



## Helpful Resources and Support Opportunities

- [Partner Family Resources - Partnership For Strong Families](#)
- [North Florida Foster Adoptive Parent Association](#)
- [Caregiver Support Email](#)
- [Placement Email](#)
- [Payment Questions Email](#)
- [Primary Care Provider Change Email](#)

## Fall Fun and Safety



Fall festivals, pumkin patches, trunk-or-treat and community events are a great way for children and families to make memories together. A little planning can help everyone enjoy the fun.

- **Plan for crowds.** Choose a meeting spot and make sure children know who to go to if separated.
- **Think visibility.** Add reflective tape, glow sticks or lights to costumes when activities continue after dark.
- **Check costumes.** Make sure masks, long clothing and accessories don't interfere with vision or walking.
- **Consider sensory needs.** Crowds, costumes, music and flashing lights can be overwhelming. Headphones, breaks and an exit plan can help.
- **Keep normalcy in mind.** Whenever possible help children participate in the same seasonal traditions and activities as their peers.

### Family Fun Day Update

A heartfelt thank you to all of our foster parents and families who joined us in Lake City on October 2nd! It was wonderful spending time together and seeing the kids have fun with face painting, crafts and lots of smiles.

We're also excited to continue working with the Alan Madden Foundation in the months ahead to help provide some of the everyday items our foster families need. We hope these gifts serve as a small token of appreciation for the incredible care you provide to our children each and every day.

# Wish Upon A Star

Where has the time gone? Another holiday season is just around the corner, and we are in the midst of our Wish Upon a Star holiday gift drive!

Last year, we fulfilled the wishes of 928 children and youth through the generous support of over 200 individuals, churches, and businesses. Through the gift of their space, Campus Credit Union was able to be Santa's Workshop for five whole weeks. Through their strength and service, UF Mover Guys moved toys, ride-on cars, bikes, and other gifts to the workshop. Through the gift of time, 40 volunteers assembled bicycles, sorted toys, and put together all of the wishes. And through the dedication of amazing case workers and support staff, all of the children and youth received their gifts in time to be placed under the tree.



As a foster parent, what can you expect. Through October 22, caseworkers will be collecting and submitting the wishes for all children in care. If you are concerned that the children in your care have not had wishes submitted, please reach out to their caseworker. All of the gifts will be delivered by the caseworker during late November and early December. The gifts come unwrapped so you are able to see what the child is getting before Christmas morning. We encourage you to wrap the gifts. If you are in need of wrapping paper, please let your caregiver support specialist know. We have a limited amount of giftwrap and bags available, so we encourage you to speak with caregiver support specialist as early as possible.

This year, we invite all of you to join us in creating joy for the children that most need it! If you would like more information on how you can be involved this year, please email us at [Amanda.demaria@pfsf.org](mailto:Amanda.demaria@pfsf.org).

## Training Opportunities



Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI) is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. TBRI® classes will begin on October 1st and run four consecutive Thursdays from 6pm to 9pm ending October 22nd. To register, please contact [Christy.Conner@pfsf.org](mailto:Christy.Conner@pfsf.org).

## Training Reminder

We know caregivers have a lot to keep up with, so here's a friendly reminder about your annual required trainings! Water Safety is available through the [American Red Cross](#), and [Human Trafficking Awareness 101](#) can be completed through My FL Learn. You will find additional trainings and resources to support you in your caregiving journey there too.

## Westside Baptist Church

Westside Baptist is partnering with FaithBridgeU to offer training for foster families on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. Lunch and childcare will be provided! Parents can receive 2.5 hours of training credit learning about tips for transracial parenting, fear and felt safety, and grief. Contact [jking@westsidebaptist.org](mailto:jking@westsidebaptist.org) for more information.

# Community Connections



The Lubee Bat Conservancy is offering our foster families one free child's admission (ages 5–12) to the first 20 families for the Bat Festival on October 24th. Families can enter StrongFamily.26 at checkout to redeem the code online! The offer is valid for one use per family, online only, and expires October 23 at 11:59 PM ET, or until the tickets have been redeemed, whichever comes first.

<https://www.lubee.org/flbatfestival>

## Inventivity Workshop by Cade Meseum

Calling all families in Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties! Join us for a special **Inventivity Workshop** by the Cade Museum held at **Tri-County Community Resource Center, Chiefland FL**. This hands-on workshop, designed for curious kids ages 7–11, invites young inventors to participate in fun experiments and problem-solving challenges. Discover how observation and curiosity can spark innovation, just like history's greatest inventors. This session's topic is Space Odyssey. Students will explore space travel and colonization. Pre-register here to reserve your spot! Walk-ins the day of the workshop will be based on capacity. This is a drop-off program. Adults who choose to stay are welcome to quietly observe the session. Tri-County Community Resource Center is located at 15 North Main Street, Chiefland, FL 32626.

This workshop is proudly sponsored by Suncoast Credit Union.



## Fall Activities

Looking for something fun to do this fall? Family-friendly community events are happening all around North Central Florida. Fun 4 Gator Kids keeps an updated list of local fall happenings, making it easy to find an outing that works for your family. Take a look, make a plan and enjoy making some fall memories together!

Gainesville: Fall Festivals - [Fun 4 Gator Kids](#)

## Red House Ranch Fall Festival



Oct. 3rd – Nov. 8th, 2026

Micanopy

Saturdays 10am – 7pm &

Sundays 12pm-7pm

Children in foster care are free.

All other family members half price.

Also applies to families that have adopted with no current placements.

Families just need to let the ticket booth know they are a foster family and ask for the discount.

Know someone interested in foster care? Have them email [HopePartner@pfsf.org](mailto:HopePartner@pfsf.org) or call (352) 244-1615 to learn more!