



THE PARTNER TIMES

JULY-SEPTEMBER
2014



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FORTY THREE NEW HOMES

By Lakisha Mills, Recruitment and Retention Specialist

This fiscal year PSF's Licensing team was tasked with licensing 43 new homes. We are proud to announce that we reached our goal. The team worked together diligently in great strides to make this happen. We would like to thank the Partner Families who referred four of our new homes. Those Partner Families who helped recruit received an incentive of \$125. It is not much, but we really appreciate their zeal in recruiting quality families for our children.



Our Faith Partners contributed to three new homes, and PSF staff referred two of our new homes. Please remember that all Partner Families, PSF employees, CMA employees, GAL volunteers and DCF staff are eligible for the \$125 incentive for each family referred who becomes a licensed Partner Family. Payment will be made once the family has accepted their first child in placement.

Although we have attained our goal for the fiscal year, there are still homes to be recruited and children who are in need of loving, caring families. We believe that word of mouth goes a long way. Continue to spread the word about becoming a Partner Family.

For information contact your Recruitment and Retention Specialist:
Lakisha Mills 386-243-8804
Waheeda Deen 352-244-1536
or email at recruitment@pfsf.org

PSF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. Ed Peddie

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Dr. Thomas Hawkins

Chief Argatha Gilmore

Diana McPhearson

PSF Board meetings are
normally held on the fourth
Monday of every other
month.

For more information and
the current location, please
view the calendar at pfsf.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Stephen Pennypacker
President/CEO

Esteemed Partners and Friends,

Community Partners and Friends,

As many of you know, I have called Gainesville home for the majority of my life. Joining PSF as CEO was appealing to me not only because of the organization's reputation as a top-notch child welfare agency, but also because it gave me the opportunity to return home to impact my own North Central Florida community. This is really the essence of the Community-Based Care model, that we each bring our unique knowledge and experience to the table to impact our own communities.

After several years of work in statewide leadership at DCF, I bring a new perspective to my role at PSF. I am the organization's first CEO who has spent the majority of their career at DCF and as an attorney. As someone new to the nonprofit side of child welfare, I have spent much of the last two months learning and meeting with staff and our local partners.

What has struck me most strongly is the high degree of professionalism and dedication each of the staff brings to their jobs and how universal this is no matter what role they play in our system. No matter how difficult the work may be at times, they let me know that each problem was a chance to be creative in finding a solution. We have a great team and it is exciting to imagine where we can go from here.

I have also sat down with many of our community partners, including foster parents, guardians ad litem, judges and magistrates, Children's Legal Services attorneys, service providers and other Community-Based Care agency leaders. Every one of them tells me that PSF is a strong organization and always tries to do the right thing. We are known for our innovation and willingness to try new approaches to improve child welfare.

I will strive to maintain this reputation on a daily basis as long as I have the privilege of serving as this agency's CEO. I look forward to meeting many more of our partners in coming months.

Stephen Pennypacker
President/CEO

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION UPDATE

The Licensing and Recruitment team is sad to announce that Joshua Dease, Re-licensing Specialist for the Tri-County area has left our team. We wish him and his wife the best of luck as they venture to Slovenia, Italy to do mission work. Josh was a great asset to our team and will be greatly missed.



PAULA VANN
386-249-1831
paula.vann@pfsf.org



LAKISHA MILLS
386-243-8804
lakisha.mills@pfsf.org



WAHEEDA DEEN
352-244-1536
waheeda.deen@pfsf.org

We would like to announce that our new Licensing Specialist, Ashley Johnson, has joined our team. Ashley joins Partnership for Strong Families as a self-assured, resourceful, self-determined individual with a heightened sense of recognition for the demands presented as a Licensing Specialist. Ashley was previously employed with several of our CMAs, including Children's Home Society and Devereux, and is very familiar with the agency's mission and goals. Ashley will provide oversight for Gilchrist, Levy, Dixie and Taylor Counties. She is an excellent example of what it takes to love the children we serve.



ASHLEY JOHNSON
(352) 463-3110 ext. 2307
ashley.johnson@pfsf.org

SUMMER SAVINGS AND BACK TO SCHOOL DEALS

By Lakisha Mills, Recruitment and Retention Specialist

Summer is here and school is out. Are you looking for some great things to do with the kids? Take a look at these inexpensive activities found on workathomemoms.about.com to do with your children:

1. Go on a treasure hunt. (Make a list of items for your child to find inside or outside the home.)
2. Picnic at the lake. (Take your favorite sandwiches, snacks and a blanket.)
3. Paint pre-made pottery.
4. Camp out (Inside or Outside).
5. Take a day trip to the beach.
6. Go to the library and check out books.
7. Make your own pizza (English muffins, pizza sauce, cheese and your favorite toppings).
8. Go to the nearby park.
9. Decorate the driveway with sidewalk chalk.
10. Stargaze (Lay out on the front yard or hood of the car and name stars.)

Here are other websites with loads of fun-filled ideas and activities for the kids.

<http://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/cheap-summer-fun/>
<http://spoonful.com/summer>
<http://www.pinterest.com/choccakemoments/summer-family-fun-activities/>

Although summer is here, it will be time to go back to school before you know it. Here are six tips for back to school savings by Heather Lawson from bankrate.com:

1. Take inventory of your child's clothing.
2. Set a budget and stick to it.
3. Make a list of what you need.
4. Buy in quantities (Bulk is best).
5. Tap the web for bargains.
6. Host a clothing swap with friends.

For more information on these tips, view the full article at www.bankrate.com by typing in "6 tips for frugal back to school savings" in the search box. Click on article "6 Tips for Frugal Back to School Savings."

A few companies are advertising price matching with school supplies. Of course, we know that Wal-Mart matches competitor's prices, but now Staples is offering to match their competitor's prices as well. Check out the sites below to get the full details on how to save.

www.staples.com, click on back to school center and read about their back to school 110% price match guarantee
www.walmart.com, click on shop back to school
<http://corporate.walmart.com/ad-match-guarantee>

PSF's BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Our annual Back to School Drive is underway. With the help and support of the community, PSF will be able to make sure every child with a need in our care will have the supplies they need for the upcoming school year. To donate, contact Patty Carroll at patricia.carroll@pfsf.org or 352-244-1626. Partner Families: please contact your caseworker as soon as possible to make sure your children's needs are met.

WELCOME NEW PARTNER FAMILIES!

Sophia Sterling, Evelyn & Eustace Morrison, Crystal Redic, Taryn & Thomas Hannah, Melanie Pigott & Jason Pimentel, Daylin & Brad Barroso-Tonzalez, Angela & Larry Ogburn and Zenaida & John Johns

CLOTHING ALLOWANCES

Checks are issued directly to Partner Families and are processed prior to the new school year. They are usually processed just before tax-free week so that Partner Families can take advantage of the savings.

Clothing allowances are issued to kids who have been in care for six months. If the six month time comes after the allowances go out, they will be eligible to receive it at their six month mark.

CLOTHING VOUCHERS

are accepted at the following stores:

Kmart in Gainesville
JC Penney in Lake City
Bealls Outlet in all of our service areas in addition to Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, St. Augustine & St. Marys, GA
Ross throughout Florida
Once Upon a Time Quality Resale in Branford
Please remember that vouchers are for kids who are new in care and placed into a licensed foster home.

\$50 for 0 – 12 years

\$70 for 13 – 17 years

CONTACT YOUR FCC TO OBTAIN A VOUCHER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

August 9

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Suwannee High School Auditorium
1314 Pine Ave. SW
Live Oak, FL 32064

GAINESVILLE PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 23

9:00 a.m.

Greenhouse Church
2925 NW 39th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605

2014 CHILD PROTECTION SUMMIT

September 3 - 5

Marriott World Center
8701 World Center Dr.
Orlando, FL 32821

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Partner Family Reward!

We need your help with
recruitment! Earn your referral
reward today!

Partner Families, PSF employees,
CMA employees, GAL volunteers and
DCF staff are eligible for

\$125.00

for each family you refer who becomes
a licensed Partner Family.

Payment will be made once the
family has accepted their first child in
placement.

For additional information contact
your Recruitment and Retention
Specialist:

Lakisha Mills: 386-243-8804
Waheeda Deen: 385-244-1536
recruitment@pfsf.org

POWER OF YOU CONFERENCE TRAINING



POWER OF YOU CONFERENCE LUNCHEON



POWER OF YOU CONFERENCE LUNCHEON PHOTOS CONTINUED....



POWER OF YOU CONFERENCE RAFFLE WINNERS



POWER OF YOU CONFERENCE SPECIAL GUESTS



Left: Keith Perry (District 21 House of Representatives), Stephen Pennypacker (CEO), Dave Snyder (WCJB-TV 20) and Dr. Michael Bowie (PSF Board of Directors)



Left: Dr. Antonio and Yalonda Carlisle (Faith Partners) with Dr. Michael Bowie and Stephen Pennypacker

Right: Shirley Green Brown (Alachua County Commissioner) with Dr. Michael Bowie and Stephen Pennypacker



Right: CEO Stephen Pennypacker presenting the Master of Ceremony, Dave Snyder, with a token of appreciation.



CONTACT US

MAIN OFFICE
5950 NW 1st Place, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32601
Tel: (352) 244-1500
Fax: (352) 244-1647
On-Call: (352) 226-4675
Toll-free: (866) 310-7326

LAKE CITY OFFICE
1211 SW Bascom Norris Dr.
Lake City, FL 32025
Tel: (386) 243-8800
Fax: (386) 243-8700
On-Call: (386) 984-6940
Toll-free: (866) 832-5562

TRENTON OFFICE
1208 E. Wade St.
Trenton, FL 32693
Tel: (352) 463-3111
Fax: (352) 463-3104
On-Call: (352) 463-3110
follow prompts
Toll-Free: (888) 877-5459

LIVE OAK OFFICE
501 SE Demorest, Suite C
Live Oak, FL 32064
Tel: (386) 364-7774
Fax: (386) 364-1097
On-Call: (850) 570-9716
Toll-Free: (866) 850-8133

STARKE OFFICE
405 S. Georgia St.
Starke, FL 32091
Tel: (904) 964-1540
Fax: (904) 964-1550
On-Call: (904) 964-1540
follow prompts
Toll-Free: (866) 888-6548

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

recruitment@
pfsf.org

CHRISTY'S CORNER

By Christy VanValey Conner, Partner Family Advocate

Partnership for Strong Families would like to congratulate the 2014 Power of You award winners.



ROSE & DAVID KALLMEYER
Family Connections Award



JACK & BECKY BOWEN
Health and Well Being Award



SIMON FLATT
Supporting Educational
Needs Award



ELAINE CALDERON
Normalcy Award



EVELYN STRINGER
Model Parent Award



JASMA NEAL
Power of You Award

STEP UP FOR STUDENTS

By Stephanie Love, Manager, Community Outreach Step Up For Children



Step Up For Students provides scholarships for low-income Florida schoolchildren, children who are in foster care and children who are homeless enrolled in grades K-12.

Many families still don't know this option exists, but Florida has the

nation's largest tax credit scholarship program, giving low-income families the ability to choose the K-12 school that best meets their child's needs.

Step Up For Students is a non-profit organization that administers the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The program was created in 2001 by the Florida Legislature, and is funded by corporations that receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for their contributions.

Since 2002, more than 330,000 scholarships have been awarded to low-income Florida students in grades K-12, including approximately 60,000 for the 2013-14 school year. Families can choose between two scholarship options:

- A scholarship to help cover private school tuition and fees, worth up to \$4,880.
 - A scholarship to assist with transportation costs to attend a public school in another county, worth up to \$500.
- (Scholarship amounts for the 2013-14 school year are noted. The amounts may increase for the 2014-15 school year.)

The scholarship also has special guidelines for children who are in foster care or who are homeless.

Step Up For Students applications are now available. Parents may visit www.StepUpForStudents.org for additional details and to apply for the Step Up For Students Scholarship for the 2014-15 school year.

If a parent is interested in the program, but won't have children starting kindergarten or meeting all the eligibility requirements until the 2015-16 school year, they can sign up for the 2015-16 school year interest list by visiting www.StepUpForStudents.org.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[In Person]

Looking for other Partner Families who are fostering to talk to? Join your local Foster Adoptive Parent Association! Associations meet regularly to share ideas on how to support parents and the children they care for. This is also a great way to get your 8 hours of training needed toward re-licensure every year to continue to serve as a Partner Family.

Gainesville: Meets the third Saturday every other month from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Email President Ron Locke for meeting location at rlocke@acceleration.net.

TriCounty: Meets from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Simon Flatt, President, at simon@tcfapa.org or visit www.tcfapa.org for more information.

Starke: Meets on the third Tuesday of every other month from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Starke Service Center: 405 S. Georgia Street.

Lake City-Live Oak: Meets the fourth Tuesday every month from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at PSF's Lake City Service Center: 1211 SW Bascom Norris Dr. Contact leader Ashley Sharpless at ashey84@yahoo.com

[Online]

1. www.qpiflorida.org
These training videos are free and will issue you a certificate to give to Licensing.

2. www.FosterParents.com/PFSF
The first two trainings are free. Reimbursement is available for additional trainings.

3. www.FosterParentCollege.com
Contact Waheeda or Lakisha to register. All trainings are free after a reimbursement submission. Forms are available through your Recruitment & Retention Specialist, email recruitment@pfsf.org.

[TRAINING CALENDARS]

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

School Begins

August 18, 2014: Alachua, Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Columbia, Lafayette, Baker, Bradford, Madison & Taylor Counties

August 19, 2014: Suwannee & Hamilton Counties

August 21, 2014: Union County

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

QUICK FACTS

CLIENT TRUST FUNDS

If you have a child with a client trust fund, or believe that a child in your home should have a trust fund, please contact Pamela Hart with any questions or concerns at 352-244-1545. Currently, she is part-time so if you have an emergency please contact Amanda Gray at 352-244-1511.

TRAVEL

Foster Parent Travel logs are due on a monthly basis. Travel submitted past two months will not be eligible for payment. All travel requires supporting documentation. For more information please contact our Licensing AA at (352) 244-1548.

BLUE FOLDERS

Each child is required to come to your home with a placement letter stating the child is being placed in your care with a blue folder containing the child's legal and medical information. Contact your FCC or Placement Specialist as soon as possible if the child has not arrived with these items.

PARTNER FAMILY MONTHLY BOARD RATE BREAKDOWN

	0-5yrs	6-12yrs	13yrs +
Current board rate:	\$429	\$440	\$515 + 10%
Allowance:	\$10	\$10	\$12
Incidentals:	\$8	\$9	\$11
Life Skills Supplement:			\$51.50
Clothing:	\$35	\$36	\$43
Rate Only:	\$376	\$385	\$449
Initial Clothing:	\$50	\$50	\$70
Annual Clothing Allowance:	\$200	\$300	\$300

PSF would like to remind you that all foster children should be receiving a monthly allowance as mandated by the Department of Children and Families. Allowances can not be withheld as a form of discipline.

For Board Rate and financial questions, please contact Lisa Vickery, Fiscal Specialist at 352-244-1560 or lisa.vickery@pfsf.org.



PARTNERSHIP FOR
**STRONG
FAMILIES**

5950 NW 1st Place, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32607
352-244-1500

Visit us at
partnerfamily.org



Thank You!

Partnership for Strong Families would like to thank our Partner Families for all of their hard work and dedication to our children. We truly are grateful for their devoted partnership. Together we are changing the lives of the children and families we serve.

Licensing would like to give a special thank you to everyone who participated in the first Power of You Conference. It was a great success and we look forward to future conferences.

