



Communities Connected *for Kids*

Connections - Sept. 6, 2023



Members of the It's My Very Own team of Midport Church gather to donate their latest batch of comfort bags for children in care. The group was recognized earlier this year as CCKids' Volunteer Group of the Year. The group donates the handmade and fully filled bags every month, contributing more than 120 bags throughout the year.

School's Back in Session, and that Means One Thing: Christmas!

Port St. Lucie – Communities Connected for Kids is looking for sponsors for this year's holiday collection, a joint project of the local foster-care community and Guardians for New Futures.

Guardians for New Futures is a nonprofit organization that helps meet the unfunded



come to you!

For more information, email Jordan.bebout@cckids.net or christina.kaiser@cckids.net.

needs of children in foster care.

Together with sponsors in the community, the organization has brought more than 70,000 gifts to children in the dependency system of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

Participation is simple:

- Let us know how many children you can help by filling out the online form [here](#) - we'll get you a list by October
- Organize a toy drive with your employees or members
- Call us when you're ready for a pick up - we'll



COMMUNITIES CONNECTED FOR KIDS

In Coordination with Guardians for New Futures & the Angel Tree Project

2023



Toy Drive

Be a Collection Site!

**You collect the toys, we pick them up
(772) 528-0362**

We're seeking companies, churches and social groups to coordinate individual toy drives for children in the foster care system.

Pick Up: The week of
December 4

CCKids is community-based lead agency contracted by the Florida Department of Children & Families.

Inside the Mission

Kimberly Brock to Kinship
Caregivers: You Are Not
Alone

*From time to time, we bring you stories
from inside our community of care. We*



Celebrate Intergenerations

The most important thing to remember is that you are NOT alone! My friends and family have stepped up and really been supportive in the most amazing way -

*Kimberly Brock,
Kinship Caregiver*

hope these stories give some insight into the lives of those who make the system what it is.

September is here, and it's not just about the changing seasons. It's also Intergenerational Month, a time to honor and appreciate the bonds that tie generations together.

This year, we want to shine a spotlight on our amazing kinship caregivers.

Kinship caregivers are the unsung

heroes who step up to provide a loving and stable home for children when their biological parents can't. Whether it's grandparents, aunts, uncles, or even close family friends, they play a crucial role in shaping the lives of these young ones.

We are proud to introduce one such caregiver, Kimberly Brock:

"When DCF contacted me about taking in my two-year-old great nephew and his newborn baby sister I did not hesitate to say, "Yes." I believe that if there is a family member that is capable of caring for the children without them being placed into a stranger's home then that person should step up.

"I will not lie to you and tell you that it is easy. I am a single mom and my life was turned upside down. However, to see the love and gratitude in their eyes and the smile on their faces every single day; to know that you are giving them a life they had not known before you, makes every struggle more than worth it.

The most important thing to remember is that you are NOT alone! My friends and family have stepped up and really been supportive in the most amazing way. Communities Connected for Kids has been such an important player in the process. Martha (a kinship navigator who helps caregivers literally navigate the process) has been a godsend! I have found support in joining the Kinship meetings and just knowing that when I call with questions they answer and provide solutions both financially and emotionally.

"Being a caregiver is the most selfless act one can do. It will bring you to your knees and humble you to the reality that all you have to do to make an impact is care!"

Interested in learning more about CCKids or about becoming a caregiver? Call (772) 873-7800, and ask for Jerra. You can also visit us at CCKids.net.

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