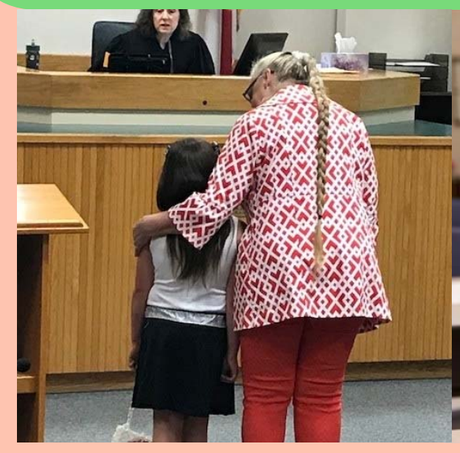
Devereux Community Based Care
of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast

2017 ANNUAL REPORT: the bold strokes

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Devereux Community Based Care of Okeechobee & the Treasure Coast is the Lead Agency for child-welfare services in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. We are responsible for the permanency, safety and well-being of every known abused, neglected and abandoned child in the four-county area and for a a system of care that includes programs and services delivered by a network of more than 20 local child-welfare and mental health providers. It's a mighty undertaking that requires determination, dedication and, above all, boldness—boldness to be creative, to try harder and to do more. This annual report is a reflection of the bold strokes made in 2017 to improve the lives of children and families in our care.

Our mission is to enhance the safety, permanency and well-being for all children in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast through a community network of family support services



DEAR FRIENDS,

Another year has drawn to a close. We celebrated our fourth birthday as the lead agency for child welfare in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast on November 1, and I am happy to report that we are continuing upward trends in performance and financial viability that began last year. The two are equally important. In fact, financial security allows us to spend more money on critical services, which often saves more money in the future. For example, we were very successful this year in moving children—especially teens — out of residential facilities and into foster homes. We know that a family setting is often the best place for a child, and the savings we experienced in optimizing our use of foster homes allowed us to expand and improve services in other parts of the system—a system that experienced a large increase in children needing services due to our state's current opioid crisis.

Other areas of investment that are proving beneficial for children and families include the expansion of safety management services. These services allow us to safely serve children in their own homes, avoiding the trauma of removal and lessening our system's dependence on licensed foster care altogether.

We also are increasing our engagement in the community with the addition of a newly created outreach & activities committee, new staff to help identify and stay ahead of changing trends in child-welfare and the addition of several community Board members. Of course, work remains to be done. But with our strong partnerships, steady improvements and financial stability, we face the new year with confidence.

Carol Deloach

Chief Executive Officer

FOSTER A DREAM

The Kathryn A. Basile Foster a Dream Foundation awarded Devereux CBC $10,000 this year, continuing a commitment to teens and young adults in foster care that began in 2010.

The foundation was created in memory of local child advocate Kathryn A. Basile. Since then, Foster a Dream has contributed more than $55,000 and helped nearly 100 teenagers and young adults in foster care by paying for high-school graduation expenses and other costs associated with making the transition into independence.

The award becomes more critical each year, as more youth in foster care graduate high school and pursue a college path.

In fact, the number of students in foster care who graduated high school or received a GED this year increased by 70 percent from the year before, which was itself a 43 percent increase over the 2014-2015 school year.

Foster a Dream Board President Steve Basile, center, in November presented a $10,000 check to Road to Success supervisor Chris Martinez and Clinical Director Josie Kirchner. The Road to Success program helps prepare teens and youth for life outside foster care.

DEAR FRIENDS,

As the incoming chairman of the Devereux CBC Board of Directors, I am privileged to share with you some highlights from fiscal 2017 and some new ventures for the upcoming year.

Best news first: Our community experienced an increase in adoptions for the second year in a row. And although we ended the year with fewer foster homes than the year before, our foster parents said yes to more placement requests, resulting in more kids in foster homes and fewer in group homes.

The year also saw the first visitors to Sanctuary4Kids, which opened in April. The shelter was built by Guardians for New Futures, a local nonprofit group that raises money to meet the unfunded needs of children in foster care, and provides a warm and caring environment for children awaiting placement. Hibiscus Children's Center now operates the facility, which has proven a valuable resource for case managers.

Case managers also experienced another drop in their caseloads this year, which has had a positive impact on case-manager retention and service continuity for children and their caregivers.

Looking forward into 2018, we will engage in more extensive community outreach, expand in-home services and serve more children in their own homes.

Finally, I want to bid a fond farewell to outgoing Board chair, Steven Murphy. Steve, who retired from Devereux Florida earlier in the year, was a driving force behind the creation of Devereux CBC. Along with Chief Executive Officer Carol DeLoach and her phenomenal team, Steve was instrumental in establishing and improving services for youth in our care. All of us who are connected with Devereux CBC thank Steve for his leadership. He will be missed, but the foundation he helped lay is strong!

Russell Hamilton

Incoming President, Devereux CBC Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Steve Murphy
Executive Director—Devereux Florida

VICE CHAIRMAN—and 2018 Incoming Board Chairman
Russell Hamilton
Attorney

TREASURER
Robert Dunne
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer—Devereux Foundation

Doris Plym
Guardian ad Litem

Dr. Donna Mills
St. Lucie County School Board Member

Kathryn Hensley
St. Lucie County School Board Member

Elizabeth Keer
Human Resources Director—Devereux Foundation

Lisa Kroger
Regional Administrator Devereux Florida

Pat McCoy
Okeechobee County School District

Leah Yaw
Senior Vice President for External Affairs Devereux Foundation

Stephen Yerdon
Executive Director — Devereux Massachusetts

Michelle Llorens
Campus Administrator—Devereux Viera Florida

Donna Follmer
Attorney

LEADERSHIP

Carol Deloach
Chief Executive Officer

Cheri Sheffer
Chief Operating Officer

Kelly Messer
Director of Finance Devereux Florida

Denise Waninger
Martin County Director/ Licensing Director

Lorene Egan
St. Lucie County Director

Caryn Toole
Indian River County Director

Rusty Kline
Director of Quality & Data Management

Andi Poli
Director of Contract Management

Nicola Smith
Director of Organizational Development & Learning

Josie Kirchner
Director of Clinical Services

Christina Kaiser
Director of Community Relations

Phil Putnam
Legal Advisor Devereux Florida

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Case management

- Reduced number of children served out of circuit by 42%
- Achieved case manager retention above state average
- Reduced caseloads from 1:15 to 1:13

Foster Care & Adoptions

- Optimized use of foster homes and reduced placements into group care despite increase of children entering care
- Led the state in rate of children discharged from out-of-home care, including reunification and adoptions
- Raised graduation rate of high-school seniors by 70%
- Exceeded adoption goal by 10%
- Implemented a post-adoption support program, successfully contacting and engaging 128 families

Programs & Clinical Services

- Expanded behavioral health services in response to emotional and mental health needs of children in care
- Added safety services that kept more children safely in their homes and out of licensed care

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Nancy Askew plays with two of the foster children in her Martin County home. The Askew Family demonstrated the best of co-parenting immediately following Hurricane Irma, when they invited a mother and her four children to stay with them until the power in their own home was restored. One of those children had lived with the Askews for more than a year while her mother struggled with and then beat an alcohol addiction.

Administration & Community Outreach

- Facilitated pre-service training for 41 new staff members and provided training opportunities for 441 existing child-welfare staff on topics including domestic violence, substance abuse and trauma-informed care
- Established a quarterly community-based, interagency review of performance measures to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children in care
- Created a staff-led Outreach and Activities Committee to drive employee-retention efforts and raise community awareness for issues impacting children
- Received the Department of Children and Families' 2017 Child Welfare Excellence Award for finding permanent homes for hard-to-place children through the Circuit 19 Permanency Roundtable
- CEO Carol Deloach named incoming chair to the Florida Coalition for Children Foundation
- Increased traffic to website and social media reach by 300 percent and used expanded audience to begin online recruitment efforts

ADOPTION SUCCESS

A total of 146 local children were adopted from July 2016 through June 2017 —a 10 percent increase over expectations. This continues a trend started during the previous year, when the adoption goal was exceeded by 40 percent.

These increases are the result of streamlined adoption processes, inter-agency cooperation and the talent and dedication of the local Children's Home Society, with whom Devereux CBC contracts for adoption services.

The 2016-2017 year also saw the expansion of post-adoption services. These services connect families who have adopted from foster care to resources specifically designed to address the unique needs of their families. Whether the challenges faced are immediate, or many years following an adoption, these services are here to help keep families together and prevent children from re-entering the system.

For 272 days I've shared their love and home, but as of today, I also share their last name. I have been adopted— We congratulate the Lawson's for becoming one a Forever Family last year. By November of 2017, only 44 children available for adoption did not yet have an identified placement. This was an incredible achievement for our adoptions provider, Children's Home Society.

2017 EXPENSES

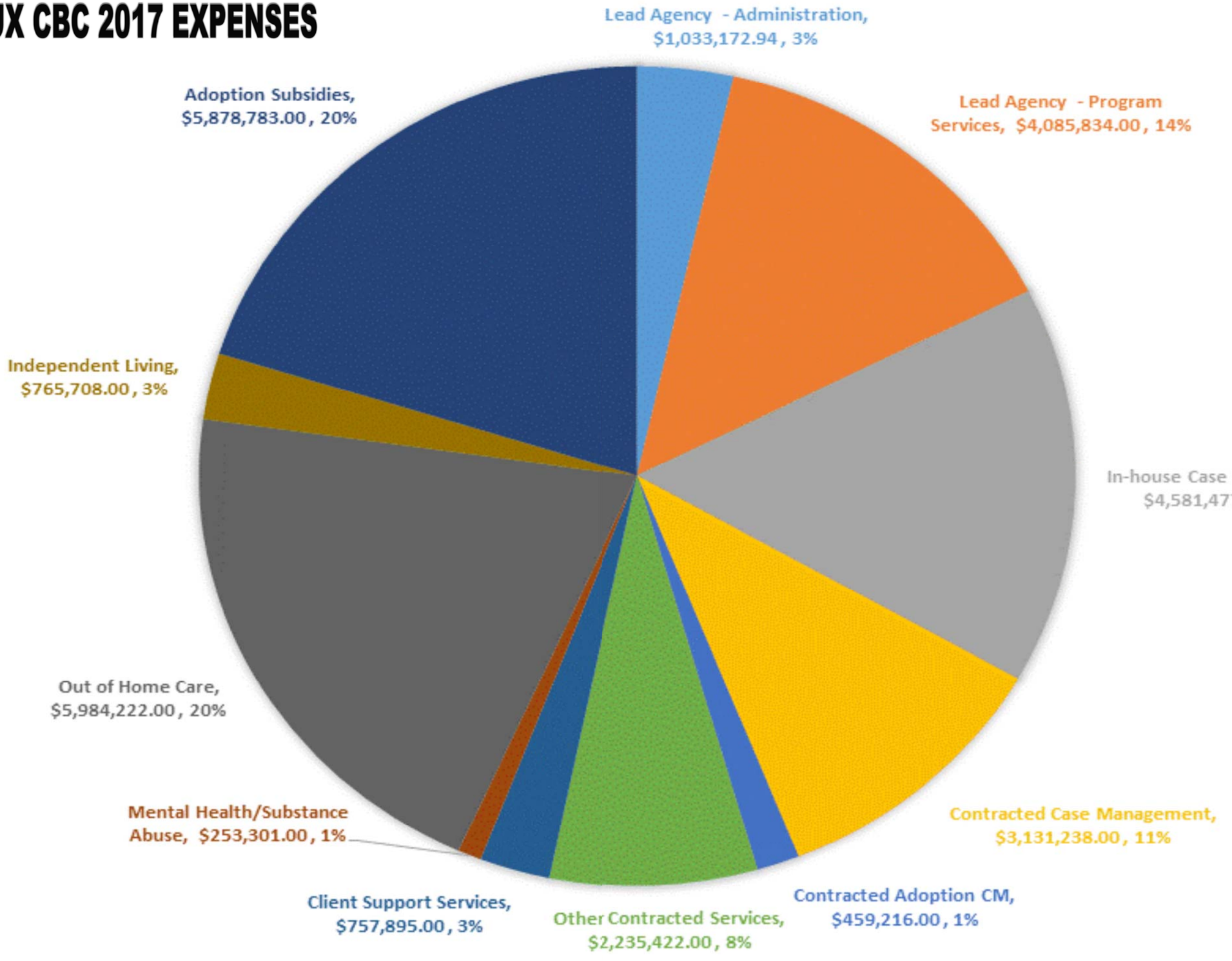
This table and the pie chart on the next spread of pages represent income and expenses for FY17, which ran from July 2016 through June 2017.

INCOME	
DCF	**$29,166,269**
EXPENSES	
Administration	$1,033,173
Program Services	$4,085,834
In-house Case Management	$4,581,477
Contracted Case Management	$3,131,238
Adoptions	$459,216
Other Contracted Services	$2,235,422
Client Support	$757,895
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	$253,301
Out of Home Care	$5,984,222
Independent Living	$765,708
Adoption Subsidies	$5,878,783
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$29,166,269**

Through careful and prudent financial oversight, we continue to operate within our financial resources —

Kelly Messer, Director of Finance

DEVEREUX CBC 2017 EXPENSES



PROGRAMS & INNOVATIONS

Caregiver Support
This program offers financial support to the caregivers of children who have been removed from their homes.

Family Group Conferencing
This is a family-centered practice that empowers families, through their identified strengths and community support, to facilitate decision-making and planning for the safety, care and protection of their children.

Permanency Roundtable
The roundtable process was developed to increase permanency among youth in foster care through reunification, adoption or permanent guardianship. It is a structured meeting intended to establish permanent connections for youth by involving a team of experts who brainstorm current barriers to permanency and develop a specific action plan to achieve it.

Girls in foster care were invited to a special Support the Girls luncheon hosted in the spring by the Junior League of Martin County. Girls attending the event were treated to lunch and manicures and “shopped” for new bras.

PROGRAMS & INNOVATIONS

Foster Parent Mentor

Through this program, veteran foster parents serve as support coaches to newer caregivers and work with staff to ensure all foster parents receive the help and resources needed to provide the highest level of care to children.

Extended Foster Care

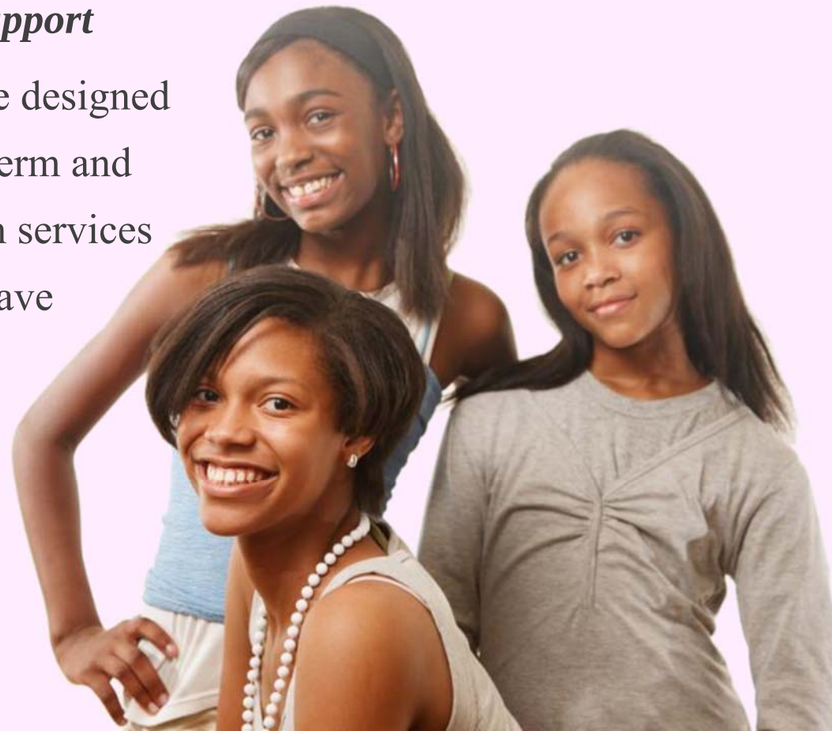
This program, managed in-house by Devereux CBC, allows youth to remain in foster care beyond age 18. You may choose to enter extended care, decline care but opt for educational services or leave care, entirely.

Intensive In-Home Intervention

These services provide immediate safety management services to prevent out-of-home placement. Intensive services are provided during 4-5 home visits per week to keep the family together. This year, the program served 151 families who were at imminent risk of having their children removed.

Post Adoption Support

These services are designed to provide long-term and crisis stabilization services to families who have adopted children from foster care and who are experiencing challenges.



ONE SCHOOL, ONE CHILD

One School One Child, a foster-parent recruitment campaign aimed at teachers and other members of the school community, officially rolled out May 16 at Jensen Beach High School. The campaign uses teachers and school administrators already licensed as foster parents to help recruit new caregivers from among their peers.

It's the latest step in an ongoing effort to expand our community of local foster homes.
Devereux CBC hopes the project eventually will yield at least one new foster parent from each school.
That’s about 100 new foster homes in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

Devereux Community Based Care serves nearly 1,000 children and their families.
Of that number, about 250 live in foster homes or in residential group care.
There are currently 159 foster homes in the four-county area —not enough to accommodate the number of children coming into care.

THANK YOU!

Devereux CBC gratefully acknowledges the generous supporters who made a contribution between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

$10,000-$5,000

Foster a Dream Foundation

$4,999-$1,000

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks

Camelot Community Care

Florida Community Bank

$999-$500

Trinity Freewill Baptist Ladies' Circle

Less than $500

Place of Hope

4Kids of the Treasure Coast

Albert Wilson Foundation

Clerk of the St. Lucie County Clerk

Milford Loebsack

In kind—$20,000-$10,000

Guardians for New Futures

United Way of St. Lucie County

Ashley Minton Law

Guardians for New Futures

Hometown News

In kind—$9,999-$5,000

Hair Cuttery

Martin Health System

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Albert Wilson Foundation

Berry Fresh Café

In kind—$4,999-$2,500

Lil' Feet

Spare Makers Bowling Team

HOSA of Port St. Lucie Centennial High School

Tami Karol Insurance

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

Lil' Feet

Spare Makers Bowling Team

HOSA of Port St. Lucie Centennial High School

Treasure Coast Builders Association

Tropicana

In kind—$2,499-$1,000

The Imagine School

La Buona Vita

Junior League of Martin County

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

St. Lucie County School District

Zeta Phi Beta

JROTC—Port St. Lucie High School

Lakes of Tradition

Old Navy—Tradition Location

Retired Educators of St. Lucie County

Solei Salon

7th Day Adventist Church

OUR PROVIDERS

In kind—
$2,499-$1,000

Olive Garden—Tradition Location

Florida Community Bank

La Buona Vita

St. Lucie Gardens

Port St. Lucie Presbyterian Church

Sungrove Montessori

In kind—
Less than $1,000

Clark Advanced Learning Center

Harbor Insurance Agency

Jody Boyer

Amy Collins

Lenco Marine

The Grove Church

Kendall LeJuene

Knights of Columbus

One Simple Wish

4Kids of South Florida

ADAP Counseling Services

Behavior Basics

Brighter Futures Inc.

Camelot Community Care

CASTLE

Changing Tree Wellness Center

Children's Home Society of Florida

Counseling and Recovery Center

Father Flanagan's Boys Town

Hibiscus Children's Center

LabCorp

Mount Bethel Human Services

New Horizons of the Treasure Coast

Place of Hope

Real Life Children's Ranch

Shanlis Counseling & Assessment

Suncoast Mental Health Center

Translations USA

Tykes & Teens

Vision Quest

Devereux Community Based Care
of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast

Devereux Community Based Care is united in its vision to eliminate abuse, neglect and abandonment in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast so that all children grow to their full potential.

It is the policy of Devereux CBC to practice non-discrimination in services. All activities—with regard to referrals, admissions, placement of individuals and provision of services — shall be conducted without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, sex and sexual preference.

For more information about our system of care, please call (772) 873-7800 or visit www.devereuxcbc.org or www.dcbckids.org