

Devereux Awarded \$125 Million DCF Contract

Devereux has been awarded a five year, \$125 million contract to provide child welfare services in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

This contract with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will establish Devereux as the community-based care lead agency serving DCF's Southeast Region. Devereux has provided a broad continuum of services to children and families throughout the state of Florida for over 25 years, and for over 100 years on a nationwide basis. As the community-based care lead agency, Devereux will be responsible for managing child abuse prevention and family preservation programs to help keep children safely in their homes, while also providing quality services to children in foster care and finding adoptive homes for those children in need of forever families.



“Devereux is proud to be selected as the local service provider for child welfare,” said Devereux Florida’s Executive Director, Steven Murphy. “We look forward to working with the Department and our partner agencies to strengthen our collaborative model as a child welfare system of care and to respond to the needs of families in our communities.”

Devereux will become one of 17 lead agencies throughout the state providing community-based care in child welfare. The State of Florida privatized child welfare in 1997, providing for local community ownership of service delivery and design of Florida’s child welfare system.

Combating Human Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Did you know children are being bought, traded, sold and smuggled to perform sexual acts against their will? It is estimated over 325,000 children in the United States, Canada and Mexico are at risk each year for becoming victims of sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is perhaps one of the most unimaginable practices in existence today.

January is national slavery and human trafficking prevention month. Thankfully much is being done to combat sexual exploitation and human trafficking in the United States. Yet much more needs to be done. Through the cooperative efforts of our law enforcement, the Department of Children and Families and several representatives from state and local government agencies, service providers and advocacy organizations, including Devereux Florida, are working hard to identify children at risk, ensuring proper treatment for victims and increasing awareness in our communities.

For over 25 years in Florida, Devereux’s therapeutic residential programs have been treating children who are victims of sexual abuse, sexual trauma and more recently sexual exploitation.

Devereux’s program model is based on advanced clinical expertise, evidence based approaches and techniques to help individuals transition from troubled lives to bright futures filled with personal accomplishments and hope. Some of the fundamental keys to successful treatment outcomes are through trauma informed care, a protected living environment that offers a sense of security and treatment strategies that are designed specifically for each individual’s needs. Our multidisciplinary team allows for expert treatment strategies to help each individual identify and process symptoms related to the trauma of sexual exploitation, increase internal insight into emotions associated with the trauma, increase personal coping skills and help develop an individualized wellness recovery action plan.



Through our vast knowledge and practice of trauma informed care we are able to help youth transition from troubled lives to bright futures filled with personal accomplishments and hope.

For more information, please call 1.800.Devereux (338.3738) ext. 77130 or visit devereuxfl.org.

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Upcoming Events

- **Holiday Gift Drive**
Help ensure every child experiences the magic of the holiday season. For more information visit, devereuxfl.org.
- **National Slavery & Human Trafficking Awareness Month**
January - All Month
Make a move to end human trafficking and slavery. Become an advocate this month.
- **National School Counseling Week**
February 4th - 8th, 2014
Celebrate school counseling! Show your support this week by saying thank you to a counselor or writing to your school board.
- **Art With A Heart**
February 8th, 2014
An elegant date night with an artful twist to benefit Devereux Florida. For more information, visit devereuxfl.org.

Brighten the Holidays of Children in Need.



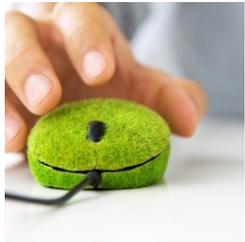
For some, this season can be very difficult. Imagine you are a child who has been beaten, abused, neglected or who needs to be removed from your home. The only thing you can take with you is what can fit in a small trash bag.

The vast majority of the children we serve rely on the support of the community, especially during the holidays. It is sad but true, many of our children have never experienced the joy this season can bring.

The holiday season is a time for giving and every year, our holiday gift drive brings smiles to over 5,000 children. Often this is the only gift they will receive.

Help us bring joy this holiday season by making a contribution to the Devereux Florida Holiday Fund. Your monetary gift can brighten the holidays by purchasing a gift for a child in need. For more information, please visit devereuxfl.org.

Help at Your Fingertips



With an updated look and feel, the new Devereux Florida website gives you easier access to services and program information. Visitors to devereuxfl.org are greeted by easy-to-navigate pages with specialized sections for individuals and family members, referral sources, foster families as well as donor and community members.

Our intent is to make information relevant to you. Whether you're seeking information for a loved one or for yourself, Devereux Florida's redesigned website will assist you with information regarding our services to ways you can get involved. In a world where information can be overwhelming, Devereux Florida's redesigned website provides relevant and up-to-date resources in an organized format. With just a few clicks of the mouse, we are here for you.

Pep Rally to Promote Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports



The Viera Campus held a campus-wide fun-filled pep rally to launch its new Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS), which is a new innovative program designed to address the behavioral needs of all children by organizing services on the Viera Campus. PBIS emphasizes prevention and teaching. It strives to provide staff and clients with a common vision, language and experience. This layered system is aimed at increasing appropriate behavior and decreasing challenging behavior by teaching expectations, acknowledging clients when they demonstrate the expected behavior and providing clear and consistent consequences when challenging behaviors are displayed.

PBIS Interventions teach our children values which will go beyond our treatment facility. The PBIS model will also assist us in our teachings of how youth can effectively navigate their environment and prepare them to function successfully in the community.

"The PBIS system gives our team the tools to acknowledge residents' positive behavior, address challenges and teach the children values that will serve them far beyond our treatment center," said Tina Smith, campus administrator, "Our students are so excited about our new PBIS program they can't wait to start."

It Starts With You!

Did you know about 1 in 4 adults suffer from some type of mental health disorder in a given year? There is no single known cause of depression, but it likely results from a combination of genetic, biochemical, psychological or environmental factors. Depression commonly coexists with other illnesses, such as anxiety disorder or substance abuse. It can affect anyone at any time, from children to older adults. It starts with you, get screened today by your family physician! For more information, visit www.mentalhealthscreening.org.

Faces of Devereux



Welcome Dr. Pozzi

Devereux Florida would like to welcome Carlos Pozzi, Ph.D., as the new Clinical Director for Devereux Florida. "We are very fortunate to have recruited a leader with the vision, skills and experience in working with the populations we serve," says Devereux Florida's Executive Director Steven J. Murphy. "Dr. Pozzi is a dedicated clinician. We look forward to collaborating with him to accelerate or clinical expertise, while ensuring the highest standards in patient care."

Kudos to Mick Hanson

Devereux Florida would like to congratulate Mick Hanson, LMHC, clinical supervisor for Devereux Foster Care Brevard. He was awarded a \$3,500 scholarship to attend the private Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) training for agency professionals in Ft. Worth, Texas.

TBRI® is an emerging intervention model for a wide range of childhood behavioral problems. It is based on a solid foundation of neuropsychological theory and research, tempered by humanitarian principles. It is a family-based approach and helps create healing environments for children who have come from difficult situations.

The Art Corner

This imaginative artwork was created by a Devereux child.



Artwork created by a Devereux child

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Preparing Students for Academic Success - One Backpack at a Time



Sadly, there are kids throughout Florida who depend on loving caretakers to cover the costs of their needs. Extras like backpacks and school supplies fall to the bottom of the list when money runs short. In order to help provide relief for these children and their caretakers, Devereux Florida once again hosted its Back to School Supply Drive.

Thanks to our amazing community supporters, we were able to raise over \$20,000 in donations and were able to provide 2,756 backpacks for students in need. "I want to say thank you for the generous donation of school supplies and backpacks. We couldn't have done it without our corporate sponsors, donors, volunteers and team members. Thanks to everyone's support, we were able to send every child in our care back to school prepared to learn," said Dan Samuels, director of development for Devereux Florida. [Click here](#) to support programs like this one that benefit Devereux kids.

Winter Commencement Ceremony Held at the Viera Campus

The Devereux School, at the Viera Campus, held a special graduation ceremony last week to honor two of our residential students on successfully earning their high school diplomas. Our graduates, along with their proud teachers and friends, gathered together to commemorate this special occasion. In addition to achievements in the classroom, these students overcame many challenges.

The Devereux School principal and the student's teachers spoke on how each student had exceeded expectations. "We congratulate you both on this wonderful achievement," says Pam Kenney, principal, Devereux School. Adam Craven, Brandt's teacher at the Devereux School, also spoke to the room full of supporters. "Over a two year period, I have watched him grow and mature into a bright young man. I am extremely proud of Brandt and will miss him as I'm sure we all will. I wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors. I am positive that you will leave here and be great," he said.

Devereux Florida is very proud of these two young adults and the other students who have accomplished a successful school year.



L-R; Pam Kenney, Devereux School principle and Brandt, Devereux School graduate

The Cure for an Empty Nest



L-R; Rose Charles and husband, Devereux foster parents

After years of raising her own kids, Rose missed the afternoons of homework and sports, family dinners in the evenings and weekends splashing in the pool. She simply couldn't imagine her home without children. "I missed having fun with kids, hearing their laughter and helping them through the difficulties of growing up," she recalls. "I looked around here and thought 'Well, why *can't* I take care of more kids?'"

Rose decided to join Devereux Florida's Traditional Foster Care Program. In the five years she's been a foster parent, she has cared for 10 foster children in her home and offered respite care for many more.

"The kids who have lived with us all had different backgrounds and troubles, but I'm proud to say we've made a positive difference in each of their lives," Rose says. "I want our foster children to have the same advantages as my own – love, nutritious food, encouragement about their education and the comfort of knowing they aren't alone. I don't want them to miss out on anything life has to offer."

For Rose and her husband of 28 years, each child stands out as a unique success story – like Jordan, the 11-year-old boy she currently fosters. When he arrived several months ago, Jordan had issues with hyperactivity and communication. But through patience and understanding, Rose helped him overcome behavior challenges, the emotional pain of his parents' neglect and trouble in school. In fact, Rose recently attended a school awards ceremony to watch him receive a B honor roll certificate.

"When he looked out and saw me in the crowd, his face lit up. He smiled and waved like crazy," Rose says. "It was such a proud moment for us!"

"Jordan still struggles with his parents' rejection," she continues. "When he calls to try and speak with them, his voice trembles and it just breaks my heart. But he has a home here with us. He knows we'll always love him."

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Answer the Call. Make a Difference in a Child's Life.

According to the National Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System for the National Children's Bureau, there are about 382,400 children and youth currently in foster care in the United States and approximately 104,200 are available for adoption.

Help spread awareness to recruit and retain foster and adoptive parents for our nation's children in need of a loving family. Statistics indicate that it would take less than 1% of the American population to give every child in need a place to call home. We are currently looking for foster families and adoptive parents in several counties statewide to provide a loving home to children in need. For more information, call 1.855.LUV.KIDS (1.855.588.5437) or email FLLoveAChild@devereux.org.

Quick Action Saves Resident's Life

At Devereux Florida's Viera Campus, residents receive the care and support they need – especially in times of crisis. For a 17-year-old patient in the center's Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Program, her close ties to Devereux caregivers not only helped her overcome physical and emotional challenges ... they have saved her life. A couple months ago, she survived a massive seizure thanks to the skill, attentiveness and compassion of direct care team members at the Viera Campus.

“Our team cares for our residents as if they were family members,” says Program Director Kim Reidel. “With various disabilities and challenges, sometimes our patients can be difficult to understand. So it takes a special person to listen, know their needs and care for them effectively.”

In this resident's case, those special people were direct care professional Barbara Carr and team supervisor Jeremy Austin, whose emergency response skills and strong patient relationships enabled them to understand and swiftly respond to her signs of distress. A victim of neglect with physical challenges that limit her mobility, the teen had made significant progress with physical therapy, socialization and mental health services in her nine months at the Viera Campus.

“She is usually fun and full of personality, but she just wasn't herself that day as I was helping her through her hygiene routine,” recalls Barbara. “Suddenly, I realized she had stopped breathing and was having a seizure. It all happened in an instant.”

Within seconds of Barbara's call for help, Devereux nurse Cathy Sweeny reached the scene and began performing CPR. With his background as an EMT and firefighter, Jeremy arrived and helped stabilize and restart her breathing. Out of an abundance of caution, she was transported to a nearby hospital for further examination, but has made a full recovery.

“When you get a call like Barbara's, your training kicks in and you just focus on the patient,” says Jeremy. “Seeing her in that situation was upsetting, but I knew we could help her. She's come so far with Barbara's help – increasing her mobility, losing weight and opening up emotionally. It's only natural that we were there for her as she overcame this frightening situation.”

After working with the teen since the fall of 2012, Barbara agrees. The pair developed a mother-daughter bond in their time together.

“When I first started working with her, she was withdrawn and wouldn't express herself. She had flashbacks to a time when she felt no one cared,” Barbara explains. “With a little time and caring, she's opened up to us. She's outgoing and talkative with the other patients, she writes amazing poems and loves scrapbooking and crafts. The difference is night and day.”

But with progress comes change. The positive transformation in her physical abilities and emotional outlook has prepared her for an eventual transition from the Viera Campus to a more independent living situation when she turns 18. It won't be easy for the team members who have grown to love her to see her go.

“Residents like her touch our hearts,” Jeremy says. “When the time comes, it's hard to let them go. But we know we've made a difference.”



L-R: Cathy Sweeny, RN and Jeremy Austin, mental health technician and team supervisor