

DECEMBER 2021 | 4TH QUARTER

NEWSLETTER

CENTER FOR FAMILY & CHILD ENRICHMENT, INC.

Pediatric and Family Health & Wellness Center

www.cfcecares.org/ | www.cfcewellness.org

Inside This Issue

The Holidays are HERE! As we prepare for the upcoming events, fundraisers and other gatherings, we want to give thanks to all CFCE employees, contractors and supporters. Thank you for the time, passion, energy and resources that you devote to providing services to the children and families we serve.

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*"Try to be the
rainbow in
someone's cloud"*

MAYA ANGELOU





CFCE's New Dental Operatory

September 16, 2021



*(l-r) Dental Assistant Magalie Nestor
1st dental patient
Dr. Melanie Kucharski*

Our newly renovated dental office is now open! Our first patient, Karl-Hentza, had an amazing experience with Dr. Kucharski and Dental Assistant Maggie Nestor. Access to dental care is imperative for early detection and prevention of oral diseases. The Pediatric and Family Health & Wellness Center offers a variety of dental services including emergent dental care for children and adults, along with digital x-ray screenings. Come visit us anytime!

Location: 1825 NW 167th St - Suite 102 Miami Gardens, FL 33056
Hours of Operations: Mon - Fri 9-5 / Sat 8-12 (Pediatrics Only)
305.474.1800/ mramsay@cfceinc.org

Meet Our Student Interns

from Barry University

CFCE works with local universities to provide learning opportunities by facilitating behavioral health field placements and supervision practicums for *Bachelor* and *Masters* level students. We want to highlight and celebrate the work, commitment, passion and dedication of two of our Barry University Master's Student Interns Tonya Robinson and Kurtia Williams. Both were placed at our CFCE shelter in May of 2021; we are grateful and proud of their work.



Tonya Robinson

Tonya & Kurtia demonstrated exceptional drive to serve striving foster care youth who have been impacted by challenging experiences in their lives. Each youth living at the CFCE shelter is connected to therapeutic, interactive learning and other services. Some of the challenges at the shelter can include lack of participation in services, frequent elopement behaviors and even bullying.

Tonya and Kurtia were assigned to facilitate groups on topics such as: social, emotional and behavioral skills; social engagement; learning interpersonal, self-management and relationship skills; social/self-awareness, conflict resolution, and self-esteem among others. These skills can drive emotional development and increase self-empowerment in youth. They served as group facilitators using a specific evidence-based curriculum.

Immediately after groups started, Shelter Clinician Sandia Marcellon and staff began to notice positive changes in youth. Group participation began with two youth and quickly increased to all youth attending. Ms. Marcellon reported that youth frequently approached her to inquire about the day/time of the groups to ensure their attendance.

Here are some noticeable changes we saw in the youth:

1. Seeking to participate in group activities and high level of engagement and enjoyment for the activity
2. Initiating and communicating ideas for group activities
3. Demonstrating ability to resolve conflicts among one another
4. Ability to empower peers and frequent display of support for each other as opposed to bullying
5. Maintaining communication with peers while on elopement to keep staff informed
6. Displaying attitude of cooperation and initiative to decorate shelter and making it feel more home-like
7. Frequent displays demonstrating skills of self-awareness when conflicts arise



Kurtia Williams

Board Member Spotlight



"God has been good to me. He continues to allow me to serve Him and to serve my fellow man on a daily basis."

- John Turner

John A. Turner

Vice Chairman

CFCE is honored to shine a Spotlight for this Quarter on Board Member John Turner. He has been a Board Member since 2015 while also serving as a Deacon at First Baptist Church of Bunche Park .



In this month's Board Member Spotlight, we highlight Mr. John Turner for his many years of dedication and service to CFCE's mission. When Mr. Turner joined the Board of Directors in 2015, he had recently become a foster parent. In his words, it is his privilege and honor to be a foster parent. Because of his years of experience as a foster parent, he brings a unique set of skills to CFCE's Board and a valuable community perspective.

Prior to relocating to Florida, Mr. Turner was an Insurance Agent in Cleveland, Ohio. After moving to Miami in 1985, he achieved one of his long-time goals of obtaining a college degree and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Barry University in 1993. As time progressed, Mr. Turner became more involved in the community, meeting various people, aiding in youth organizations, and becoming a member of the First Baptist Church of Bunche Park. By 2008, he had retired from being an insurance agent but continued to give back to the community. In 2020, he accepted the position of Vice Chairman for CFCE's Board of Directors.

In his spare time, Mr. Turner enjoys traveling throughout the country visiting friends and family, while continuing to serve as a deacon at his church.

Girls Cottage Mural



CFCE's Girl's Cottage is a home where teen ladies can rebuild themselves and grow into the young women they strive to become. This mural inspires the continuation of that process.



The layout for the mural begins!



With the help of German Dubois of Hope Murals, the mural progresses

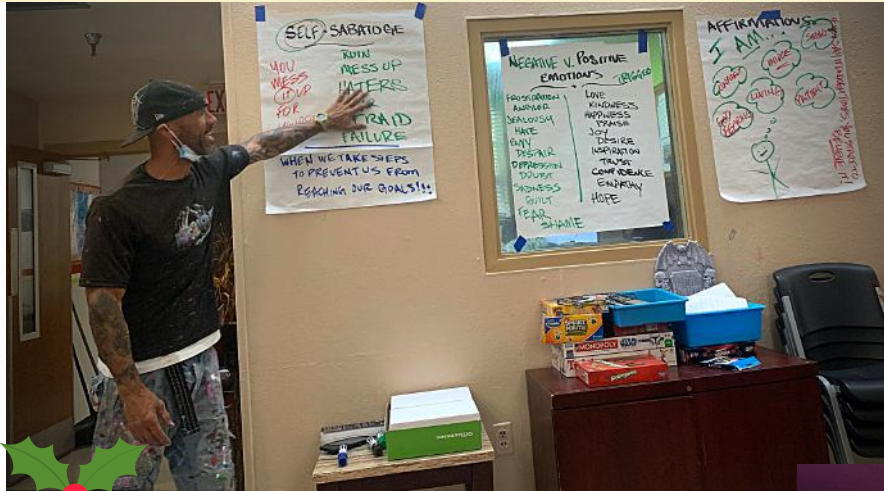
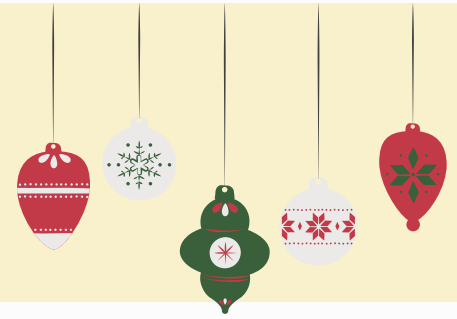


The Final Look!

"The Key To Success is Within"

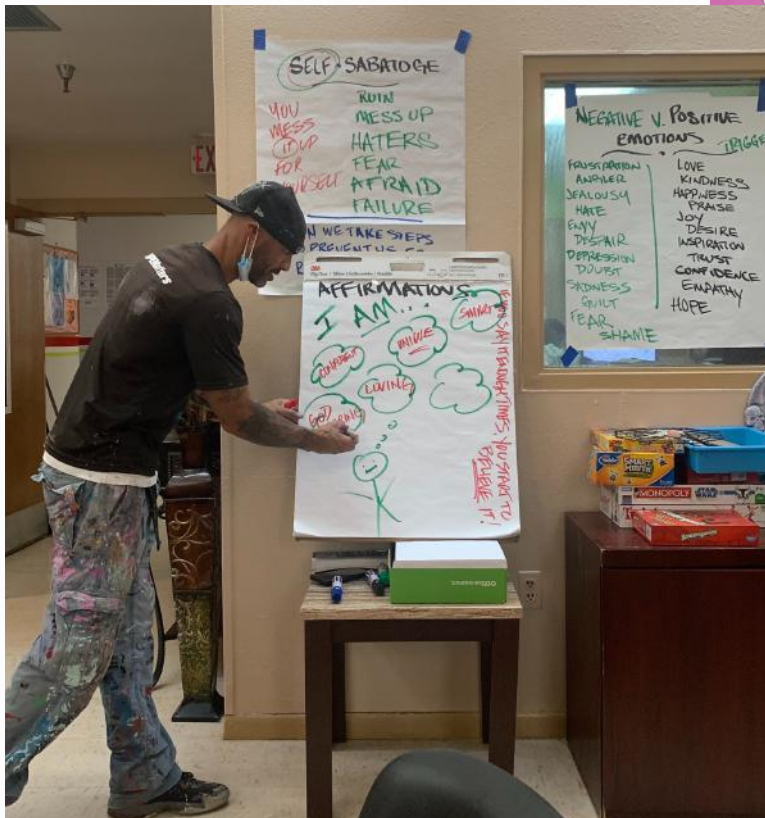


The Mural Process



All those involved in the process wanted the mural to represent the teen ladies and what they stood for.

They went into deep discussions on internal healing and growth. Then, on how they perceived themselves and how they wanted to be seen by others. This revealed many challenges they have faced and those that may come.



With the support of others, they learned that by working on themselves and working together, they can accomplish their goals. The mural stands for more than just a piece of art, but their dedication to growing into the women they intend to become.



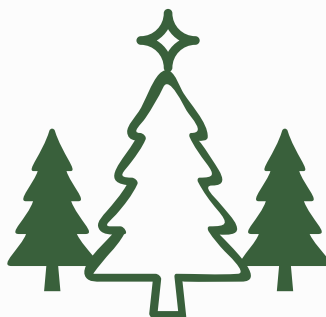
Parent Highlight

Thanks to Nathaniel S. for sharing his story as a former CFCE dependency client. Nathaniel obtained custody of his child four years ago. He is depicted here with Ashley Mond, his former case manager, who is now a CFCE Case Manager Supervisor.

"Ashley, this is exactly what we are here for, keeping families together! Thanks for making a difference in the lives of our clients. You Rock!! "

Kerry Lewis, Esq.

Director of Child Welfare Programs



"Yes Ashley!! I remember you pulling me in the hallway at Trinity church in tears because they were trying to TPR dad. You really fought hard on this case and gave it your ALL.

I even remember those long rides down south multiple times a week to ensure visits were in place. So many people were against them, but you never gave up on them. I'm definitely not surprised that he still remembers your name. Super proud of you Ashley ! "

Jessica Wilmot

Dependency Case Manager Supervisor



Nathaniel S.

Ashley

"WOW! I was just able to view the video. Well done Ashley. He called your name about six times during the video, that says a lot for someone to remember your name.

Awesome! "

Jansen Crum

Dependency Case Manager

"After 44 years, CFCE Still Delivers! Thanks to Ashley and our entire team for your incredible work helping children and families! "

T. Delores Dunn

Chief Executive Officer

"I remember going with Ash to do these visits down south, Way to go! "


Lakeisha Moss-Casey

Administrative Assistant





Foster Parent Recruitment




The Center for Family and Child Enrichment (CFCE) in conjunction with Citrus Family Care Network, announced its intent to reach into the community to locate families and households who are interested in fostering children. The initial meeting was held on October 13, 2021 at the CFCE headquarters in Miami Gardens. The purpose of the meeting was to form a steering committee representative of clergy and other child welfare minded community members who are willing to lead the campaign to recruit foster parents.

On this day, several local pastors attended the meeting including Bishop Baskin of New Way Fellowship Church, Reverend Clinton Preston of Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Ms. Doretha Nicholson, lay minister of Unity of Miami Gardens. Representatives of Citrus Family Care Network and Explore Foster Miami were also present.

Many other clergy from the area have expressed an interest in participating in this project as well. We anticipate another gathering of the group in early January. This is such an important mission that we look forward to having a much larger work group and invite any and all that have an interest in the welfare of children to attend.



**For more information contact
Wanda Brantley at 305.474.1741 or
wbrantley@cfceinc.org**





National Adoption Day is an annual event where children who have been waiting for a forever family have their dreams come true. Because thousands of children celebrate their adoptions on the same day, National Adoption Day helps to bring attention to the many children in foster care. Adoption specialists work diligently to find families wanting to provide safe, loving and stable homes for children in care. The decision to adopt is momentous and many families make the decision to go on this journey. The process of adoption takes patience, dedication and teamwork to ensure that all documents are timely received and processed. Families who make the commitment to go through the adoption process must complete a PRIDE Adoption training course, and undergo a home study and background process.

Every child's story is unique but the one thing they all have in common is the desire to have a forever family. Whether it's a foster parent, relative, or a family seeking to adopt a child, adoption specialists carefully screen families in the hopes of finding a match for each child. Every child deserves to have a family that they can call their own no matter the child's age or special needs. This year CFCE finalized nine adoptions ranging from a nine-month old baby to a child with autism.

On National Adoption Day families, judges, Guardian Ad Litem, children, adoption specialists, adoption attorneys and guests come together to celebrate the legal commitment that is made between a family and a child in care. This year's virtual National Adoption Day event marks the first day of the rest of the lives of children who now have a family they can call their own.





WALKING ONE STOP EVENT



(l-r) CFCE Staff Lance Jackson with Circle of Brotherhood Founder Leroy Jones



(l-r) Lance Jackson with Walking One Stop participant from Miami Dade Library



Cathy Burgos, Department of Juvenile Justice Director and staff participate in Walking One Stop staging process

The Walking One Stop event is where partnering agencies distribute literature to educate community constituents about available opportunities for employment, health insurance, community resources, and other available services. Services also include legal offense expungement, medical and behavioral health care services and registering to access health insurance.

Other child care services that they support are free educational materials for children in each household, promoting awareness of community services, promoting children's literacy, vocational education programs, community safety, crime stoppers and much more.

Participating in November's Walking One Stop event were CFCE Program Director Mary Williams, Behavioral Health Clinical Coordinator Lance Jackson and others.



Event Calendar



Board of Directors
Meeting
Dec 15, 2021



Child Welfare
Toy Giveaway
Dec 18, 2021

Donate on
our website

It's not too late to put a smile on a child's face!

Lunch & Learn
Topic: Flu
Season
Dec 22, 2021



Lunch & Learn
Topic: Say No to Obesity
Jan 26, 2022



Feb 2022

Other events
sure to come!

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and wish you happy holidays and good health in the New Year of 2022!