PARTNERSHIP CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG FAMILIES



Austin, Tucker, Easton, Yvonne, and Solomon Muncy

National Adoption Month: Celebrating One Family's Adoption Journey

National Adoption Month is a time to honor the importance of adoption while also acknowledging its complexity. Adoption from foster care can be a powerful story of healing, belonging, and love. It creates lifelong connections for children, youth, and families, providing them the opportunity to grow together in hope. At the same time, it begins with loss. As we recognize National Adoption Month, we celebrate the resilience, commitment, and love that help families thrive while holding space for the sadness and challenges that can be part of the adoption journey.

The Muncy Family's Story

We adopted our boys several years ago. They're actually our grandchildren, and because of some decisions their biological parents made, they needed a safe and stable home. In the beginning, we did everything we could to help get the kiddos back with their parents because we truly wanted that to work out. Unfortunately, it didn't, and the next option for us was adoption. For my wife and me, there really wasn't much of a question, we adopted because we knew it was the best thing for our boys.

Adoption changed our lives in more ways than I could ever put into words. But out of everything, what makes us the proudest is the heart our boys have for other people. They have learned to put others before themselves and to care about people who may be going through a hard time.

Continued on page 3.

October, November, December 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH: CELEBRATING ONE FAMILY'S ADOPTION JOURNEY 1

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO 2

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH: CELEBRATING ONE FAMILIES ADOPTION JOURNEY CONTINUED 3

FOSTER AND ADOPT: A FRONT ROW SEAT 3

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN THE TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITIES 4

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC. 5

WISH UPON A STAR IS ALMOST HERE! 6

PSF CASE MANAGEMENT AWARDS 6

KELSEY'S CORNER 7

WISH UPON A STAR 8



A Message from Our CEO:

A Season of Hope: Opening Hearts Through Adoption and Giving

Dear Partners,

As we approach the holiday season and recognize November as National Adoption Month, we reflect on the importance of family and belonging. While this season brings joy and celebration, there are children in the child welfare system who are still waiting for the love, stability, and security of a permanent family.

We believe every child deserves a safe, loving, and nurturing home. We work tirelessly to support reunification by helping families heal, strengthen, and stay together, whenever it is safe. When reunification is not possible, adoption from foster care provides another path to permanence, offering children the opportunity to experience lasting relationships, stability, and unconditional love.

National Adoption Month is an opportunity to celebrate the hope and healing that adoption can bring while also recognizing the complex emotions that often accompany it. Adoption stories often include both joy and loss. Children, birth families, and adoptive families may navigate feelings of grief, separation, and change alongside the love and connection that develop through adoption. By honoring both realities, we can support all members of the adoption community and deepen our understanding of this lifelong journey.

Through our work, we witness the life-changing impact of permanency. Children who once faced uncertainty flourish in supportive families, and adoptive parents often share that the experience transforms their own lives in meaningful ways. These stories remind us that family is built through commitment, compassion, and the enduring choice to show up for one another.

There are other ways to support children and families involved in the child welfare system. One opportunity is our upcoming Wish Upon a Star Gift Drive. The holidays can be particularly difficult for children and youth who have experienced trauma, loss, or separation. A gift from a child's wish list is more than a present. It is a reminder that they are valued, remembered, and cared for.

As we celebrate this season of giving, we invite you to join us in making a difference. Whether you support family reunification efforts, explore adoption, or participate in the Wish Upon a Star Gift Drive, your kindness helps create brighter futures for children and families

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can provide hope, healing, and the sense of belonging every child deserves.

With gratitude

Ginger Griffeth
President and CEO
Partnership for Strong Families

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THE MUNCY FAMILY STORY CONTINUED

Our oldest, Austin, graduated with his bachelor's degree in biology and is now living out his lifelong dream of working with animals. Our middle son, Tucker, just graduated from high school and is now in college working toward becoming a water treatment technician. And our youngest, Easton, is in the 10th grade, plays on the high school basketball team, and is a straight-A student.

Our lives pretty much revolve around each other, our family, and ministry. A lot of times, my boys get to hit the road with me and serve people right alongside me. As a dad, there's not much that makes me prouder than watching my boys serve others and seeing the heart they have for people.

Adoption may not have been how we originally thought our family story would be written, but I wouldn't change our story for anything. These boys have blessed our lives just as much as we could ever hope to bless theirs.

Scan here to learn more about upcoming foster care and adoption info sessions!

FOSTER AND ADOPT: A FRONT ROW SEAT



Carol Ruth, Chief of Placement and Caregiver Support

We often talk about child welfare as a field you are called to work in, no matter which department you're a part of. Some of our staff have also answered that call in their personal lives. This month, Carol Ruth, Chief of Placement and Caregiver Support, shares her family's adoption stories.

"My husband and I have had two kinship placements that resulted in adoption. We've adopted from both ends of the age group. We had a baby placed with us at 4 months old who was adopted at 11 months. I have an ongoing relationship with his bio mom and her adoptive parents/grandparents.

We entered this placement with the intent to work with the parents toward reunification. They were in a hard spot and made the difficult decision to sign surrenders so our son could be placed for adoption. We proceeded with adoption, and he has maintained a relationship with his birth parents and great grandparents.

Our second was a non-relative placement for an older youth in care, and we went into the placement with the goal of adoption. His Wendy's Wonderful Kids adoption specialist worked with us on the match, and we adopted 6 months before he turned 18. Working in the child welfare system definitely influenced the decision to adopt. Having a front row seat to older youth in care who just need a chance, was the prompt to explore adopting an older youth."

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN THE TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITIES

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Since 2015, our Tri-County Community Resource Center (TCCRC) has become a trusted source of support and opportunity for families across Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy counties. TCCRC has grown into an essential hub where families can access resources, build skills, and find the support they need to achieve greater stability and well-being. Since opening, TCCRC has welcomed more than 74.000 visits, demonstrating the on-going need and lasting impact of the resources provided.

With a small, dedicated team, TCCRC provides free services designed to meet immediate and long-term family needs. Families can access food, baby essentials, hygiene products, financial assistance, and connections to other resources. Through a partnership with the Florida Department of Children & Families, TCCRC also houses an on-site ACCESS Clerk, providing another valued local resource for families.

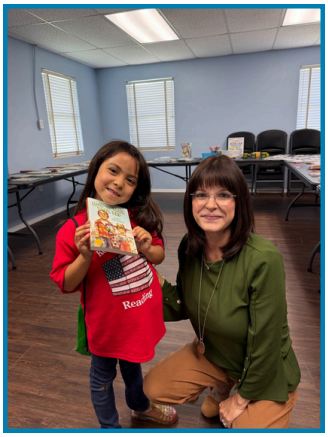
TCCRC is committed to promoting family stability through programs that help individuals and families build a stronger future. Recurring programs include community dinners, cooking classes, financial literacy workshops, and adult scholarships, supporting educational and employment goals. Signature events including the recent Tri-County World's Greatest Baby Shower and Disaster Preparedness Expo also bring families and partners together for the greatest impact.

One community partner described TCCRC as an "essential hub of community resources," noting its unique ability to connect organizations in meaningful ways. By fostering collaboration, TCCRC helps families thrive and communities grow stronger.

While the generosity of our community, partners such as the North Central Florida Community Foundation and AT&T, and funders make every program and service possible, long-term sustainability of TCCRC depends on continued investment in the staff and operations that serve as the foundation for helping families thrive.



World's Greatest Baby Shower



Resource Center Manager Beverly Goodman during the Summer Book Fair



Having a Blast at the 2026 Disaster Expo

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.



Tri-County Community Resources Board of Directors

TCCR
Tri-County Community Resources
Serving Dixie, Gilchrist & Levy Counties

Tri-County Community Resources, Inc. (TCCR), a grassroots and Board-led nonprofit organization, is a shining example of how collaborations help support strong communities. Dedicated to improving the health, well-being, and success of individuals and families across Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy counties, TCCR is a valued partner in supporting local families and strengthening community connections.

Since helping establish the Tri-County Community Resource Center in 2015, TCCR has worked behind the scenes to identify community needs, build partnerships, and secure resources that keep services accessible and responsive. Guided by the belief that no one should have to struggle alone, TCCR continues to play an important advisory role in the Resource Center's success.

Partnership for Strong Families proudly operates the Tri-County Community Resource Center, providing staff, implementing our nationally recognized Family Resource Center (FRC) Model, and coordinating a network of partner services. TCCR complements this work by offering strategic guidance and an average of $37,000 annually in funding support for programs and operations.

Together, this partnership helps provide free resources that promote family stability and resilience, including parenting support, workforce readiness assistance, technology access, emergency food and hygiene items, children's activities, financial literacy education, and connections to critical community services.

The success of the Resource Center reflects what is possible when organizations, local leaders, and community members unite around a shared mission. We are grateful for TCCR's continued partnership and commitment to ensuring families in the tri-county area have a trusted place to turn for support, connection, and hope. Together, we are building stronger families and a stronger community.

SCAN HERE TO DONATE DIRECTLY TO TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

WISH UPON A STAR IS ALMOST HERE!



Upper Room Ministries
Dropping Off Gifts



Wish Upon a Star Volunteers

Last year, our community came together to fulfill the wishes of 928 children. We couldn't have done it without the 200 sponsors and donors, Campus Credit Union letting us use their space as Santa's Workshop, UF Mover Guys for the moving the gifts to the workshop, the 40 volunteers assembled the gifts, and the staff, that delivered the gifts in time to be placed under the tree.

This year, we invite all of your 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 **getengaged@pfsf.org** or check out the QR codes on the last page.

PSF CASE MANAGEMENT AWARDS

As Child Welfare Appreciation month came to an end, we celebrated case management staff with well-deserved awards!



Pictured is Casey G. (Camelot Community Care), recipient of the Horizon Award



Pictured is Haley S. (PSF), recipient of the Anchor Award



Pictured is Lillian N. (4 Sisters Solutions), recipient of the Horizon Award.



Pictured is Tiffany T. (Camelot Community Care), recipient of the Bridge Builder Award



Pictured is Marlon J. (Camelot Community Care), recipient of the People's Choice Award



Pictured is PSF President & CEO Ginger Griffeth, Brittany A., recipient of the Bridge Builder Award, Kiana H., recipient of the Horizon Award, Aalyiah S., recipient of the Compass Award, and JFCS CEO Colleen Rodriguez



Pictured is Jaime G. (Camelot Community Care), recipient of the Case Manager of the Year Award.

KELSEY'S CORNER

Work That Matters
By Kelsey Burnette, Chief Legal Officer

We live in a culture that loves dramatic success stories. We celebrate the large number of children adopted in December who are now “home for the holidays”; the reunification of two little girls with their mom who found supports and turned her life around; the graduation of a parent who has successfully completed Early Childhood Court and had their baby reunified with them; the college acceptance letter for a young adult who aged out of the system and kept working hard to continue their education. Those moments are important and absolutely worthy of celebration.

However, in child welfare, the moments that change lives are often much quieter. The Family Care Counselor who shows up for a home visit after a long day and helps a parent navigate services after a setback. The Independent Living Counselor who answers a phone call from a scared teenager who needs someone to listen and help them figure out what to do next. The Adoption Case Manager who attends court, finalizes home studies, tracks down resources, writes reports, advocates, encourages, and then does it all again the next day.

Most families will not remember the wording of a case plan or the procedural details of a court hearing, but they will remember the people who consistently showed up when things were difficult.
I recently saw a meme that said, "Trust is built in drops." Child welfare work is very much a profession of drops. Every visit, every phone call, every transportation arrangement, every difficult conversation handled with compassion is another drop in the bucket. Over time, those small acts create connection, trust, and hope.

In September, our leadership team had the privilege of visiting each case management service center to recognize the amazing child welfare professionals we work with, including individuals whose work exemplifies our values through the Bridge Builder, Horizon, Compass, and Anchor awards. While each award highlights a unique contribution, they share a common thread. Whether someone is breaking down barriers, inspiring others, using data to improve outcomes, or providing steadfast support, they are helping children and families move forward.

In my role, I see the outcomes. Families reunified. Adoptions finalized. Young adults moving successfully into independence. I also see that those outcomes rarely happen because of a single decision, service, or court order. They happen because dedicated professionals invest their time, energy, creativity, and heart into helping children and families navigate incredibly challenging circumstances.

The work is not easy. It is not neat. It is emotionally demanding and accomplished without fanfare. But it really matters.

To all of the case managers serving families in our dependency system, supporting children through the adoption process, and helping youth prepare for adulthood, thank you. Thank you for your persistence, your professionalism, your compassion, and your willingness to keep showing up. The children and families we serve are stronger because you do.

PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG FAMILIES

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Learn more about how our innovative services are keeping our community's children safe. Visit us at **www.pfsf.org**

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Partnership for Strong Families is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.



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