



## upcoming events

### Adoption Orientation

3rd Thurs of the month  
6:30pm—8:00pm

313 N. State Road 7,  
Plantation, FL 33317  
Jim McElhannon  
(954) 461-9219

### Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA)

4th Tues of the month  
7:00 pm—9:00 pm  
[www.brfapa.org](http://www.brfapa.org)

### Kids In Distress

Post Adoptive Group  
4th Wednesday of Month  
6:00-8:00pm  
819 NE 26th St.  
Wilton Manors  
954-390-7654

### FABFAMILYZ

Call for Meeting Times  
Rosa Gordon  
954-439-8832

### SunServe Teen Drop-In Group For Ages 13-21

Deerfield Beach to Hollywood  
Locations  
[SunServe.Org](http://SunServe.Org)  
954-764-5150



## In This Issue

Adoption Month P. 1

Eat your heart out P. 2

Child of the Month P. 3

Child of the Month P. 3

Adoption Success Story and Events P. 4 & 5

## IT'S NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!

### What is National Adoption Month?

National Adoption Day is an effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent, loving families. National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This annual, one-day event has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with policymakers, practitioners and advocates to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families.

In total, National Adoption Day helped nearly 50,000 children move from foster care to a forever family. Communities across the country celebrate the Saturday before every Thanksgiving. In 2013, approximately 4,500 children were adopted by their forever families during the 14th annual National Adoption Day celebration in nearly 400 cities across the United States.

This year the National Adoption Day Coalition expects 4,500 children in foster care to be adopted on National Adoption Day, on November 22, 2014.

#### Goals of National Adoption Day

- Finalize adoptions from foster care in all 50 states
  - Celebrate and honor families who adopt
  - Raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent, loving homes
  - Encourage others to adopt children from foster care
  - Build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts and advocacy organizations
- ChildNet will be participating in this national event. This event will not be open to the public but to adoptive families who will be finalizing that day.

Information for this article was copied from <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/about>

## Eat Your Heart Out Heart Gallery Fundraiser Event! A Night To Remember.....



Written by Stephanie Gooden, Wendy's Wonderful Recruiter

ChildNet Adoptions unit had the pleasure of inviting four children to attend the Eat Your Heart Out fundraiser to benefit the Heart Gallery of Broward County Faces of Foster care. The event took place October 9th, 2014 at The Galleria Mall.

The night was filled with excitement. The children had a chance to sample food specialties from some of Broward's finest restaurants and caterers. Presented to the audience as the special guests, the children (Dorothy, Shantell, Crystal and Jerrel) received the honor of going up on the stage and introducing themselves.

Two of the children, Dorothy and Crystal, also had the honor of joining the celebrity guest on stage to sing the song "Let it Go". These girls did an amazing job. They danced, participated with the live entertainment and even received a special gift at the end of the night. Leaving the event with bright smiles, each child stated they really enjoyed themselves and it was a night to remember.

All the funds raised at this event benefited the Heart Gallery of Broward County. Go to [www.heartgalleryofbroward.org](http://www.heartgalleryofbroward.org) to see some of the children available for adoption in Broward county.



## Child of the Month

### Jerrel, 16 years

Jerrel is an African American male born on October of 1998. He is a giving child who possesses the ability to bond quickly with his caregivers. Jerrel is lovable and able to bestow upon his future adoptive parents an abundance of joy and fulfillment. Jerrel is a very charming child who will win your heart with a big bright smile.

He loves to listen to music and dance. He is very loving to the other children in his home. Jerrel is shy when he initially meets new people, but will soon warm up to people as he gets to know them better. Jerrel needs a loving family that will be committed to him and assist him to develop to his full potential.



## Child of the Month

### D'Mauree, 15 years

D'Mauree is an African American male born September of 1999. Meet D'Mauree, a handsome young man that will light up the room with his smile. D'Mauree can be eager to please others and can be very accommodating. D'Mauree responds well to positive reinforcement from adults. D'Mauree needs a family that will give his self-esteem a boost, and encourage him to see the positive traits within himself.

D'Mauree aspires to go to college and be a surgeon when he grows up. D'Mauree enjoys computers, traveling, fishing, and he also likes television. D'Mauree is definitely a child that needs a family that will be on the go and participate in various activities. D'Mauree's previous caregiver describes him as respectful, and eager to help. D'Mauree would do well with a family that can accept him for who he is while helping him to reach his full potential.

**Note: All of the children featured in this newsletter are available for adoption.**

For information visit [childnetadopt.com](http://childnetadopt.com).



# SUCCESS STORIES!

## Cheyenne



One day, I received a call from a young lady by the name of Cheyenne, who says she was adopted and would like to give back. I asked her who her parents were, and I realized I was the one who matched her with her adoptive parents from a MAPP class here at ChildNet more than 5 years ago. Cheyenne is now a senior in high school and she has a senior project that she has to complete. She wanted her senior project to involve creating more awareness about the importance of older child adoption, and she asked me if I could partner with her to make that a reality.



In collaboration with Forever Families, ChildNet organized an event called Chat with Cheyenne and invited youth in foster care to hear her story of adoption and how important it is having a family. Cheyenne also came and spoke at one of our MAPP classes. Cheyenne did not want to get adopted when she was in foster care. Cheyenne wanted to tell her story to parents and foster youth so they understand that just because a youth says they don't want to get adopted doesn't mean you have to give up on them. Although she did not want to get adopted, her family stayed committed to her and gained her trust. Gia Tutalo-Mote of Forever Families has featured Cheyenne and her family on NBC 6 and Forever Families. Look for Cheyenne's story on [www.foreverfamily.org](http://www.foreverfamily.org).

Cheyenne is an amazing young lady, and she and her family are a wonderful example of how older child adoptions can be successful. Cheyenne created a blog for youth in the foster care system who are seeking online support, and the website is <http://makeitourreality.weebly.com/>. This blog can also be for foster or adoptive parents. A Big Thanks to Cheyenne and good luck to her on her senior project. WHAT A SUCCESS!

Written by Lanecia Radcliff, Adoption Homefinder with ChildNet

# Adoption News and Events

## Community Outreach

Are you passionate about adoption? Please contact us if you belong to an organization like a church, temple, PTA group, sports organizations, or other community associations. We would like to present to your organization to spread the word about adoption in your community. Also if you would like to donate to one of our children in foster care or in independent living, please contact me as well. Some of our teens need computer laptops for school and for college as well. For additional information, please contact Lanecia Radcliff, at 954-336-3448.

## ADOPTION CONFERENCE IN COCOA BEACH IN JANUARY 2015

There is an awesome Adoption Conference January 22nd to the 24th, 2015. This statewide training will feature Karen Alvord, LCSW and CEO of Lilliput Children's Services Center in Sacramento, California. The Lilliput Center is the recipient of the Excellence of Adoption Award from Children's Bureau. On Saturday, January 24th, 2015 there will be a special training for adoptive and prospective adoptive parents. The training will feature topics about understanding and supporting birth family connections and how to talk to your children about adoption. The registration costs for adoptive parents are free for the training on Saturday. Please email [Adoptionconference@danielkids.org](mailto:Adoptionconference@danielkids.org) for more information.



## Post Adoption Services

Send inquiries to  
[srappaport@childnet.us](mailto:srappaport@childnet.us)



## Ask Stan Column

**Q:** I am an adoptive parent and I am having a lot of behavioral problems with my child. Where can I go for help?

**A:** I can assist you in getting mental health counseling services for your child whether you reside in or outside of Florida. I also can help you find a provider that takes Medicaid. If a Medicaid provider can not be found then you can request a medical subsidy from me.



**Theresa Kennedy, Assistant Vice President of Adoptions and Youth Services**

Natalie Gomes, Director of Permanency

Adoption Supervisors  
Claudene Stetzer  
Joanna Neves

Lanecia Radcliff, Adoptions Home Finder  
Jim McElhannon, Recruiter/MAPP Trainer  
Stan Rappaport, Post Adoption Specialist  
Stephanie Gooden, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter  
Tina O'Brien, Recruiter/MAPP Trainer  
Kellisha Owens, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

ChildNet's adoption website featuring a directory of all children awaiting for adoption in Broward County.

[www.childnetadopt.com](http://www.childnetadopt.com)

313 N. State Road 7, Plantation, FL 33317  
954.414.6000 [www.childnet.us](http://www.childnet.us)

