



Family Support Services

OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.

SERVING DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

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Adoption NEWS

Especially for Adoptive Parents and Relative Caregivers

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www.fssjax.org

Brothers find a “forever home” during National Adoption Month



LaQuan and brother **William** attend their final adoption with **Ricky Shaw**, case manager supervisor for Nassau.

It was a year ago Nov. 25 that LaQuan, now 14, went to stay with Ruby and Carl Atwater's Callahan home permanently. He and William, 13, have quickly become the center of the couple's attention.

“They're respectful to me and they love me,” William said, who has been with the Atwaters for two years.

The foursome officially became a family Friday, Nov. 25, when their adoption paperwork was finalized.

(Excerpt from Nassau County Record, Nov. 25, 2008)

Finalized Adoptions give kids a Home for the Holidays



Home for the Holidays finalized the adoptions of 23 children on Dec. 19.



Aidan and his father, **Walter Sharman**, just before the adoption was finalized.



The Little family celebrates the adoption of 12-year-old **Bryanna** (center right in blue).

Look for this billboard on Beach Blvd. at Forest St. honoring **Dawn Lopez**, CBS 47, for her commitment to getting children adopted through her work on *Jacksonville's Children*.



Jules is outgoing and social and likes to spend his free time playing video games and listening to rap music.

This young man is full of promise and ambition. He has set many goals for himself that he hopes to reach by the time he is 18—including having a job, a car and a wife! In the meantime, Jules likes school and excels in math and science.

Jules is looking for a family that will offer him lots of love, affection, nurturing and patience. He says he needs for his new family to accept him fully, and to help give him the childhood he deserves. His friendly demeanor and big heart, combined with the support and guidance of a loving family, are the perfect ingredients needed for a bright and successful future!



Photo by Ryan Kellerman

NEWS *briefs*

Computer training scheduled

Parents, computer training classes are being scheduled for January. If you do not know how to use a computer or you do not have a computer in your home for your school-aged children to use for school work, we have computers and training for you. Call Debbie Campbell at (904) 521-5628.

Keep your children safe online

Parents, for fun Cyber Safety tips for you and the kids, go to: www.netsmarkidz.org or www.ikeepSAFE.org; there's lots of fun stuff for the kids.

Monthly parent meetings

The Greater Jacksonville Foster and Adoptive Parent Assn. will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at Jewish Family and Community Services, 3733 University Blvd., West, Suite 308.

The Northeast Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent

Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Northwest Branch Library, 1755 W. Edgewood Ave.

The Nassau County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

will have a new meeting place and day beginning in January at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at the Nassau County Building on Pages Dairy Road, next to the Nassau County Health Dept. Yulee Clinic. Call (904) 225-5347 for more information.

Weisheit joins FSS staff

Michelle Weisheit, Family Support Services' (FSS) new Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter, will make family recruitment for hard-to-place children her primary responsibility.

"I'm very excited to have her here," said Linsay Warren, FSS adoption specialist. "She's already a strong member of our team with incredible organizational skills and knowledge of case management."

Weisheit previously was a case manager for Clay-Baker Kids Net, Jacksonville Youth Sanctuary, and Jewish Family and Community Services. Her latest position was a unified family court case manager for Duval County's Judge David Gooding.



Learn to *pivot* when you're a parent

In basketball, players learn to pivot. It's also an important skill for parents to learn when dealing with "junk" behavior such as whining, complaining, saying "I hate you!," rolling eyes, etc. This behavior happens because children want attention, or a response if it's a habit that has worked before.

Pivoting is when we withhold our attention by turning our attention away from the negative behavior to something or someone else. This may first result in the child getting angrier. But eventually, the "junk" will happen less often as positive behavior is reinforced.

By responding within 10 seconds of a positive change in behavior, the child's response should be rewarded with verbal praise — 8 to 9 words in 3 to 5 seconds.

If the child exhibits behavior that is harmful to self, other persons, property or animals or if pivoting doesn't teach the appropriate alternative behavior, it may be time to get professional help with your child.

Edited from: Essential Tools for Positive Behavior Change by Shad Singh-Vinson, FSS Behavioral Specialist.

Welcome Adoption Team Members!

Linda Komany
and
Tawana Stephens

Web Hits Get Global

From December 1-15, 2008 on
www.heartgalleryjax.org:

- ▶ Total visits: 6,079
- ▶ Total new visitors: 1,586
- ▶ Page views: 26,540
- ▶ People around the world:
 - 38 visits from China
 - 5 from Canada

