

devereux florida fast facts

- founded in 1987
- 41 programs in 22 counties
- 1000 staff
- 12,600 children & families served annually
- largest not-for-profit provider of behavioral health services in the state & country
- Accredited by the Joint Commission on Healthcare Administration
- Licensed by the Department of Children and Families
- Part of the national Devereux Foundation established in 1912
- Range of programs and services for children and families includes:
 - Children's Psychiatric Hospital
 - Statewide Intensive Psychiatric Programs
 - Residential Treatment Center
 - Specialized Therapeutic Group Homes
 - Pre-Independent Living Center
 - Dual Diagnosis Center
 - Counseling Centers
 - Developmental Disabilities Group Homes
 - Traditional, Therapeutic, Specialized, Medical and Developmental Disabilities Foster Care Programs
 - Reunification Programs
 - Community Outreach Programs
 - Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services
 - Child Welfare Services - Case Management, Foster Care & Related Programs
 - Lead Agency Services under Child Welfare Privatization

NOTABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - WORKING AS ONE

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Florida recently partnered with Devereux Florida to identify and recruit mentors for kids in foster care.

Children's Home Society, Department of Children and Families, Devereux Florida, Harbor House, Howard Phillips Center, Intervention Services, Neighbor to Family and Family Services of Metro Orlando serve on the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force and joined forces to distribute community resource materials to the residents of Paramore.

Orange County supports Devereux's mentoring program, CAFE Program, at Grand Avenue Elementary. The CAFE Program is implemented by Devereux Florida and funded through the Heart of Florida United Way.

Artwork created by kids at the Children's Psychiatric Hospital was featured in "The Art of Healing" art show presented by Healthy Living Expos.

Devereux Florida staff volunteered to oversee a concession booth at the Arnold Palmer Bay Hill Invitational and received 8% of the sales as a donation for their time.

Orlando Magic sponsored several "meet and greets" for kids at Devereux's Residential Treatment Center. The kids were invited to watch the players practice pro-game and were provided with complimentary tickets and autographed items.

devereux florida report

Devereux Florida provides mental health and developmental disabilities treatment to children in settings ranging from a children's psychiatric hospital, a dual diagnosis center, statewide intensive psychiatric programs, counseling centers, therapeutic group homes, a residential treatment center, a pre-independent living center, community outreach programs, an early intervention school readiness program, child welfare services, developmental disabilities group homes, foster care programs and abuse/neglect prevention services.

Spring 2006

MISSION:

"The purpose of Devereux is to provide high-quality human services to children, adults, and families with special needs which derive from behavioral, psychological, intellectual, or neurological impairments. Services will be provided in a caring and humane way to foster human potential and to contribute to the person's health, social, psychological, and educational well-being. The programs will be of such excellence that they may become models for this and other nations."

ORLANDO MAGIC HOSTS BASKETBALL CLINIC 100 CENTRAL FLORIDA KIDS IN FOSTER CARE PARTICIPATE

The Orlando Magic sponsored a basketball clinic for 100 Central Florida kids in foster care on April 22nd.

The month of April is recognized nationally as National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. The Orlando Magic partnered with the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force to sponsor this community event.

Orlando Magic player Grant Hill made a special appearance and the kids were treated to a pizza party after the basketball clinic event. Meeting Grant Hill and participating in the basketball clinic was an event to be treasured for a lifetime.

The Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force is a collaborative effort between agencies, businesses and community members to help prevent child abuse.

Many thanks to Grant Hill for taking time out of his busy schedule to spend time with these special kids. Thank you to Orlando Magic for caring and supporting the children in their community. Your support is valued and appreciated.



www.devereuxfl.org

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MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL C. BECKER DEVEREUX FLORIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Spring signals new beginnings, fresh starts, new awakenings - a time of renewal. What better time to call awareness to the prevention of child abuse and to honor and recruit foster parents. April is honored as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and May is National Foster Care Awareness Month.

The well-being of children is every one's business. Child abuse is not a foreign entity.

It exists - right here in our communities. Preventing child abuse is the responsibility of everyone. Often we look to those charged with overseeing the well-being of children - such as social workers, not-for-profit agencies, and governmental entities - to eradicate child abuse. In the vast majority of cases, agencies are often called in 'after-the fact'.

As a community we can join together to ensure the children in our circles are safe. It is as simple as lending a helping hand to a hurried mother in a grocery store, keeping an eye out for our neighbors children, etc. It is our responsibility to prevent child abuse. We need to be aware of what is happening in the lives of the children in our neighborhoods, in our churches, in our schools.

There are 14,000 children in Florida's foster care system. There is an ever growing need for communities, to embrace these kids - for strong and nurturing families to open their homes to these children. Children come into the foster care system for a variety of reasons (abandonment, abuse, neglect), with one thing in common - the desire to have a family that loves them.

Devereux is in business to care for kids - we protect children and mend lives. As spring approaches, let us join together as a community and protect our most vulnerable assets - the children. We can make a difference, one child at a time.

Michael C. BECKER
Executive Director

KAYLA

Kayla arrived at the Devereux Florida Childrens' Psychiatric Hospital after being in 20 placements in six years. Kayla was removed from her parents at the age of four, due to severe physical and sexual abuse. Kayla was 10 years old and prior placements labeled her as mentally retarded with limited abilities. Devereux staff was told not to expect much, that she would forever be confined to an institution. Kayla was a beautiful girl; yet her hair was full of knots and she was very unkempt. Staff could not physically touch her to brush her hair or teeth. She would scream in horror. Kayla did not talk either.

After months of working with her, Devereux discovered that Kayla could speak and that she was not mentally retarded. Kayla's abuse had such a profound impact on her, this was how she coped. Kayla made much progress and while she may forever be impacted by her horrific beginnings, she has been able to begin making her way and living life. Today, Kayla is in a foster home and doing well.

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

BREVARD EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

For the past two years, Devereux has overseen the Brevard Early Intervention Program by providing training, services and support to in excess of 300 child care providers in Brevard. Recently, Devereux was awarded the contract in Brevard to serve as the primary provider as the local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.

Devereux will continue to provide training, services and support to over 300 child care providers in Brevard as well as new responsibilities that include educating families on choosing a child care center and child care center referrals. Devereux will oversee Quality Assessments on all child care providers who serve children receiving subsidized (School Readiness) funded services. These Quality Assessments will specifically highlight for each child care provider where their strengths lie as well as identifying ways they can improve the services they provide to families and children. Devereux will provide support to child care centers to aid them in providing quality services to children with disabilities.

MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM

Since August 2005, the Mobile Response Team (MRT) has been responding to crisis calls initiated by protective investigators, protective service case managers, foster care workers and diversion program personnel. The goal is to provide immediate on-site crisis intervention for children and their families who have been identified as high-risk for placement disruption or possibly at risk of becoming an open case as the result of a protective investigation. Although the MRT response is primarily a one-time response, follow up is provided to assure families are connected to appropriate community resource services.

One of many outstanding success stories involves a grandmother who had been summoned to pick up her three grandchildren living in Miami. The grandmother's daughter and son-in-law had been murdered in the parking lot of a convenience store. One of the grandchildren had witnessed the murders and had to work with the police to identify the persons responsible. When the grandmother arrived back at her home with the children, she began to realize the devastation this event was having on her grandchildren. The children's behaviors at home and school had become disruptive and two of the children were suspended from school; one of the children was experiencing nighttime enuresis. In general, the children were displaying symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. These problems became apparent to the school community as well as their church congregation. Fortunately, the pastor at grandmother's church recognized the need for professional help and contacted the Department of Children and Families which elicited a request for a mobile response.

The on-call mobile response therapist responded to the call within 45 minutes. He reported that the grandmother was overwhelmed with grief and her new responsibilities. During this intervention when the grandmother was given the opportunity to express her grief and the stress created by her new responsibilities, she took this safe time to let go of her pent-up pain. He states she needed about five minutes to regain her composure and she then spoke with resolution about providing for her grandchildren. She asked for assistance in accomplishing this seemingly overwhelming task. By providing consolation and emotional support, the MRT therapist was able to gain immediate rapport with the grandmother. He was able to work with her to create a list of needs and accompanying community supports available. The MRT therapist's report included assessments and recommendations which were forwarded to the appropriate child welfare agencies. Follow-up has indicated that these recommendations were implemented and that this family is proceeding towards a successful path in rebuilding their lives.



Richard Shassian of Essian Construction presents a check for \$14,500 to Danette Travis of Devereux Florida. The 3rd Annual Essian Charity Bowling Tournament benefits three local charities. Devereux Florida is honored to be a recipient of this years tournament. Thank you Essian Construction for caring about our kids and supporting our mission.



Pictured from left to right: Devin Sappington of MTC Technologies, Merritt Island Rotary Club Past President Karen Hartung and Merritt Island Rotary Club President Bud Farrar.

Community Builds at the Campus Volleyball Court

Many community partnerships led to the realization of a regulation volleyball court and enhanced picnic area for the children who reside at the Viera Campus. Spearheaded by the Rotarians of Merritt Island, the project design, creation and build took several months and major participation by the Rotary Club, The Junior Advisory Council of PAFB, MTC Technologies, Blake Stinson of PBS&J engineering, ABC Land Clearing and Development. A special thanks to the Rinker Corporation who in the aftermath of a Hurricane which significantly impacted their South Florida operations, fulfilled a previous commitment of supplying sand for the court. A volleyball dedication was held to open the court for our children and thank our supporters for their generosity and countless hours of work in providing this recreational area for the children.

Playground

In 1988 a generous benefactor donated the funds necessary to build a playground. The population of Campus has changed over the years to include more children ages 12-17. Time, weather and this change in population has necessitated a total renovation of our play area. The community has been instrumental in helping us raise the necessary funds to purchase a new and improved playground/exercise area. Many thanks to the Imperial Dance Co., Duffer's Spring Classic Golf Tournament, Suntree United Methodist Church, United Space Alliance, St Luke's, Concordia Evangelical Women, Indian River Colony Club Woman's Golf, Duran Golf Club, Faith Lutheran Women's Fellowship, Community of Barefoot Bay and The Retired Nurses Association.