

Connections - June 21, 2023



CCKids' new location is 549 NW Lake Whitney Place, Ste. 204, Port St. Lucie.

## CCKids Improves Efficiency, Moves to Smaller Location in Port St. Lucie

**Port St. Lucie** – Communities Connected for Kids relocated this month to a smaller, more efficient location in St. Lucie West, at 549 NW Lake Whitney Place.

The move is a response to changing patterns in the workplace that sees more and more employees working remotely as well as a challenging financial outlook for CCKids.

"Our staff was working a hybrid work schedule, leaving much of our office space on Fountainview Boulevard vacant," said Christina Kaiser, community

relations director for CCKids, the organization that oversees the local child-welfare community in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

At the same time, the nonprofit organization was learning that discrepancies in the state's funding distribution model would leave CCKids in a budget deficit in coming years.

"Those funding issues are being worked out, but we thought it was prudent to do anything possible to decrease our expenses," Kaiser said. "The move to smaller space just made sense."

CCKids' outreach department has moved to Martin County, but donations can still be dropped off at the new St. Lucie West location. Other arrangements can be made directly through the outreach department by calling (772) 284-0126.

## Inside the Mission: Meet One of Our Reunification Champions



April West is a case manager for Communities Connected for Kids' system of care. She has this to say about about reunification, which we are celebrating all monthlong:

Reunification is important to me because it is who and what we represent as a department. It shows our ability and our willingness to bring families together through whatever they are

facing, and their time of need. Reunification is also important to me because it shows families that we are putting in the same work and that we are for the same goal.

The process to reunification feels amazing especially when you witness the families coming together again. They did the work and learned the skills to better address the obstacles they were facing. It all worked out and it's behind them, and they can move forward successfully. It makes me feel better about why we do what we do for the families. It's always the end goal we want.

April has this bit of advice for moms and dads going through the reunification

process:

Work your case plan, make a check list, stay connected with your case manager and get your task completed and show your behavior change.

You will get through this.



## First Tee Offers Free Event to Okeechobee/Treasure Coast Kids

<u>First Tee</u> uses the game of golf to teach life and social skills to 3.6 million children every year.

This summer, children in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast will be counted among those numbers.

First Tee Treasure Coast will offer a morning of golf and fun beginning at 9 a.m., July 29, at Westside Campus of the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County.

The event is open to all children, but CCKids is particularly excited to make the program available to children in foster care. Children of all ages and all skill levels are welcome. Click <a href="here">here</a> to register today!

## Other Events This Month

June is the beginning of summer fun! Below are just a couple of upcoming events designed with kids in mind. Both are happening this weekend. Follow us on <u>Facebook</u> for more events throughout the summer.





Communities Connected for Kids | 1860 SW Fountainview Blvd., Ste. 200, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

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