



Family Support Services

OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.

SERVING DUVAL AND NASSAU COUNTIES

Foster news

Adams awarded for foster care, adoption efforts



Jim Adams, Family Support Services' (FSS) chief executive officer, received an *Angel in Adoption* Award from the Congressional Council on Adoption Institute in Washington, D.C. in September.

Later this month he'll return to the nation's capital to receive the *Excellence in Adoption* award from the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services.

This comes on the heels of another honor—the *Fourth Judicial Circuit Award* from the Florida Department of Children and Families Dependency Summit in Orlando, in August.

Under Adams' leadership, in the past year, the judiciary, FSS and partner agencies finalized 576 adoptions in Duval and Nassau counties, a state record.

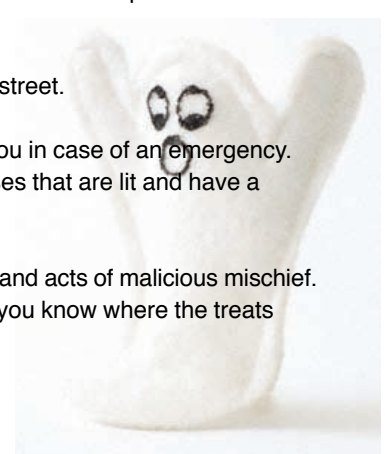
Children need flu vaccine

Certain groups of children are at risk of complications from the flu, including children under 6 months old, who cannot be vaccinated, thus everyone in the house needs to be. Children 6 months to 5 years should be vaccinated—especially if they have chronic health conditions like asthma or sickle cell anemia. Children up to age 9 receiving their first flu shot will need two shots, one about 28 days following the first one. Medicaid recipients can get free flu shots at the county health department and at Kids N Care.

Ensure your children's safety on Halloween

From *iVillage.com* comes some advice to keep your children safe while trick-or-treating on Halloween.

- ✓Establish ground rules for your older children before they go out, and know their route.
- ✓Costumes should be a light color or have reflective areas so they can be seen in the dark.
- ✓Costumes should be flame retardant, and not too long or baggy to prevent tripping.
- ✓Masks, wigs and hoods shouldn't obstruct your child's vision; do face makeup instead.
- ✓Let children carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
- ✓Don't let young children trick-or-treat alone.
- ✓Children should only walk, not run, on sidewalks—never on the street.
- ✓Welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch or exterior lights on.
- ✓Consider giving older children a cell phone to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.
- ✓They should stay in familiar neighborhoods, only approach houses that are lit and have a designated time to be home.
- ✓Check all candy before allowing children to eat it.
- ✓Patrol your street occasionally to discourage speeding motorists and acts of malicious mischief.
- ✓Don't give homemade or unwrapped treats to children—even if you know where the treats came from.



News Briefs

Mark your calendar

The annual Children's Holiday Party will be held for the second year from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. All relative care givers, adoptive parents and foster parents are invited to a party featuring entertainment, Santa, gifts and pizza. Plus, all the families can spend the remainder of the day touring the Zoo free!

Free cyber safety classes

If you would like to take a cyber safety course to keep your children safe online, please call Debbie Campbell, (904) 521-5628. A training session is being scheduled for late October.

Medicaid enhanced benefits notification

If your child is a Medicaid recipient and has WellCare, Healthsease or United Healthcare as HMOs, the Agency for Health Care Administration sends out periodic notices that the child has earned enhanced benefits, which are cumulative.

The credit allows you to purchase health-related items from pharmacies. You can buy cough syrup, band-aids, thermometers, bandages, etc. with the credit. Once the child is being taken care of by a relative, or adopted, the notification of benefits should be mailed to your address in the child's name.

Evening of Giving grants shoppers mall discounts and more

Get a head start on holiday shopping with food, fun and savings! Sunday, November 23 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Orange Park Mall will be reserved exclusively for shoppers purchasing a \$10 Simon Evening of Giving ticket from participating charities including the Family Nurturing Center of Florida. The event will feature exclusive store discounts throughout the mall, family entertainment, food sampling and more. The Family Nurturing Center of Florida receives \$7 per ticket sold, and the remaining \$3 benefits the Simon Youth Foundation. Tickets can be purchased at 1221 King St. or by calling (904) 389-4244 ext. 204 (credit cards accepted).



FSS Heart Gallery featured at historic St. Nicholas festival

International cuisine, art markets, entertainment, military events, kid's zone and the 2008 Heart Gallery photographic exhibit of adoptable children will be featured at the inaugural 2008 Family Art Fest and Salute to the Troops November 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This is a free public event to help support Duval County Public Schools' children's art programs and Community Hospice Veterans Partnership.

Artists and photographers, local restaurants, performances and musicians, art and antiques, "green" events and much more, will entertain an expected 8,000 attend the event in Midtown Center (located off Beach).

A Chinook helicopter and 27-ton AMTRAC will be on display along with the first Library of Congress American Folklife Center "Veteran's History Project" (a first-ever life stories audiotaping by American war veterans for historical preservation). Other activities include a 300-seat USO outdoor stage, a Sunday brunch with Mark Twain, film fest and 110-seat Jacksonville Art stage.

Event goers can also view the mobile portrait exhibit of the Heart Gallery featuring over 80 children hoping to find a forever family. Meet the local professional photographers who make the exhibit possible and see how they view things through a different perspective.

For more information, visit www.familyartfestsalutetothetroops.org.

Care giving involves managing youth behavior

Here are some basic concepts and definitions:

Behavior—everything a person does—thoughts, feelings, and actions that can be observed and measured. Behaviors result from the person's experiences (immediate and past). Especially important are the things that happen right after a behavior—the consequences. Being specific about the behavior leads to better communication with the child, makes it easier to observe and reduces inconsistencies.

Consequences can increase or decrease future behavior. There are also consequences that have no effect on behavior. Reinforcement is a positive consequence that increases the chance that a particular behavior will occur again.

Examples of reinforcing consequences:

- You put money in a coke machine (behavior), and you get a coke (consequence).
- You flip the switch on your computer (behavior), and the computer turns on (consequence).
- You tell a joke (behavior) and your friends laugh (consequence).
- A child is crying (behavior) in the grocery store, and you buy the child a candy bar (consequence).

Consequences that decrease chances of future behavior:

1. Social interaction
2. Verbal praise
3. Appropriate touch
4. Tangible items
5. Appropriate privileges
6. Breaks from tasks or work

- You touch a hot stove (behavior) and you burn your hand (consequence).
- You speed through a red light (behavior), the police catch and ticket you (consequence).

Types of Reinforcing Consequences

Use reinforcing consequences after you see an appropriate behavior happen that you want to see more of.

Part 1 of 2—Source: Essential Tools for Positive Behavior Change. Shadianna Singh-Vinson, FSS Crisis Specialist

