



Connections - June 5, 2024

A collage of black and white photographs. The top photo shows a man with a beard and a cap holding a baby. The bottom photo shows a man holding a young girl. The background has a textured, paper-like appearance with some faint text like "SSO.", "9AO", "ymb", "8II", "S P".

 Communities Connected for Kids

LEARN ABOUT FOSTER CARE FROM DADS' PERSPECTIVE.

**FATHERHOOD
ROUNDTABLE**

JUNE 10 @ 6:30 P.M.

LIVE STREAMED ON
FACEBOOK
@CONNECTEDFORKIDS

Join Us for an Important Facebook Live Event

We're excited to announce a special Facebook Live panel featuring fathers who have experienced the foster care system with their children. This heartfelt discussion will take place at 6:30 p.m. on June 10, and we invite you to tune in and be part of this crucial conversation.

Why It Matters:

Foster care impacts thousands of families each year, and the stories of these fathers shed light on the challenges and triumphs they have faced. By

sharing their journeys, we hope to:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Highlight the urgent need for more foster homes and the pivotal role they play in providing stability and support for children in need.
2. **Break Stigmas:** Address misconceptions about foster care and the families involved, fostering a more supportive community.
3. **Inspire Action:** Encourage compassionate individuals and families to consider becoming foster parents and making a lasting difference in the lives of children.

Meet the Panel:

Our panel includes fathers who have navigated the complexities of the foster care system, offering unique perspectives and invaluable insights. Their stories are a testament to resilience, love, and the power of community support.

How You Can Help:

1. **Tune In:** Watch the live panel at 6:30 p.m. on June 10.
2. **Share:** Spread the word by sharing this event with your friends and family.
3. **Get Involved:** Learn more about foster care and how you can make a difference by visiting [[Link to relevant resources](#)].

Let's come together to support foster children and the families who care for them. Your engagement and support can help transform lives and create brighter futures.

June is National Reunification Month; See How You Can Participate



About 130 children in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast went home to stronger, healthier families this past year after time apart for a variety of reasons – most commonly substance-abuse or mental-illness issues that can be overcome through local resources and a strong support system.













It's a special cause for celebration when children are returned to their

own homes, said Jerra Wisecup, CCKids' licensing and caregiver support specialist. It's a hard road and takes a lot of work.

"That's what we celebrate in June, during National Reunification Month," she said.

Now you, too, can get involved by simply interacting with the CCKIDS Action Calendar. The calendar, posted below, is a June initiative special to Communities Connected for Kids designed to connect the local community with clients, case managers, guardians, caregivers and everyone involved with getting kids home to their families.

The calendar offers a different way to get involved each day. Click anywhere on the calendar to be directed to a form where you can leave notes of encouragement for anyone involved in the reunification process. From there, you will also be able to access other links in the calendar.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">June</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Reunification Month 2024</h2>			Important dates for Reunification Month:				
			June 1 Spread the word about Reunification Month by posting on your social media pages!				
			June 10 Click HERE to join us on Facebook LIVE at 6:30PM for a Fatherhood Roundtable!				
			June 26 Meeting ID: 851 8887 5725 Passcode: 420382				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
					1	2	
Use these hashtags daily, throughout the month of June to help raise awareness! #CelebrateReunification #ReunificationMonth #CelebrateFamily	Remember to email us with at least FIVE actions you completed this month for the chance to win a \$50 gift card!				Spread the word about Reunification Month by posting on your social media pages. 	Help us spread awareness for our upcoming Fatherhood Roundtable by sharing the event HERE!!	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Call/text a birth parent and tell them some of the ways you have seen them change that are not necessarily case plan tasks.	 Call/text a birth parent words of encouragement!	 Call/text a Caregiver and ask what you can do to help him/her today.	Encourage a birth parent to record themselves reading a book for their child(ren) and play it for the child(ren) to hear/see.	Text a Child Protective Investigator, "Thank you for working hard to keep our children safe."	Make a birth parent smile! Send a funny quote, meme, or joke.	 Text a birth parent a smiley or silly face photo of his/her child(ren).	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
 Join us on Facebook LIVE at 6:30PM for our Fatherhood Roundtable!	Call/text a Case Manager and ask what you can do to help make his/her day easier today! 	Text a Family Support Worker, "Thank you for making sure our kids can maintain important relationships."	Send a "Thank You" note/email/ocard to a CLS Attorney, Parent Attorney, or Judge. 	Get together with friends, family, staff, colleagues to create and share your own Moment of Cheer with us! from the CCKIDS Facebook page and CELEBRATE reunification with us!	Ask a birth parent to send a family photo for their child(ren) to see whenever feeling homesick.	 FATHER'S DAY!! Send a birth father a photo of his child(ren).	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Call/text/email a Guardian Ad Litem, tell them how much you appreciate his/her partnership! 	Send a birth parent a masterpiece (artwork, drawing, painting, story, or poem) completed by his/her child.	Call/text/email a Supervisor, Program Director, or County Manager to compliment one of their staff and his/her hard work.	Text a case manager, "Thank you for the late nights and long hours that you put in for our kids!"	Make a caregiver smile or laugh by sending a funny photo, joke, or meme! 	Email/call/text a Placement, Licensing, or Kinship worker to thank them for his/her hard work!	Text/email your favorite motivational quote/poem to a Child Protective Investigator or Case Manager.	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Text a smiley face emoji to a Case Manager (no extra words needed). 😊	Text/email your favorite motivational quote/poem to a Child Protective Investigator or Case Manager.	Join us on Zoom at 12PM for a LIVE Moment of Cheer! Meeting ID: 851 8887 5725 Passcode: 420382 	Call/text a birth parent and ask what you can do to help make his/her day easier today!	Share our Moment of Cheer from the CCKIDS Facebook page and CELEBRATE reunification with us!	Text a caregiver, "Thank you for the many daily sacrifices that you make for our kids." THANK YOU	Send a "Thank You" note/email/ocard to a therapist, or other service provider who has helped make reunification possible!	

Local Summer Programs Available

Summertime is here, and we know you may be scratching your head wondering what to do with the kiddos while they're out of school. Fortunately, we have a few ideas listed below. Good luck!

Indian River County - click [here](#) to see a listing of summer programs in the Vero Beach area.

Martin County - click [here](#) to see a listing of summer programs in the Stuart area.

Okeechobee County - Click [here](#) to access the 2024 Summer Activity Guide

St. Lucie County - Click [here](#) to access the 2024 listing of summer programs

in St. Lucie County. Additionally, the Children's Service Council has prepared the following listing of learning programs:



SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

SAVE OUR CHILDREN, INC.

464 N 9th Street, Fort Pierce | 772-370-5420

Provides fun learning activities along with games and crafts for youth ages 5-13.

SUNRISE THEATRE FOUNDATION

117 S 2nd Street, Fort Pierce | 772-461-4775

In partnership with StageFright Academy, two 3-week long camps will provide a performing arts experience for youth. June 3-21: Where the Wild Things Are | July 8-26 We Are All Heroes

ST. LUCIE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

1306 Avenue M, Fort Pierce | 772-462-1991

Provides educational and recreational summer program for ages 5-14 designed to enhance learning and skill building.

YMCA OF THE TREASURE COAST

1301 SW Bayshore Blvd, PSL | 772-878-7337

**also at: Creative Arts Academy | FK Sweet Elementary
Southern Oaks Middle School | Village Green Elementary**

Summer program including arts, sports, gardening and field trips along with weekly trips to the pool for ages 5-13.

For more information on programs funded by the Children's Services Council, visit: WWW.CSCSLC.ORG

Communities Connected for Kids | (772) 873-7800 | cckids.net



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