

Friends of
Children



Friends of Children of North Central Florida

FOCNCF

P.O. Box 358502

Gainesville FL 32635-8502

Website: www.focncf.org

Email: friendsofchildrenfl@gmail.com

Phone: 352.672.6112

August 2019



Every child deserves a family



A Word from the President:

Greetings!!

Again, what's our message?

To be a Christ centered support of foster, adoptive and in need families.

Simply put, how do we do it?

Raise funds to support the current Cellon-Thomas Campus just north of Gainesville, encourage fostering in the greater north central Florida area, and help fund the One More Child Gainesville office.

While doing all the above which you have heard of and are more familiar with, now we have the **opportunity to purchase our first homes** to move ahead with the **Brave Moms Program** – with a goal of being a foster preventative program. We want to get involved and make a difference long before at-risk children ever enter the foster care system. While we know that this obviously can save money, it will also save lives. While we will start in Gainesville, which affords the program with more readily available transportation, it can be

replicated in smaller communities with different kinds of support.

Our next steps are on **September 24th** when we will hold the **Second Annual Denim and Diamonds** fund raising event at the Santa Fe River Ranch. This is our key fund-raising effort of the year. But don't stop there -- work within your church and consider being a monthly sponsor to Friends of Children of North Central Florida as we move ahead into, again, uncharted waters. Currently, there have been 120 children, including 40 sibling groups blessed by the Cellon-Thomas Campus (with 17 adoptions, including six sibling groups), and including all One More Child Foster Homes, and many more to come.

Blessings to you and **hope to see you on September 24th.**

Denny George,
President





...from the *Florida Baptist Children's Home/One More Child*

Thank you and many blessings to The **Hardeetown Baptist Church** VBS for their generous offering. At their request, the monies will be used to purchase sports equipment for the children living in our Foster Family Homes.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the ongoing generosity of **Grace Baptist Church**. Their recent presentation of individual gift cards for our foster families will help supplement upcoming school expenses.

Our One More Child families celebrated the **Foster Parent Appreciation** night on Friday, July 26th. **First Baptist of Waldo** hosted the event, graciously decorating, serving food, drinks and desserts, as well as providing babysitting for the children in attendance. Friends of Children paid for the Hills BBQ catering, which was beyond delicious.



Congratulations to the Coker family who were selected the Gainesville One More Child Foster Family of the year.

One More Child presented Friends of Children with an original, wood laser plaque to express our appreciation for all they do for One More Child.



One More Child in Gainesville will host an Information Meeting on August 13th from 6:00-8:00 PM at our Gainesville Office. Light refreshments will be served; no child care will be available. Information Meetings provide an opportunity for folks in the community to learn about foster parenting or other ways to help our foster families.

Our next foster parent training class will begin October 1st through October 29th. The classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00-9:00 PM. Location to be determined.

To learn about becoming a foster parent please contact Jennifer Hewitt, Licensing Specialist at 352-672-6112 or Jennifer.Hewitt@OneMoreChild.org.

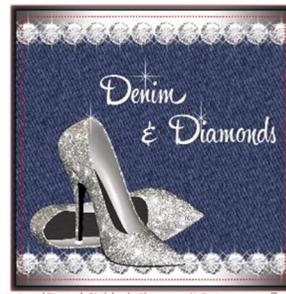
Thank you,

Jennifer Hewitt
Licensing Specialist

O: 352.672.6112 C: 352.281.1052 f: 352.505.6196
3700 NW 91st Street, Ste. B-300
Gainesville, FL 32606



www.FBCHomes.org | www.OneMoreChild.org



Tuesday,
2019
September 24th,

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Last year on September 18th Friends of Children experienced an AMAZING evening!! Over 200 people attended the **FIRST Denim & Diamonds Event**. This event was to introduce and share information about the newest ministry of One More Child's Brave Moms Program. Because of our friends, family and churches we were able to raise over \$85,000 to start moving forward in providing a facility to start this program in the Gainesville Area. As you read in our President's message we have found a residence that could be the beginning of this dream!

Once again, we want to share this amazing evening with friends, family, church families and our community leaders. **Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 24th**. Consider a sponsorship of \$1000, \$3000 or even \$5000. Encourage your church to sponsor a table. Invite those with a heart and passion for caring and protecting God's children to come and share in this awesome opportunity. We are soliciting individuals and businesses for other sponsorship levels, program ads, auction items and event tickets. We appreciate your support.



Friends of Children, Inc.
Denim and Diamonds
Sponsorship Opportunities



Friends of Children, Inc.
Denim & Diamonds
Commitment Form

September 24th, 2019

Presenting Sponsor- \$5,000- O'Steen Brothers-

Naming Opportunity- Silent Auction bears sponsor's name for the 2019 event

-Table/seats- Reserved table for 10 at the event with sponsor name prominently displayed

-Promotional Materials- Sponsor name and logo placed on event materials, email blasts to 1200 local recipients, FOC newsletter and event signage.

Sponsor name and logo posted on FOC webpage for a full year.

-Program Book- Prominent, two full page color ad included in event program book

-Event Recognition- Verbal recognition by the Master of Ceremonies and the opportunity to speak at the event as part of the program

-Plaque- Engraved sponsor appreciation plaque

Diamond Sponsor - \$3000

-Table/seating- Reserved table for 10 at the event with sponsor name prominently displayed

-Promotional Materials –Sponsor name/logo placed on event materials, FOC Newsletter, an ad placed on FOC website for full year

-Program book- Recognition as a Diamond Sponsor with sponsor name/logo featured in a full page color ad in the program book

-Event Recognition-Verbal recognition by the Master of Ceremonies at the event.

-Plaque- Engraved sponsor appreciation plaque

Platinum Sponsor - \$2000

-Table/seating- Reserved table for 8 at the event with sponsor name prominently displayed

-Promotional Materials- Sponsor name/logo placed on event materials, FOC Newsletter, an ad placed on FOC webpage for full year

-Program Book- Recognition in program book as Platinum sponsor with sponsor name/logo featured in full page color ad

Gold Sponsor - \$1000

Table/seating- Reserved table for eight at the event with name displayed on the table.

-Program book- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor with sponsor name featured in half page ad in program book

-Program Ads: Half Page- \$200, Quarter Page- \$100, Supporter List- \$25 (Name listed as a supporter)

Sponsorship Level:

___ \$5000 Presenting Sponsor

___ \$3000 Diamond Sponsor

___ \$2000 Platinum Sponsor

___ \$1000 Gold Sponsor

Program Ads:

___ Half Page \$200 ___ Quarter Page \$100

___ \$25 Supporter List

Contact Information

Supporter

Name/Business _____

Contact

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Payment Information:

___ check enclosed made payable to Friends of Children, Inc.

Please Return completed form to:

Friends of Children NCF, Treasurer

PO BOX 358502

Gainesville, FL 32635

To be placed in the program booklet, sponsorships

and ads must be received by August 28th. Please

email your ad as you like it to appear in the program to: friendsofchildrenfl@gmail.com

**Thank you for Supporting children and families
in North Central Florida**





Spotlight on our families...

When the Kirkland family* first entertained the idea of fostering, they were not planning to adopt. Instead, they planned to have biological children and wanted to focus on fostering and helping the children placed in their home to reunify with their birth families.

The Kirklands' first placement call was about two sibling boys, a 2-year-old and 3-year-old. They learned that the goal for the boys' case plan had already been changed to adoption. The Kirklands prayed, and God gave them an immediate peace about agreeing to have the boys placed in their home. They quickly fell in love with the boys but guarded their hearts in fear of having them removed from their home. However, their adoption ultimately did finalize, and these boys became "theirs forever."

Although they adopted, the Kirklands continued to feel "called" to foster. Two days after Christmas, they accepted placement of two siblings, a 12-year-old boy and 13-year-old girl. The children were eager to attend church with the Kirklands, and, eventually, they both accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The children's passion for God and church continued. In addition to attending church with the Kirklands each week, they also began serving in the church's childcare ministry and attending youth group weekly. They also started listening to worship music as often as they could.

A few months later, they were baptized at a special worship night, and they began witnessing to their biological mom as well. In particular, they sent her letters, sharing with her everything that God had done for them. As a result, their mom obtained her own bible, read it in its entirety, and also chose to surrender her life to Christ. Now, every phone conversation between the children and their mother ends in prayer, as they all anxiously wait and look forward to be reunited again.

*Name has been changed for confidentiality reasons.

Two teenagers were placed in a One More Child foster home right after Christmas. Prior to their placement, they had performed very poorly in school with low attendance and displayed a lack of motivation/effort. Furthermore, one of them had been retained the prior year.

These middle school students learned to trust and respect their foster parents. As their needs were being met, they

also began to show that the things that were important to the foster parents (for example, education) were also important to them. They worked with the foster mom, who helped them get to "catch up" academically. In fact, the teens not only "caught up" but managed to become honor roll students! They have proven to themselves that they are capable of doing well and now think of themselves as "smart" for the first time ever. As such, being in this One More Child foster home has helped these teens start to see themselves as Jesus sees them!



Who is FOC ?

As you may know, this organization was created from a dream of more than fifteen years ago. Our purpose, to establish a Florida Baptist Children's Home campus in North Central Florida. This dream was fulfilled in June 2016. Friends of Children of North Central Florida is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that raises funds to support our local campus in Gainesville and OMC Gainesville ministries.

Friends of Children Board of Directors:

- Denny George, President, Trenton
- Bobby Davis, VP, Worthington Springs
- Mary Lynne Moore, Secretary, Gainesville
- Bill Cellon, Treasurer, Gainesville
- Kim Baxley, Gainesville
- Donna Jordan, Melrose
- Ron Locke, Gainesville
- Faye Zuidema, Alachua



Ways to continue to support FOC...

The Friends of Children... are blessed to have the support of our local churches, pastors and those who serve in the community. If it weren't for the amazing volunteers and various ministries that provide supplies, meals, monetary gifts and personal time we would not be able to support One More Child ministries. YOUR gifts are most appreciated and needed. Your gift to FOC stays in our local area. If you wish to contribute and be a part of this amazing organization, you may send your financial donation gift to:

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