

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BROWARD'S FOSTER CARE AGENCIES



Compiled by the Heart Gallery of Broward County 954-918-3008

Thank you for your interest in helping Broward County's foster children. The needs of foster children and the agencies that provide for them are great. Whatever your interest, there is an agency or program in Broward that would love to have your help.

The following pages contain descriptions of the major foster care providers in Broward County and the volunteer opportunities that they provide. Common areas of need include:

- Mentoring/tutoring
- Helping at a shelter
- Providing care to a foster child or family (e.g., babysitting, shopping, cooking)
- Event planning
- Volunteering at events
- Helping in the office
- Repair and maintenance of homes and shelters

In addition, if you have a skill or service that you would like to offer, give any of these agencies a call. They would love to hear from you.

To work directly with the children, volunteers undergo fingerprinting and background checks. Most agencies require volunteers to be at least 15 years old. Some volunteer programs require training.

Contact information is given for each agency. If you have general questions, please feel free to contact the Heart Gallery at 954-918-3008 or ChildNet's Foster Home Recruitment Hotline at 954-414-6001.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
3681 NW 59TH Place
Coconut Creek, FL 33073
www.sosflorida.com
954-420-5030

SOS Children's Villages provides a home, family and support to foster children who have no imminent plan for adoption or reunification with their birth families. The children live in a community of 12 single-family homes that are together on a cul-de-sac. The SOS Village provides a full spectrum of support services for the children's special needs.

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Groups who wish to host an activity with our children contact Genevieve Areson 954-420-5030 or gareson@sosflorida.com

Mentors, Auxiliary Volunteers, or Groups who wish to help with a facilities project contact Julie Selvaggi 954-420-5030 or jselvaggi@sosflorida.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Mentors- Spend one or two hours per week to encourage and share new experiences with a child of any age. It is a wonderful opportunity to create a lifelong bond with a child in need.

SOS Auxiliary- The core SOS volunteer program, our Auxiliary helps with both community events and family activities at the Village depending upon the season and activity calendar. Auxiliary volunteers receive exclusive invitations to volunteer projects ranging from helping with our gala or working a community booth to serving pancakes at a family breakfast or helping with the kids at a movie night or family game at the Village.

Group Projects- Religious, civic and corporate groups are invited to help at the Village by hosting an activity for the children or assisting the facilities manager with maintenance and repair projects.

KIDS IN DISTRESS
819 NE 26th Street
Wilton Manors, FL 33305
www.kidsindistress.org

Ann Cunniff 954-390-7654 ext 1357
volunteer@kidsindistress.org

Kids in Distress provides services for the prevention and treatment of child abuse in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Their extensive prevention program includes counseling, support services and mentoring. They operate two emergency shelters for abused children from birth to age 12, as well as a therapeutic preschool. KID supervises over 400 children in foster homes each year.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

KID is not taking any new individual volunteers at this time. They do, however, have opportunities to volunteer at fundraising events.

Groups are welcome to participate in KIDCrew projects. This involves helping to fix up homes of families in KID's Kinship Support Program for relative caregivers. Groups provide help with painting, landscaping and repair work. Projects are typically done in one day.

Teens for KID- This program is designed for energetic high school students looking for a fun way to earn service hours. They can get involved in planning fun events for children and help with fundraising or special events.

CHILDRENS HOME SOCIETY of FLORIDA
401 NE 4th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Contact: Siobhan Munnelly
954-453-6400
siobhan.munnelly@chsfl.org

About Children's Home Society of Florida

Created in 1902, Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) is the oldest and largest statewide private not-for-profit provider of services to children and families in Florida. The Intercoastal Division, established in 1967, serves 5,000 children and families in the Broward County area each year through a full spectrum of prevention and intervention programs. Services include foster care, adoption, child development, emergency shelters, residential group homes, independent and transitional living for teens, parent education, counseling, mentoring, treatment for developmentally disabled children, and more. CHS, which served more than 126,000 children and families throughout the state in 2009-2010, is headquartered in Winter Park, Fla., and offers services in more than 100 locations by more than 1,500 staff members dedicated to providing child-focused, family-centered care.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- East Broward Auxiliary: a group of passionate volunteers determined to make a difference for children in Broward County. From holiday parties to fundraising events to advocating for change at the Capitol, the Auxiliary is a faithful supporter of Children's Home Society of Florida's Intercoastal Division. More than volunteers, the Auxiliary is truly like family, and it welcomes new members. If you'd like to change the lives of children in our community, we invite you to learn more! The East Broward Auxiliary holds its monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month, with exceptions of July and August when there are no meetings.
- Marketing Intern
- Special Events Volunteers
- Administrative/ Office Volunteers

JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options)
4200 N. University Drive
Sunrise, FL 33351

Vickki Reinitz
954-749-7230 x144
vikki@jafco.org

JAFCO provides an entire continuum of programs and services for at-risk children and their families, including family preservation services, foster care (group and private home placement), therapeutic programs and a 24-hour emergency shelter for abused or neglected children.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteers are encouraged to call and attend a volunteer tour of JAFCO's large campus in Sunrise.

Areas of greatest need include:

"Forever Friends" Mentoring Program- Mentors meet at least twice a month with a child. The mentor spends time talking and doing activities with the child, serving as an adult role model-a friend, teacher, and guide. Adults over age 18 are welcome.

Emergency Shelter- Volunteers can help at the Marsh Children's Center, either working directly with children or helping with "household" tasks.

Auxilliary- JAFCO has a strong auxiliary organization, with 14 chapters throughout the three counties. Volunteers assist in fund-raising activities and in community education about the issue of child abuse.

Professional Services- Professionals are needed who are willing to offer pro-bono medical, dental, legal, tutoring, therapy or other services to JAFCO's children.

4KIDS of SOUTH FLORIDA
827 S. State Road 7, Building 1
N. Lauderdale, FL 33068
www.4kidsofsfl.org

Contact- Angela Gilreath
954-556-4673
angelag@4kidsofsfl.org

4KIDS is a faith-based foster care agency operating in Broward and Palm Beach counties. They work primarily through churches to train foster and adoptive parents, place children in Christian homes and provide a support network. They own several homes that provide emergency shelter or longer-term living for sibling groups, teens and children who have recently aged out of foster care. 4KIDS runs SafePlace, which is the 24-hour shelter where every child is taken if they are removed from their home in Broward County. 4KIDS staff provide help and encouragement until a permanent placement is found.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Child/Youth worker- Provide direct care to children at SafePlace or other 4KIDS programs. This can include entertaining/playing with the children, preparing meals and assisting 4KIDS staff.

Mentor/tutor- Meet with a child once a week to provide guidance, friendship and possibly help with homework.

Crisis Pregnancy Volunteer- His Caring Place is a licensed teen maternity program that offers love and guidance to young women struggling with crisis pregnancies. Volunteers can be mentors/birth coaches, teach life skills or bible study, tutor and provide respite care or transportation.

Events- Help with various events, including foster family and children's parties, fundraisers, and information tables at local churches.

Office support- help with daily office management.

Taylor's Closet- A clothing boutique for teen girls in foster care, located in Pompano Beach. Teen volunteers are needed to assist with sorting and displaying the clothes and with helping the girls who shop there. Contact linda@taylorscloset.org

CHILDREN'S HARBOR
19425 SW 58th Manor
Pembroke Pines, FL 33332
www.childrensharbor.org

Tara Piana
954-252-3072 ext. 213
tpiana@childrensharbor.org

Children's Harbor is a 501(c)(3) child welfare located in Pembroke Pines. They provide residential services, in a family style environment to foster children and teens, as well as prevention services to at risk families. The Residential Foster Care Program has five group homes—four that are dedicated to siblings, enabling brothers and sisters to remain together while in foster and one that is dedicated to pregnant or parenting foster teens and their babies.

Volunteer Needs:

- **Homework Helper—**
 - Assist the children with their academic needs (i.e. homework, school projects, reading a book, etc.)
 - Under the guidance of CH's Life Skills Coach
 - Minimum 1 day a week commitment
 - Monday- Thursday, 3-5pm and Saturday

- **Playtime Volunteer—**
 - Assist the House Parents with keeping the children occupied after homework time and before dinner (i.e. outside play, video games, etc.)
 - Under the guidance of the House Parents
 - Minimum 1 day a week commitment
 - Monday- Friday, 5-6:30pm

INSPIRE WITHIN PROGRAM: Mentoring Youth in Transition



Big Brothers, Big Sisters are matching community mentors with young adults who are transitioning from foster care into independence.

All mentors make a commitment of 4 contacts per month (at least 1 in person) for a minimum of one year and complete a level 2 background screening.

If you would like to mentor a young adult between the ages of 13 to 17, please contact Anne Gardner at (954) 584-9990 ext. 103 or e-mail anneg@bbbsbroward.org.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM
1-866-341-1425
www.guardianadlitem.org

Drew Korenvaes
954-831-6214
drew.korenvaes@gal.fl.gov

A Guardian Ad Litem is a court-appointed advocate for a child who has been removed from their home. The GAL gets to know the child and makes recommendations to the court to help ensure a safe, caring, stable and permanent environment. A Guardian Ad Litem volunteer does not need to have any legal knowledge, just an interest in helping to achieve the best outcome for a child in need. Training is required.