

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BROWARD COUNTY'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 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. All of these agencies also conduct foster parent training and license their own foster parents.

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.

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

Tiffani Dhooge-Director of Community Outreach
954-390-7654 ext 1335
TiffaniDhooge@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

Volunteer orientation is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the Conference Center.

Opportunities include:

Foster Buddies/Mentors- Work with children and also be of support to their foster families (All of the KID foster children are living in private foster homes or with relatives). Buddies can help children with homework, play games or other activities. They build close relationships with the children and serve as positive role models. From time to time they can also help the foster parents with direct childcare, by babysitting or helping with household needs. Minimum age is 21.

Rocking and Feeding Babies- In KID's two emergency shelters.

Preschool Helper- Weekday mornings from 8 to noon at the therapeutic preschool on the KID campus.

Administrative Assistance- weekdays

KID Auxilliary- A group of volunteers who raise funds and support social events, as well as raise public awareness through community relations and public speaking . For information on meetings or getting involved, call 954-252-3365.

High School Students (Must be at least 15 years old to work with the children. There are other opportunities for younger children to help with KID. Call for information). Help with fundraising and special events for the children.

Groups- High school clubs, college organizations, business and civic groups are welcome to help with fundraisers, special events and outings for the children.

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

Contact: LaWanda Gibson
954-453-6433
lawanda.gibson@chsfl.org

Children's Home Society of Florida, which operates statewide in Florida, provides an array of prevention and intervention services. These include counseling, help for pregnant teens, foster care, mentoring and more. They are also involved in legislative efforts to protect the rights of children and families.

In Fort Lauderdale, CHS Intercoastal Division operates an emergency shelter that is home to 20 children, ages 0 to 14, who have been removed from their homes and are waiting for either a longer-term placement or reunification with their families.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Tutors- Volunteers are needed Monday through Thursdays from 3 to 5 to tutor the children at the shelter after school.

Auxilliary- The Children's Home Society of FL Auxilliary Board organizes and supports numerous fundraising and children's events throughout the year.

JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options)
4200 N. University Drive
Sunrise, FL 33341

Vikki Reinitz, Volunteer Coordinator
954-749-7230
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 once a week with a child. The mentor spends time talking and doing activities with the child, serving as 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- Stephanie Gunderson
954-556-4693
stephanieg@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 the 4KIDS headquarters. Teen volunteers are needed to assist with sorting and displaying the clothes and with helping the girls who shop there.

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 11 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

Mentoring/Tutoring- Peggy Coico 954-420-5030 or pcoico@sosflorida.com.

Auxilliary and Group Projects- Debbie Levine 954-420-5030 x111 or dlevine@sosflorida.com.

Junior Auxilliary and Special Events- Vicki Walter 954-420-5030 or vwalter@sosflorida.com

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Study Buddies- Visit weekly over the course of the school year with an SOS child. Assist with reading skills and homework.

Mentors- Can serve in a variety of roles. Career mentors can be matched with older children to provide guidance in helping them meet goals. Social mentors enjoy one-on-one time with the children and participate in a variety of activities. Mentors play a very important part in the children's lives and can develop meaningful relationships while serving as positive role models.

SOS Auxilliary- An energetic group of women that helps the children by holding fund raisers, sponsoring activities and parties, and serving as advocates for the children in the community. They meet monthly in members' homes and are always seeking new recruits.

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

Special Events- Events take place throughout the year and SOS can always use extra helpers

Junior Auxilliary- For young adults from ninth grade up through age 20. Meets monthly to discuss and participate in different activities and collaborate on ideas for fundraisers.

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

Sue Glasscock
954-252-3072 x204
sglasscock@childrensharbor.org

Children's Harbor provides outpatient prevention programs and foster care on its 13-acre Pembroke Pines campus. Currently home to 34 kids, when complete we will have 48 foster children living on our campus.

Volunteer Needs

- Tutors – working with children 5-18, primarily with math and reading skills.
- Help in the on-campus “store” that provides clothing for foster kids – sorting and organizing donations.
- Help with maintenance and repair – ongoing upkeep of campus.
- Coordinate kids' birthday parties and other events

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 (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 15 to 21, please contact Beverly Sanders at (954) 584-9990 ext. 103 or e-mail info@bbbsbroward.org.

HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME
20000 NW47th Ave
Hector Building #2
OpaLocka, FL 33055
www.hhch.org

Bianca Torselli
305-430-0085 x 212
btorselli@hhch.org

His House Children's Home is a faith-based (Christian) foster care provider caring for children in Dade and Broward Counties. The agency cares for children in a campus, home-like setting and provides an array of services for their special needs.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteer orientation is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am to 12:30pm at the His House offices.

In addition to the training class, volunteers 18 and up are required to obtain state and local police background checks, as well as a notarized Affidavit of Good Moral Character.

Volunteers 16 and under need to be accompanied by an adult who has completed training and background checks. They should obtain a letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or pastor. They do not need to obtain background checks or a notarized affidavit.

His House Children's Home Volunteer Opportunities & Volunteer Job Openings

- **Provide Lunch or Dinner for a cottage:** Must have a group leader who has gone through Volunteer Orientation. Make arrangements with the Activities & Volunteer Coordinator to set a date, time, and how many children you will be feeding when you bring the dinner (you may drop the dinner off or stay to share the dinner with the children and staff). Choose a group of no more than 5 people. The dinner MUST consist of a protein, a carbohydrate, and a vegetable; dessert is optional and must be approved.
- **Office support at His House Academy:** You MUST be able to commit 2 days a week 4 ½ hours each day. Assist with clerical duties such as: filing, answering phones and faxing. We need volunteers that are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:30pm-5:00pm
- **Tutoring:** You MUST be 18 or older. Tutoring is offered to our children from 3-4pm. Tutoring in Math, Social Studies, Reading, and writing is needed.
- **Office Volunteers for the administration:** A minimum of two hours the day you choose to volunteer is required. You would assist with clerical duties such as: filing, answering phones and faxing.

- **Childcare Volunteers:** MUST be very patient with children and be energetic. Supervises and plays with children, provides consistency in following the discipline rules of HHCH, helps with daily household chores.
- **Computer Technician Volunteers:** to sort and audit through old computers.
- **Service Project Groups:** Possible projects include: Cottage makeover, fundraising for playgrounds, bathroom makeovers, painting, landscaping, organizing, decorating...
- **Enrichment Classes teacher:** If you have a talent or gift you wish to teach, you may be our enrichment class volunteer (for example: piano, guitar lessons, etiquette)
- **Sports Coach:** If you are patient, a good teacher, and talented in any sport, you may be exactly what we are looking for in a coach
- **School Ambassadors:** You need to be a responsible, outgoing, creative student and attain at least a 3.0 grade point average. You will speak on behalf of His House Children's Home in your classmates classes or to professors
- **Adopt A Garden: Lawn and Garden Maintenance:** We need volunteers to commit for this position approximately once a month.
- **Painting:** You must be 17 and older to volunteer for painting (may include a room, a living room, doors, etc.).
- **Mechanic:** You must be a professional mechanic or have experience in this area in order to volunteer for projects having to do with Car mechanics.
- **Carpenter:** You must be a professional or have experience in this area in order to volunteer for projects having to do with carpentry.
- **Pantry Organizer:** You must be ready and willing to help sort & organize our canned, baby and snack (non perishable) foods.
- **Thrift Store Organizer:** Sort through our donations and organize them into bins and shelves.
- **Toy Room Organizer:** Sort through our donated toys and organize them into bins and shelves.
- **Hairdresser:** If you are a professional hairdresser or have experience in cutting and styling hair, we would love to have you come in once a week to donate your talents. Please specify if you are most comfortable with cutting boys hair or girl's hair.
- **Help us get ready for the Hurricane Season by fundraising or begin a drive (for example: toiletries, after school snacks, over the counter medicine, diapers, Baby formula, canned food). Please call before you begin a drive to make sure we have not yet received the needed items.**
- **INTERNS: Administration, Information Technology, Residential, School, Licensing and Social Services.**