If you want to see Jacob, 13, in his element, surround him with a bucketful of legos. In no time you’ll have an intricate and wholly creative structure and a big smile on Jacob’s face. He loves to build and sort out problems, and he’s fascinated by the inner workings of all things electronic. Jacob has a very thoughtful and considerate nature, and so while he may not want to be the center of attention, he has a quiet charisma that bonds others to him. His favorite subject in school is science, and though he’s uncertain about what exactly he wants to do when he grows up, he knows it will have something to do with computers.

Jacob is an amazing young man who, in spite of past disappointments, has kept his positive and open heart. The best home for him would be with an experienced and patient two-parent family, local to the area and willing to help Jacob keep in touch with his biological siblings.

To learn more about Jacob, visit the Children’s Board Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay. http://www.heartgallerytampabay.org/single-children/jacob/
Hello HCFPA Families,

After a cold winter the first signs of spring are upon us. Please enjoy this beautiful time of year by taking the children outside to enjoy the beauty of the Florida outdoors.

I would like to welcome new members to the HCFPA family. Our membership consists of foster and adoptive parents, relative and non-relative caregivers. HCFPA offers members support, great trainings, the clothing closet, food pantry, fun free events, a monthly respite (baby sitting), advocacy, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Home Depot and other wonderful items for your family.

I would like to thank the HCFPA board for all they do for our membership. HCFPA is run by an all volunteer board of foster and adoptive parents who donate time and energy to make HCFPA a great Alliance. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact a board member.

I hope to see you March 7 at our monthly Membership Meeting. We aim to keep you informed regarding the many changes in the System of Care.

God Bless,

Kimberly Hernandez
Hillsborough County Family Partnership Alliance, President

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**HCFPA Membership Meetings**

**Upcoming Membership Meetings:**

- Saturday, March 7, 2015
- Saturday, April 4, 2015

Meetings start at 10:00 a.m.

**Location:**

The Family Place
9391 N. Florida Ave.
Tampa, FL 33612

**Childcare Fee:** Members wanting childcare during the HCFPA monthly meeting will be charged a $2.00 per child fee to improve the quality of the programs offered to our children. HCFPA will purchase gaming systems, games, DVDs, arts & crafts, projects, toys, snacks, supplies and more. This will also ensure that those who RSVP will show up for childcare.

**Applications:** HCFPA Membership applications are available online at HCFPA.org. Applications also available before every monthly meeting and during the Clothing Closet operation hours.

_We want every Foster and Adoptive Parent; Relative and Non-Relative to receive the many benefits and supports of HCFPA. Ask about scholarships if needed._

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**Thank You to the Straz Center**

HCFPA thanks the Straz Center for the Performing Arts for their generous donation of Mummenschanz tickets for our members.

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**HCFPA Spring Fling Event**

HCFPA will once again be offering our Spring Fling event to the membership on March 28, 2015.

There will be:
- Delicious food
- Horseback riding
- Bouncy houses
- Face painting
- Games
- Easter Egg Hunt
- And much more

Please RSVP on the HCFPA website at [HCFPA.org](http://HCFPA.org). There will be a $20 refundable deposit required to hold your spot and returned-once you have attended the event.
HCFPA Family Clothing Closet

HCFPA’s Family Clothing Closet serves infants, children, teens and adults. We thank Eckerd Community Alternatives for their partnership in the closet. Please help us support this wonderful resource by donating your gently used or new clothing and shoes. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathryn Melendez.

HCFPA Respite Program

HCFPA will be offering respite on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at The Family Place. In March, we will be having a Marching to the Beat theme. An RSVP and a $2.00 charge per child are required and can be made at HCFPA.org beginning March 7 after 12:00 p.m. Space is limited and RSVP’s will be honored first come, first served.

HCFPA Food Pantry

HCFPA and community members can receive HCFPA Food Pantry donations once per month after they self-attest they have a need for food. Volunteers are welcome on the 1st Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help prepare the food distribution. This institution is an equal opportunity program.

Foster Parent Mentor Program

Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) recognizes that newly licensed foster parents can benefit from hands-on training and support. Foster parent mentors provide guidance and support to newly licensed foster parents, including contact upon placement of new children. With their guidance, new and existing foster parents learn how to access services and resources as well as address issues ranging from coordinating and communicating with case workers to managing children with challenging behaviors.

If you are interested in being assigned a foster parent mentor, contact Jessica McLemore at 813-225-1105 ext 1197 or via email at jmclemore@eckerdcbc-c13.org.
Training & Resource Corner

Q: If I am a foster parent and I need help with an issue, what should I do?
A: You should speak to your case worker or licensing agency and work your way up the chain of command to get the issue resolved. If you are unable to receive a response from the case manager, contact the case manager supervisor, and the CMO Director.

Below are contact numbers for the Case Management Organizations:

YFA and Camelot
West Care Center
5463 W. Waters Ave.
Suite 850
Tampa, FL 33634
Phone: 813-901-3400

Gulf Coast Care Center
205 W. Busch Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
Phone: 813-930-7114
Fax: 813-930-7119

Devereux Case Management
11602 N. 51st Street
Tampa, FL 33617
813-471-0747

One Home United and Children’s Home Society
East Care Center
4520 Oak Fair Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33610
Phone: 471-0006
Fax: 813-471-0007

In addition, you can contact Eckerd Community Alternative Client Relations Specialist
813-225-1105 ext 1270 or Director of Licensing
813-225-1105 ext 1197.

Suggested Reading Resources for Parents and Professionals

Creating Sanctuary: Sandra Bloom
Neurosequential Healing: Bruce Perry
The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog: Bruce Perry
The Primal Wound: Nancy Verrier
The Out of Sync Child: Carol Kranowitz
Attachment, Trauma and Healing: Levy/Orleans
Parenting from the Inside Out: Dan Siegel
Peace, Love and Healing: Bernie Siegel

Foster Parent Anniversaries

Vertyle Moss 24
Kimberly Hernandez 14
Barbara & Donald Wade 14
Jane Worthen 12
Patricia & Whirley Metheney 9
Amanda & Monty Gary 8
Emily & Wesley Binder 7
Katherine & Jed Kirby 6
Teresa & Russell Jefferson 5

Licensed in February 2015

Tiffany & Christopher Jost 4Kids
Tara Richardson CCC
Bethany Hutto & Kevin Morton CCC
Melissa Servetz CHI
Judy & Scott Baer CHI
Trena Garcia FEC
Andella & Carl Scott FUMCH

Celebrating Foster Parent Milestones!

QPI Just in Time Training Offers foster parents training hours for re-licensing requirements http://jitfl.cbc.usf.edu/pages/training.html

Recently added videos:
- An Overview of the Medical and Psychological Aspects of Diabetes in Youth
- Life Skills Training for Caregivers and Youth: Understanding Your Credit
- Introduction to IDEA Disability Categories
- Help for the Hurting
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Teens & Relationship Abuse
- Screen Sense: Research-Based Guidelines for Screen Use for Children Under Three Years Old
- Epilepsy and Seizures Overview
- Medicaid Services: What Foster Parents Need to Know
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and our Foster Youth

To include foster parent stories and information in a future newsletter, forward to: jmclemore@eckerdcbc-c13.org 813-225-1105 ext 1197.