



Communities Connected *for Kids*

Connections - July 20, 2023



CCKids joined other community-based-care organizations and child-welfare agencies this week for the Florida Coalition for Children's 2023 annual conference. The event brings together professionals to network and share best practices. From left in this picture are Heartland for Children CEO Kim Dougherty, Heartland Community Relations Director Tracy Gray and Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Communities Connected for Kids. Heartland for Children is a community-based-care organization like CCKids. It serves Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties.

Community Sends Kids Back to School with a Little More Supplies, a Lot More Dignity

Port St. Lucie – Close your eyes, and imagine that first day of Kindergarten. You probably have new shoes on your feet, a new outfit; maybe newly trimmed bangs. You have a bag lunch in your hands or change in your pocket.

And you can smell the graphite and wood shavings from your brand new, never-before-used, No. 2 pencil.

It's a visceral memory tied and twisted deeply into childhood - something Communities Connected for Kids wants for its children in care this school year.

And businesses, church and social groups throughout Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast are making sure they get it.

"It's seems like a small thing, but if it was really so small it wouldn't be such a universal memory," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for CCKids, which oversees the child-welfare community in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. "And being the only kid without new supplies can really do a number on child's dignity and sense of self worth."

CCKids is one of many organizations coordinating school-supplies drives this summer and working with other agencies to make sure no child is left holding an empty bag.

The United Way of St. Lucie County, for example, continues to support those efforts in the broader community by making new supplies available to teachers and classrooms and also by carving out some of what it collects for children in foster care.

But it doesn't stop there. From Okeechobee, to Sebastian and Fellsmere, down to Stuart, there are many back-to-school expos happening this year where families can get the supplies they need:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY – Resources are available in the community, beginning with an expo at the Finn Center THIS SATURDAY. Christian FM will also host an expo at Port St. Lucie's Mid Florida Event Center August 5.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY – Our Village will host a Back to School Resource Fair on July 29. All families with proof of Okeechobee residency who attend this fair will receive backpacks and supplies.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY has several resource events this year, including a DRIVE THROUGH event on August 3 in Fellsmere. For 25 years, Gifford Youth Achievement Center has hosted a supplies give-away the first week of August. We haven't received any information yet, but there is no reason to think this resource won't be available again this year.

MARTIN COUNTY will host a Back to School Expo for all Martin County School District students the morning of July 29 while supplies last. A pancake breakfast also is planned.

15th ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL EXPO

SATURDAY
JULY 22, 2023
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
HAVERT L. FENN CENTER

FREE ON-SITE SERVICES:
SCHOOL PHYSICALS
SPORTS PHYSICALS *\$150 VALUE
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS
FL KIDCARE HEALTH INSURANCE APPLICATIONS
IMMUNIZATION APPOINTMENTS
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS
FINGER PRINTING SERVICES
BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES*

*Available to first 600 students

BACK TO SCHOOL EXPO

Education, Games, School Supplies and Clothing

Presented By
OUR VILLAGE OKEECHOBEE

More Info: 863-447-0473

FREE Event

July 29th, 2023
SATURDAY
8am to 12pm

2800 US-441, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Okeechobee High School

For information on being a sponsor or vendor at this event, Email us at prevention@ourvillageokeechobee.org or call (863) 447-0473

F.A.C.T.'S
Fellsmere Action Community Team

8th Annual Event

Back to School Drive-Thru Event

8th Annual Event

August 3, 2023

Location: Fellsmere League Park (Across City Hall)

Time: 5pm to 7pm
*While Supplies Last
K-5th grade
Child must be present

Questions- Email Sandra: szavolo@fisc.edu

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Open to all Martin County School District Students

Backpacks, school supply giveaway, visit with School Leaders and local Non-Profit organizations to help get your child ready for the school year!

July 29 | 9:00am-12:00pm

Pancake Breakfast

Stuart Middle School Gym
575 SE Georgia Ave, Stuart, FL 34994

For More Information, Contact Jessica Tharp with the COS Recreation Division at 772-288-5389

Please note that District's approval is for content only, it does not constitute or imply approval and/or endorsement of this event by the school district

5TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY EXPO

CHRISTIAN FM

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

First 200 families in line get a backpack filled with free supplies & tickets to local attractions. ONE PER FAMILY!

Video game competitions!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th, 2023
10am - 2pm

MidFlorida Event Center

GRAND PRIZE!
\$500 Visa gift card! Families register to win.

FREE EVENT! MORE INFO:
CHRISTIANFM.COM/BACKTOSCHOOL

SPONSORED BY:
UPONTOP
VULCAN ACADEMY

SPONSORED IN PART BY:
FLORIDA SECURITY
CRAIG GOLDENFARB, P.A.
VIDEO GAME
SALUDIC BATTERY & TIRE
Coastal Dreams
urbanAir
Florida Oceanographic Society
The Children's Museum
MIDFLORIDA EVENT CENTER

Inside the Mission: Meet One of Our Reunification Champions

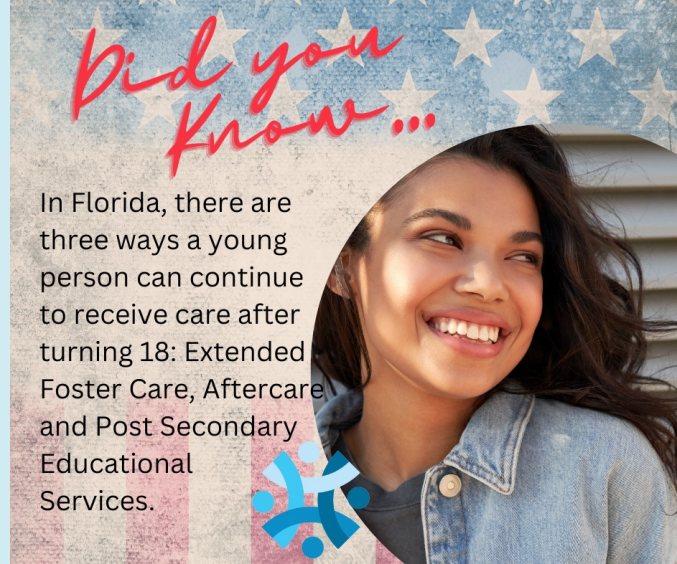
We're celebrating independence this month!

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) this month as we show you how Florida and CCKid's community of care work together to help young people in foster care achieve true independence.

Not too long ago, helping kids

transition out of foster care meant teaching them how to apply for food stamps and public housing. Now it means preparing them for college, good-paying jobs and the kind of future we want for all young people.

Florida's Independent Living Program was created to help young people in foster transition into adulthood. The program has helped increase high school graduation rates, and number of kids pursuing college degrees. Through the program there are three ways a young person can continue to receive care after turning 18: Extended Foster Care, Aftercare and Post-Secondary Educational Services. Each are covered in our monthlong social-media campaign.



In Florida, there are three ways a young person can continue to receive care after turning 18: Extended Foster Care, Aftercare and Post Secondary Educational Services.

Registration Ends Soon; Register Kids in Care Today

Calling all adoptive caregivers, foster caregivers, and kinship caregivers! This event is for all children in your home, including biological children.

First Tee Treasure Coast will provide 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.

No personal clubs or supplies are necessary - First Tee will provide everything for this event. Click [here](#) to register today!

Please note that this special event is for children in CCKids' child-welfare community of care, only. For information about the First Tee and community events, visit the organization's website at [FirstTeeTreasureCoast](#).



first tee
treasure coast



Communities
Connected
for Kids

COME JOIN US

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County
at Westside Church

3361 S Jenkins Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34981

For kids in CCKids'
system of care.

July 29th at 9 AM



A morning of golf and
fun!

- All Ages
- All Skill Levels
- Boys & Girls

To Register:



SCAN ME



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

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