



Family Support Services
OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.



Everything you want to know about foster care and adopting foster children.

Thursday, January 31 • 6:30 p.m.
First Assembly of God Church
302 S. 14th St., Fernandina Beach
For info: (904) 548-4850

Thursday, February 7 • 6 p.m.
Evangel Temple
5755 Ramona Rd., Jacksonville
For info: (904) 421-5800



New Prevention Site to Help Keep Families Together

The Family Support Services' first Prevention office held its grand opening last week on the Westside, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Children and Families.

- Services for foster families will include:
- Alternative Response System – immediate services to at-risk families including access to case management, in-home visits to help with budgeting, parent training and financial assistance through state flex funds.
 - Substance abuse counseling and support groups
 - Behavioral management
 - Children's tutoring through Educational Services of America.
 - Career training by the Florida Community College at Jacksonville
 - Applications for public assistance including food stamps, temporary cash assistance and Medicaid.

The center is located at 2200 Cassat Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32211. For assistance and information call (904) 389-5230.

Photo above left: Family Support Services' CEO Jim Adams, Gateway Community Services' CEO Gary Powers and Jacksonville Sheriffs Office Capt. Wayne Clark, listen as Florida Department of Children and Families Regional Administrator Nancy Dreicer speaks about this neighborhood center being a pilot program to try to revamp the current foster care system.

In Brief

ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

If you adopted a foster child or you were a relative caregiver that adopted a child during 2007, there are tax credits available to you. For assistance in the preparation of your 2007 income tax return, please call Marsha Flaige, CPA, at (904) 880-5520. Mrs. Flaige is familiar with this tax credit and will make herself available to you.

SIGN UP FOR TRAININGS

Family Support Services of North Florida has arranged for First Aid; Infant, Child and Adult CPR, and Water Safety classes to be included in the required eight hours of in-service training for re-licensure and to be a part of Model Approach to Positive Parenting curriculum.

The same classes are also offered at the American Red Cross, Northeast Florida Chapter, 751 Riverside Ave. Call Judy Snyder at (904) 358-8091 Ext. 1824 for information.

FILL OUT THE SURVEY

Family Support Services of North Florida is preparing for accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA wants feedback from people receiving our services including individuals and families involved in the adoption process, and from community stakeholders.

You will be receiving a survey on the COA letterhead. Please take a few minutes to respond and return it as requested.

Your input is valued and FSS appreciates your willingness to participate in our accreditation process.

MEETINGS

The Northeast Florida Foster and Adoptive Parents Association meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Public Library on Edgewood Avenue.

The Greater Jacksonville Foster Parent Association meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at a location to be determined.

Post Adoption Parent Support Group Meetings Calendar

Children's Home Society of Florida

- January 17, 2008: Adoption Subsidy...The Whole Story
- February 29, 2008: Traditional vs. Adoption-specific Parenting
- March 25, 2008: Empowering the Parenting Support Group
- April 29, 2008: Attachment Disorder
- May, 2008 (TBA): Spring Cookout
- June 24, 2008: How To Have Fun With Your Child(ren)
- July 29, 2008: Adoption-specific School Issues

Meeting Times
6:30 pm—8:00 pm

Children's Home Society of Florida 3027 San Diego Rd.



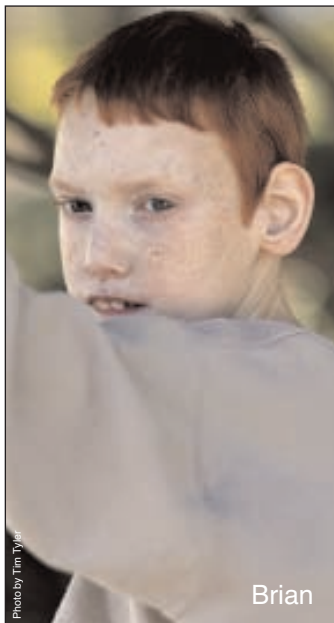


Photo by Tim Tyler

Brian

Brian is an exceptional 13-year old filled with a lot of life and potential. He enjoys playing outdoor sports such as football and baseball.

In the past two years, Brian has made great progress since getting the attention he needs for his cerebral palsy. Just like every other young teen his age though, what Brian needs most is a loving family to support and encourage his progress.

No matter who he meets, Brian will always greet them with his signature smile. He is friendly, affectionate, funny, and has an all-around great personality!

This special young man, who likes to listen to music, play video games and who loves to dance, needs a family that will understand and support his needs, but most of all, who will love him as part of their family. Brian is excited and eager to be part of a warm loving family that would include other children and pets!

Foster parents, teens get computer, cybersafety, training

Throughout the holiday season, Family Support Services (FSS) provided 113 computers to foster families and train them on Internet safeguards for children.

This year FSS will continue training foster parents and teens on cybersafety; and will be scheduling classes at Florida Community College at Jacksonville for parents to learn how to use computers, and for teens to learn how to prepare resumes, college applications and online job applications.

FSS is in the process of recruiting students for the next classes. If you do not have a computer in your home, need computer lessons, or have a 17-year-old foster child living in your home, please call Debbie Campbell, at FSS, (904) 521-5628, so she may gather information to determine your needs.



Children's Dental Month

February is National Children's Dental Month. In honor of the occasion, here are some tips on home dental care

for your children from

Here's Looking at Your Child's Smile:

INFANTS

- Wipe gums daily before teeth erupt
- Once teeth erupt, brush teeth before bed
- Wet toothbrush with water
- Infant toothpaste is fun but not needed
- Brush all tooth services – tongue, cheek and top sides
- No bottle or breast feeding after brushing
- Only water before bedtime
- Avoid juice bottles
- Supplement with fluoride if you have well water
- Visit the dentist before baby's first birthday

TODDLERS

- Visit the dentist every six months
- Supervise self-brushing
- Brush after your child

- No fluoridated toothpaste unless they can spit
- Flossing needed when teeth touch
- Avoid sodas
- Teach your child to use a cup
- Drink 100% juice with meals only
- Avoid sticky, chewy candy
- Limit snacks to 2-3 per day
- Watch for food stored in checks between meals
- Watch dietary factors at daycare or relative's house
- Wean children off pacifiers and fingers

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- Continue regular dental visits
- Have sealants placed on permanent molars
- Avoid sugary foods as rewards
- Be aware of dietary factors at school
- Talk to your children about food and cavities

TEENS

- Continue regular dental visits
- Brush twice daily—at least
- Avoid sodas
- Floss daily
- Eat nutritious snacks
- Avoid sticky, chewy candy