

The Heart Gallery of Jacksonville, Family Support Services' portrait exhibit of adoptable children, will celebrate its second anniversary this month. Beautiful new portraits on display at the Modis Building downtown now thru Oct. 30.

Judge David Gooding is planning a big party – in time for adopted children to be Home for the Holidays. He's planning a super-sized adoption ceremony in his courtroom with a reception to follow.

A monthly publication for Foster Parents

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Family Support Services  
OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.  
SERVING DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES



Want to adopt?

See William, Kaleb and Joseph in the Heart Gallery online at [www.heartgalleryjax.org](http://www.heartgalleryjax.org)

Photo by Meg Pryor

## FOSTER NEWS IN BRIEF

Relative caregivers who adopt the children they've been caring for are eligible for Adoption Subsidy Medicaid and are signed up for it when the adoption takes place. Please do not apply for regular Medicaid at a Department of Children and Families service center. That will cancel out your child's Medicaid.

Additionally, relative caregivers who adopt cannot continue to use the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families' EBT card. After adoption, the adoption subsidy replaces the EBT card. If you try to collect both, the federal government considers that "double-dipping," with the potential consequence of jail time.

### Remember to give an allowance

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) wants to remind foster parents that part of the subsidy received for foster children includes an amount for an allowance, incidentals and clothing, to which the child is entitled.

For children five and under, the current monthly board rate is \$429, which includes a \$10 allowance, \$8 for incidentals and \$35 for clothing.

For children six to 12 years of age, the \$440 monthly board rate includes a \$10 allowance, \$9 for incidentals and \$36 for clothing.

Children 13 and older receive a \$515 monthly board rate which includes a \$12 allowance, \$11 for incidentals and \$43 for clothing.

When the child is initially placed, foster parents are given a clothing allowance of \$50 for children up to age 12 and a \$70 clothing allowance for children 13 and over.

Children also receive an annual school clothing allowance: \$200 per child up to age four and each child five and up receives \$300.

Florida regulations require that the allowance be given to the child in cash and it is not to be withheld as a form of discipline.

### Learn how to manage

Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS) has scheduled training at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday in October beginning Oct. 11 in the FSS Conference Room, 4057 Carmichael Ave., Suite 101 in Jacksonville. The topics taught are finance, education, employment, and housing and food management.

Classes are limited to 25 so registration is important. Contact Rick Testasecca at (904) 421-5875. The classes are designed for foster children aged 13 to 17 but are also open to those in Independent Living. Food will be provided.

### Be careful around the water

Because of a recent swimming pool tragedy at a group home in Northeast Florida, it's time to remind everyone of the state regulations regarding

children in foster care and water safety. There must always be adult supervision during any water activities. Each child needs to be classified by swimming ability. Use the buddy system and always carry a whistle, a First Aid kit and a ring buoy, life jacket or other flotation device.

When boating, everyone must wear a life jacket. The DCF Regional Licensure Department will be arranging Water Safety Training for all Child Caring agency staffs are Water Safety certified.

### Meeting updates

The Jacksonville Foster Parents Association meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8, at Hope Plaza (the former Social Security Office) off Clark Road on the Northside. Call Lillie Blackshear at (904) 294-1030 for information.

The Greater Jacksonville Area Foster Parents Association meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Jacksonville Boys Home on University Boulevard next to Jacksonville University. Call Dee Wilson at (904) 294-6032 for information.

## Jordan's happiness depends on family

Jordan's pretty blue eyes and freckles make this 16-year-old as sweet as home-made apple pie. Jordan gets along well with everyone she meets. She does her very best in school, she enjoys ROTC and going to church is very important to her. Jordan says she hopes to find a family who will cherish her and take care of her for the rest of her life. She says, knowing that she is loved is key to her happiness.

Call 421-5839 to inquire about adopting Jordan. For more adoptable children visit [www.heartgalleryjax.org](http://www.heartgalleryjax.org).



What foster parents need to know

# Kids 'N Care ensures quality health care

Kids 'N Care Health Center provides comprehensive, and quality primary care to children in foster care in Duval County.

All children entering foster care receive a comprehensive health assessment. They are evaluated by knowledgeable staff familiar with children's health issues including physical health, developmental, educational, and emotional/behavioral screening; vision, hearing, dental, and infectious disease exposure.

With access to Florida Shots, a statewide immunization database, the health care giver can determine the need for updated shots, and if referrals need to be made to the dentist or eye doctor, or if the child needs developmental or other specialty evaluations.

After the comprehensive health assessment, the center follows your foster child, offering well-child checkups, sick visits, evaluations and treatment of chronic health problems such as asthma and other chronic health problems. A child psychiatrist evaluates and treats children using Kids 'N Care for their primary care.

The center provides a personalized, friendly atmosphere through partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Family Support Services of North Florida, the Duval County Health Department, Children's Medical Services, and the University of Florida.

Call (904) 359-3842 for an appointment. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed most Wednesday afternoons for training.



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OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.

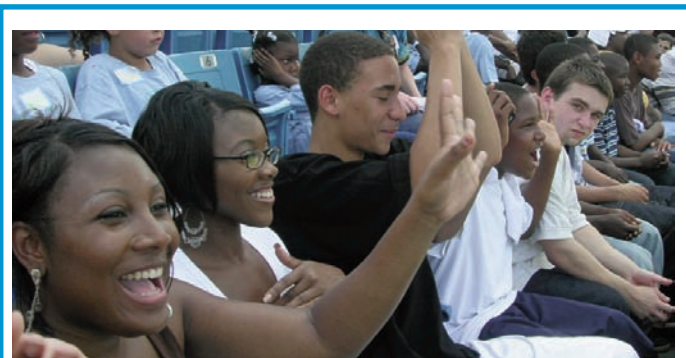
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## Mark your calendar

**The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Jacksonville Zoo, when the Zoo will be closed for all other visitors. Winn-Dixie has generously agreed to provide the food for the party.**

*September Foster picnic offers fun for all...*



Because of Peter Racine and the Jaguars' Foundation generosity, more than 30 foster children enjoyed lunch and the Jaguar's home opener against the Tennessee Titans Sunday, Sept. 8 at the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium.

