



# Adoption Network Newsletter

Jan. 2026



## Join the Group!

Don't forget to join our PSF Facebook group! This closed group is another way for parents to reach out to us and an easy way to post helpful information or upcoming trainings/activities that you might want to participate in, as well as lend support to one another if needed. To join, please search for PSF's [Post Adoption Network](#) on Facebook.

## Foster & Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA)

Did you know there is a Foster and Adoptive Parent Association run by a foster/adoptive parent in the area? The North Florida FAPA is run by Jerrod Pfeffer and offers helpful information on their Facebook page, as well as in-person monthly meetings. If you are interested in joining the group on Facebook search "[North Florida FAPA!](#)"

## State Employee Benefit

The start of the new year brings open enrollment for the state employee benefit for adopting children through the foster care system. The state employee benefit is not only open to state employees who have recently adopted, but is also open to veterans and servicemembers who adopted after July 1, 2020 and law enforcement officers who adopted after July 1, 2022. In addition, in July of 2024 the state added healthcare practitioners who earn less than \$150,000 per year and tax collector employees can qualify for the benefit. Open enrollment begins the first business day in January and goes through the last business day in March. If you believe you qualify for the state employee benefit, contact your employers HR department for the state employee benefit form and send the form with sections 1 and 2 completed to Tricia Braitsch ([Patricia.Braitsch@pfsf.org](mailto:Patricia.Braitsch@pfsf.org)) for completion of section 3.

## DCF COLA Memo for 2026

At this time the new DCF COLA memo for 2026 has not come out, so you cannot make a request for an increase until that time per DCF. We do not know when the memo will come out, nor do we know if adoption subsidy will be included on the memo.

You can Google "DCF Florida COLA memo 2026" to find out if the new memo has come out. Additionally, we will be posting about the memo in our closed PSF post adoption Facebook page once the memo has come out. If you are not a part of the Facebook page, just search "PSF's Post Adoption Network" and answer the questions for verification purposes. We will also be sharing the information from the memo in our monthly emailed newsletter.

## Sunshine Health Updates

Did you know children who have Sunshine Health Pathways to Shine Specialty Plan are eligible for a Care Grant? The Care Grant is up to \$150 per child per calendar year for services and supplies for social or physical activities, such as gym membership, sports equipment and registration fees, art supplies, and application fees for post high school education. Contact Member Services at 1-855-463-4100 for the Care Grant application and any questions about the Care Grant.

## Foster Florida Frontliner Registration

Have you heard of Foster Florida before? Foster Florida is an organization that started in Gainesville by two foster and adoptive mothers whose vision is to surround every frontline family with an engaged and growing village, so that no foster child waits for a safe place to heal from trauma. If you want to register to receive emails about supports from Foster Florida, register at <https://fosterflorida.org/frontliner-registration>.

## Children Looking for their Forever Families:

### *Robert, age 16*

Meet adventurous and energetic Robert! This sweet boy loves to play outside and climb trees, the busier the better! On rainy days, Robert enjoys coloring, drawing, listening to music and watching movies. He is very fond of superheroes and enjoys telling you about his favorites. Robert has a reserved personality and is reported to be very loving and affectionate toward his caregivers, as he enjoys lots of hugs. Robert enjoys being the center of attention as he prefers the lead role in friendships. Due his desire to lead, making friends can sometimes be difficult for Robert. Robert desires to be adopted by strong female figure, who is active and supportive of his interests.

Will Robert's next great adventure be with you?

Robert's Adoption ID is 101866486. For more information on Robert, please contact Keisha Battles at [Keisha.Battles@pfsf.org](mailto:Keisha.Battles@pfsf.org).

## Helpful Info

For post adoption services, tuition waivers, or tax documents please contact

Tricia Braitsch, Post Adoption Liaison, at (352) 244-1500 ext. 2106 or [Patricia.Braitsch@pfsf.org](mailto:Patricia.Braitsch@pfsf.org).

For Medicaid needs, change of address (in or out of state), and subsidy payment questions please contact Cheryl Williams, Eligibility Specialist I-ICAMA, at (352) 244-1500 ext. 2039 or [Cheryl.Williams@pfsf.org](mailto:Cheryl.Williams@pfsf.org).