



Family Support Services OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.



Awards luncheon date set

The eighth annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19 at Evangel Temple, 5755 Ramona Blvd.

Children on the A-B Honor Roll, those with perfect attendance, good citizenship or improved academic performance during this school year should attend.

Children who don't qualify for an award

are also encouraged to attend.

To participate, please send a copy of the child's most recent report card to: Awards Luncheon NE Florida Foster/ Adoptive Parent Assn., 11766 Tumbleweed Way, Jacksonville, FL 32218

Also, please send in nominations for the 2008 Lillie Blackshear Scholarship Award, which is a \$75 award presented to a child who has turned adversity into positive academic progress.

Please respond by March 30 to (904) 751-9611 with the number of adults and children attending the luncheon.

Road trip to Tallahassee set

Family Support Services is again chartering buses to Children's Day/Family Advocacy in Tallahassee on April 1. Please call Dee Wilson, (904) 343-4026; Lillie Blackshear, (904) 502-7932, or Carlese Floyd, (904) 548-4850 ext. 3510 for details and to reserve your spot.

Departure time is 5:30 a.m. There are many activities planned for this event, in addition to a meet and greet with state legislators.

Free health clinic offered

The Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network

At the January Christmas party, hosted by the Young Lawyers Association, each child received a new bike and got the chance to meet South Paw (above).

(JASMYN), in partnership with the University of Florida Pediatrics, Shands Rainbow Center for Women and Children, and the Duval County Health Department, offers a free STD/HIV Health Clinic.

Clinic services and STD treatment are available at no cost to youth aged 13-23. The clinic is offered twice monthly. The next scheduled clinic dates are from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29; 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13; and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, March 28. For more information, call (904) 389-3857, ext. 208 or 203.

Free antibiotics at Publix

The following antibiotics are offered at no charge with a doctor's prescription by Publix pharmacies: Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, Sulfamethaxazole/ Trimethoprim (SMZ-TPM); Ciprofloxacin (excluding ciprofloxacin XR); Penicillin VK; Ampicillin; and Erythromycin (excluding Ery-Tab; and Doxycycline Hydrate (capsules only).

New partner in licensing

Daniel Memorial is now recruiting new foster homes in zip codes 32208, 32209 and 32210, through an agreement with Family Support Services. For more information, call Harry Williams at (904) 296-1055 ext. 2332.

Foster Parent meetings

The Northeast Florida Foster and Adoptive Parents Assn. will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 at the Northwest Branch Library, 1755 W. Edgewood Ave.

The Greater Jacksonville Foster and Adoptive Parents Assn. will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at St. Johns Presbyterian Church at 4275 Herschel St.

Friendly Reminder: As the warm weather quickly approaches, please remember that active supervision of our children is the key to outdoors safety around pools, vehicles, and outdoor equipment!



Left: Florida Department of Children and Families Regional Administrator Nancy Dreicer was in the Judge David Gooding's courtroom to celebrate 11 adoptions on Valentine's Day.

If you would like to submit a story idea, calendar item or ask Jim Adams, FSS CEO, a question, please email mary.hurst@fssnf.org.



Bullying Prevention Tip for Parents

The Prevent Child Abuse New York has published tips for Bullying Prevention.

If your child is bullying:

Know the warning signs. Children who bully may disrespect authority and people who are different from them, enjoy putting others down, disregard rules, need to have power over others, or joke about violent acts or enjoy violence.

Talk to your child and ask what they are trying to do; ask them how they think the other person feels, and ask what they could do differently next time. Make sure they know you love them—it's the bullying you don't like.

Focus on what you can do to help your child learn positive behavior. Make it clear that bullying is wrong. Set clear, nonviolent consequences for future incidents and discuss the situation with your child's teacher. Work with the school to help change your child's behavior.

If your child is being bullied:

A child who is being bullied may seem quiet or depressed; have bruises or other injuries; come home with missing or damaged belongings; and/or may lose interest or do poorly in school. Ask your child directly if he's being bullied.

- Be supportive, show concern and tell him the bullying is not his fault.
- Talk to the school about the situation.
- Figure out simple responses to the bully's taunts.
- Suggest that your child say "Okay, you're right," and walk away.
- Encourage him to stay away from the bully and leave valuables at home.
- Encourage activities and friendships with other kids.
- Encourage him to look assertive and confident by standing up straight, using a clear voice, and making eye contact.
- Tell your child to speak up so the bully knows he can't get by with the behavior.

All Things Behavioral...

Forming Attachments

Many children who come from neglectful or abusive homes have difficulties forming intimate, caring relationships. These children may lack affection or may be overly affectionate. They may also be bossy, demanding, clingy, manipulative, and even aggressive or destructive. A child who changes placements frequently misbehaves to avoid intimacy. Other children have learned from their abusive homes their problem behavior gains much attention.

Such behavior may occur for many reasons, but one result is that these children discourage caregivers from loving them. Each child's needs, of course, are different, but caregivers can do a few things to help children build relationships:

- Show you care through empathy, listening, and interest. Allow children to talk about frustrations. Do things that encourage the child to come to you for help and support.
- Teach children acceptable behaviors by praising their accomplishments, e.g., completing homework, following directions.
- Teach children to care for others by reinforcing caring behaviors, e.g., sharing toys, helping others with chores.
- Set limits and expectations and consistently enforce them.

The Behavior Analysis Services Program teaches caregivers to help children build relationships. To enroll in our free classes, please contact Family Support Services at (904) 421-5800 and ask for the Behavioral Analysis Program.

Got a question? Email davelee@ufl.edu

David E. Lee

MS BCBA, University of Florida, Behavior Analysis Services Program



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Reminder: Foster and adoptive parents can get help with 2007 IRS forms at various Florida Department of Children and Families locations around the county. For information, call (904) 723-2044.



Kaitlyn's Closet gets an infusion of beautiful children's dresses, casual clothes and tuxedos from a generous donation from Ewi White. For more information on how to get a nice Spring outfit for your foster child, call Vicki Register at (904) 562-7668.