- ◆ 95% of children with no verified maltreatment within 6 months

FOSTER PARENT SERVICES

There are many reasons parents may be unable to safely care for their children. While substance abuse remains the leading reason for removal, other reasons include illness, incarceration, a violent home life, abandonment, sexual abuse or serious neglect.

When any of these situations occur, unless relatives are available to care for them, children may be removed from home and placed in foster care. Foster care is intended to be a temporary shelter for children until they can be reunited with their family. Foster families are trained and licensed by Kids Central to care for children during their most vulnerable time. Reunification is the primary goal whenever safely possible. Parents are given the opportunity to make life changes that will enable them to care for their children in a safe and loving environment. During the time it takes for them to make these adjustments, the children stay in foster care. Kids Central's Out-of-Home Care Department (OHC) is responsible for the placement of children in foster homes when they come into care, as well as the recruitment, training, and licensing of foster parents. To expand Kids Central's capacity, the agency uses partnerships, a strategic recruitment plan, and coordinated targeted recruitment events.

Through a targeted marketing campaign, tailored events and the receipt of The Florida Intelligent Recruitment Project Grant (FIRP), Kids Central has been able to target our marketing recruitment strategies based on extensive market research.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Recruited and licensed 91 new foster homes
- ◆ As part of the FIRP grant, Kids Central spent over \$41,000 on marketing.

HALO AWARDS AND FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

More than 300 foster parents attended the Helping And Loving Others (HALO) gala on March 21, 2018 at the Circle Square Cultural Center in Ocala. This annual event hosted by Kids Central is a unique educational conference which addresses the emotional and practical challenges foster parents face when caring for abused and neglected children. In addition to the valuable educational component, HALO Awards are presented by local dignitaries to recognize and reward dedicated foster parents.

It is vitally important to provide these unsung heroes with the training and recognition they need and deserve. Every year, Kids Central's internal departments and external partners donate a number of beautiful gift baskets which are raffled throughout the evening to foster parents. The event would not be possible without the support of our donors through funds donated throughout the year.

Thank You 2018 HALO Awards Sponsors!

— PLATINUM DONORS —



GAIL BURRY



— GOLD DONORS —



—Florida State Representative—
CHARLIE STONE



— SILVER DONORS —

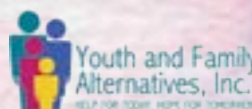
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COOPER



DR. & MRS.
DAVID MARTIN



YARI'S IMAGERY



— BRONZE DONORS —



WALDEN DIRECT
PRIMARY CARE



Permanency

ADOPTION

Kids Central recruits, trains and licenses adoptive homes interested in adopting children from the child welfare system. We continue to provide oversight and final approval for all Adoption Subsidy files, Separation of Sibling and Post-Placement Staffings, and the Adoption Applicant Review Committee Meetings. The Centers, LifeStream, and Youth and Family Alternatives (YFA) contract with Kids Central to provide adoption services for the counties in Circuit 5.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, Kids Central and its partners accomplished the following:

- ◆ 173 children's lives were changed by adoption this year in Circuit 5.
- ◆ Prevented 45 possible adoption disruptions from coming into care.
- ◆ Provided support for over 1300 phone requests for resources and direction for Post-Adoption services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Kids Central and its partners provide Independent Living (IL) services to youth and young adults in the foster care system. Each year, youth age out of foster care without reunification or finding a permanent home. Rather than leave these children without a support system, Kids Central taps state, federal, community and donated resources to provide them with critical tools for a successful transition to adulthood. Once a youth turns 18, there are several services that are accessible if certain requirements are met. These services include transportation, housing assistance, as well as emotional support.

Legislation passed in 2014 provides for extended foster care services as long as the youth is making progress toward an agreed upon plan, whether that is to continue their education, obtain a job or participate in a program designed to give them job skills. This enables the youth to stay in foster care beyond their 18th birthday. Kids Central has identified host homes to provide extended foster care services to these youths.

During fiscal year 2017-18, Kids Central's IL Youth accomplished the following:

- ◆ 1 Master's Degree
- ◆ 6 High School Diplomas
- ◆ 3 Vocational/Technical Certificates
- ◆ 9 General Education Diplomas (GED)

Community

ENGAGEMENT

As a lead community-based care organization, Kids Central is dedicated to building and sustaining relationships with the local community. Our community includes clients, neighbors, public officials, government agencies, other nonprofits and potential donors. The Community Affairs Department serves as a liaison between the community and Kids Central by disseminating organizational information. Community Affairs continues to oversee website and blog content, social media management, media relations, public meeting and special event coordination, and newsletters.

As part of its community engagement, Kids Central hosts annual prevention and awareness events on child abuse including End Kids' Tears, a child abuse awareness campaign launched each April. Kids Central holds annual fundraising events to engage the community, promote awareness and raise dollars to meet unfunded needs of our clients. Kids Central continues to raise awareness for the need for foster and adoptive parents and the prevalence of domestic violence.

During fiscal year 2017-18, Kids Central accomplished the following:

- ◆ Received over \$120,174 generated from donations and external fundraising

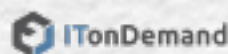


CASINO ROYALE — VEGAS BABY!

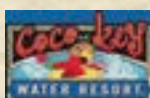
During its 4th Annual Casino Royale – Vegas Baby! fundraiser Kids Central once again brought the fun and excitement of Vegas casino games to the ballroom in the Ocala Hilton. This year the event had a throwback 80's theme. The evening began with a complimentary cocktail hour sponsored by Tito's Vodka, hors d'oeuvres and photo booth fun.

Approximately 250 attendees participated in the evening. Kids Central's dedicated sponsors provided an estimated \$25,000 in sponsorships. The event was a great success, thanks to our community partnerships, attendees and generous donors. 2018 Casino Royale resulted in over \$35,000 in revenue, netting over \$22,700.

Thank You 2018 Casino Royale Sponsors!



The Floor Shoppe



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SUMTER OFFICE BUILDING 1, LLC
BECKY SCHATT DR. MIKE JORDAN



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of communities. Studies have shown that volunteering helps people who donate their time feel more socially connected, thus warding off loneliness and depression. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who give their time to others might also be rewarded with better physical health—including lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan. Kids Central continuously recruits volunteers.

As needs in the community grow and resources decrease, the only way growing needs can be met is through the generosity of volunteers. Kids Central believes volunteers are essential in carrying out the mission and helping staff increase efficiency while decreasing organizational costs.

Kids Central's Volunteer Program was established in February 2010. Since its inception, over 200 unique volunteers have contributed more than 27,000 hours. These volunteers assisted Kids Central with 120 jobs, providing support in the Resource Center, at the Neighborhood Family Resource Centers, internal departments and at community events.

The program prides itself on recruiting quality volunteers and strives to be flexible to accommodate volunteers' schedules. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, 24 volunteers contributed almost 2,000 hours.



2017-2018 CONTRACTED

Agencies

FOSTER CARE & PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- ◆ The Centers — Marion County
- ◆ LifeStream Behavioral Center — Lake and Sumter Counties
- ◆ Youth and Family Alternatives — Citrus and Hernando Counties

ADOPTION SERVICES

- ◆ The Centers — Marion County
- ◆ LifeStream Behavioral Center — Lake and Sumter Counties
- ◆ Youth and Family Alternatives — Citrus and Hernando Counties

SUPERVISED VISITATION

- ◆ The Centers — Marion County
- ◆ LifeStream Behavioral Center — Lake and Sumter Counties
- ◆ Youth and Family Alternatives — Citrus and Hernando Counties

PREVENTION/DIVERSION/ EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- ◆ Devereux Kids — Domestic Violence and Reunification Program
- ◆ Devereux Kids — Nurturing Parenting and Parenting Journey Program
- ◆ LifeStream Behavioral Center — Family Connections Collaborative
- ◆ The Centers — Family Connections Collaborative
- ◆ Neighbor to Family — Safety Management Services

THERAPEUTIC GROUP CARE

- ◆ LifeStream Behavioral Center — Our Turning Point Ranch
- ◆ Aspire Health Partners — Oasis

WILDERNESS CAMPING, RESIDENTIAL

- ◆ Eckerd Youth Alternatives; Camp E-Nini-Hassee

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- ◆ Arnette House
- ◆ Florida Baptist Children's Home
- ◆ Youth and Family Alternatives — New Beginnings

RESIDENTIAL GROUP CARE

- ◆ Arnette House Group Homes
- ◆ Hands of Mercy Everywhere
- ◆ Heart of Florida Youth Ranch
- ◆ WIN for Kids
- ◆ Covenant Children's Home
- ◆ CHOICES House, Inc. — Glory House, Honor House, Shiloh House
- ◆ Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
- ◆ Panama Youth Services, Inc.
- ◆ Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches — Bartow, Live Oak and Safety Harbor
- ◆ Salvation Army - Sallie House

INTENSIVE IN-HOME COUNSELING

- ◆ Camelot Community Care

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- ◆ GOLD & Associates, Inc. — Marketing, Diligent Recruitment
- ◆ J.K. Elder and Associates — Diligent Recruitment
- ◆ Mindshare — Dashboard Design
- ◆ David Destefano — Chief of Strategy/Consultant
- ◆ Heartland for Children — Diligent Recruitment
- ◆ Chris Johnson — Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruiter
- ◆ Rosey Moreno-Jones — Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruiter
- ◆ Speakwrite — Transcription Service
- ◆ Big Bend — Diligent Recruitment

Financial

INFORMATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2018 AND JUNE 30, 2017

KIDS CENTRAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES ♦ WILDWOOD, FLORIDA

— ASSETS —

	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,575,376	\$ 3,576,955
Grants and Provider Receivable	875,489	1,694,339
Unbilled Grants Receivable	556,170	554,509
Prepaid Expenses	66,187	46,863
Other Receivable	3,835	3,523
Total Current Assets	6,077,057	5,876,189
Property and Equipment Temporarily Restricted for Federal and State Programs, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	445,347	703,491
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted Cash - Client Trust Funds	340,075	307,677
Other Assets	170,956	232,678
Total Noncurrent Assets	956,378	1,243,846
Total Assets	7,033,435	7,120,035

— LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS —

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable - Operating	3,605,471	3,349,812
Accounts Payable - DCF	28,596	587,762
Accrued Payroll and Related Expenses	827,957	843,594
Deferred Revenue	162,005	356,890
Total Current Liabilities	4,624,029	5,138,058
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Master Trust Liability	340,075	307,677
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	340,075	307,677
Total Liabilities	4,964,104	5,445,735
Net Assets		
Temporarily Restricted:		
Property and Equipment	445,347	703,491
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated Net Assets	1,623,984	970,809
Total Net Assets	2,069,331	1,674,300
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,033,435	\$ 7,120,035

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

KIDS CENTRAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES ♦ WILDWOOD, FLORIDA

	2018				
	Program Expenses				
	Foster Care	Residential Group Care and Emergency Shelter	Adoption	Case Management	Recruitment and Licensing
Salaries and Benefit Expenses					
Salaries	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 239,190	\$ 2,227,230	\$ 682,806
Benefits	0	0	55,948	518,315	188,291
Total Salaries and Benefit Expenses	0	0	295,138	2,745,545	871,097
Other Expenses					
Out-of-Home Care					
Payments	5,556,580	6,918,450	8,653,056	345	0
Contracted Services	13,324	272	960,779	16,194,416	2,008
Flex Funds	0	0	800	13,976	0
Staff Recruitment	0	0	0	0	0
Training	0	0	1,290	14,135	4,291
Travel	387	0	3,002	40,263	33,717
Occupancy and Utilities	0	0	11,700	150,008	42,897
Telephone and Data Lines	128	0	10,421	332,836	44,881
Supplies	0	6,000	421	8,740	2,192
Postage	0	0	451	5,399	1,640
Professional Fees	0	0	3,719	176,024	14,747
Consultants	0	0	0	78,948	40,212
Insurance	47,921	0	10,971	106,011	39,791
Minor Equipment and Maintenance	14,000	2	3,684	65,733	20,920
Other Expenses	204,591	563	23,791	134,139	28,224
Total Other Expenses	5,836,931	6,925,287	9,684,085	17,320,973	275,520
Total Expenses Before Depreciation	5,836,931	6,925,287	9,979,223	20,066,518	1,146,617
Depreciation	0	0	781	293,266	2,863
Total Expenses	\$ 5,836,931	\$ 6,925,287	\$ 9,980,004	20,359,784	\$ 1,149,480

2018
Program Expenses

Independent Living	Diversion and Prevention	Other Grants	Fundraising	Total	Management and General	Combined Total
\$ 311,040	\$ 523,937	\$ 1,153,643	\$ 22,820	\$ 5,160,666	\$ 1,372,318	\$ 6,532,984
70,740	123,370	298,880	2,973	1,258,517	276,431	1,534,948
381,780	647,307	1,452,523	25,793	6,419,183	1,648,749	8,067,932
602,440	6,400	0	0	21,737,271	0	21,737,271
0	3,012,033	138,364	0	20,321,196	0	20,321,196
0	13,132	0	0	27,908	0	27,908
0	0	0	0	0	95	95
1,109	3,131	8,198	0	32,154	8,858	41,012
17,539	16,844	72,448	692	184,892	12,856	197,748
20,283	44,619	90,543	1,397	361,447	101,230	462,677
21,464	30,450	37,841	1,137	479,158	64,884	544,042
820	2,128	32,624	8,698	61,623	37,066	98,689
777	769	3,525	58	12,619	2,696	15,315
6,395	80,688	95,248	525	377,346	70,077	447,423
0	32,346	116,013	150	267,669	93,203	360,872
18,619	12,838	51,530	1,067	288,748	59,751	348,499
2,265	21,570	19,838	724	148,736	82,039	230,775
30,414	276,621	2,092	0	700,435	60,532	760,967
722,125	3,553,569	668,264	14,448	45,001,202	593,287	45,594,489
1,103,905	4,200,876	2,120,787	40,241	51,420,385	2,242,036	53,662,421
1,374	9,379	18,255	82	326,000	27,790	353,790
\$ 1,105,279	\$ 4,210,255	\$ 2,139,042	\$ 40,323	\$ 51,746,385	\$ 2,269,826	\$ 54,016,211

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017 AND JUNE 30, 2016

KIDS CENTRAL, INC. ♦ OCALA, FLORIDA

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Revenues		
State and Federal Revenues		
DCF Contracts:		
DCF Services Contract	\$ 51,238,958	\$ 51,066,840
Grants - Other	801,684	452,602
Total State and Federal Revenues	<u>52,040,642</u>	<u>51,519,442</u>
Other Revenues		
Donations	166,752	105,451
Interest Income	917	541
Contractual Service Revenue	2,160,291	1,899,257
Other Revenue	42,640	103,700
Total Other Revenues	<u>2,370,600</u>	<u>2,108,949</u>
Total Revenues	<u>54,411,242</u>	<u>53,628,391</u>
Expenses		
Programs		
Foster Care	5,836,931	5,376,427
Residential Group Care and Emergency Shelter	6,925,287	6,560,673
Adoption	9,980,004	9,294,886
Case Management	20,359,784	20,746,020
Recruitment and Licensing	1,149,480	1,075,666
Independent Living	1,105,279	1,371,662
Diversion and Prevention	4,210,255	5,094,048
Other Grants	2,139,042	1,877,981
Fundraising	40,323	13,926
Total Programs	<u>51,746,385</u>	<u>51,411,289</u>
Management and General	<u>2,269,826</u>	<u>2,459,764</u>
(Total Expenses)	<u>(54,016,211)</u>	<u>(53,871,053)</u>
Change in Net Assets	395,031	(242,662)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>1,674,300</u>	<u>1,916,962</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 2,069,331</u>	<u>\$ 1,674,300</u>

BUILDING BETTER *Lives*

For the abused, neglected and abandoned children in our community, every day brings great challenges and struggles that adults can often only scarcely understand. Kids Central is responsible for coordinating child welfare services in Florida's Fifth Judicial Circuit, which encompasses Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties. By developing and managing a comprehensive, community-based system of care, we give hope to children and families in need, and we are changing lives every day.

- ◆ Services and support for all families including prevention, early intervention and aftercare;
- ◆ Services to stabilize families during stressful times and help keep kids safe at home;
- ◆ A new approach to foster care recruitment, retention, licensing and relicensing;
- ◆ New ways to support relative caregivers;
- ◆ Collaborations with Medicaid providers to expand health and behavioral health services for children; and
- ◆ Neighborhood-based community resource centers helping families become stronger and more independent.



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TO LEARN MORE



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A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
Building Better Lives



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