

Faith Based Champions for Children

One Prayer One Child One Champion

A prayer for places of worship, like yours, to step forward to serve as “Faith Based Champions” for children in foster care

Photo courtesy of the Heart Gallery & JAM Studio

Our prayer is a simple one – that every child, like Anthony pictured above, will have a safe, nurturing and committed family.

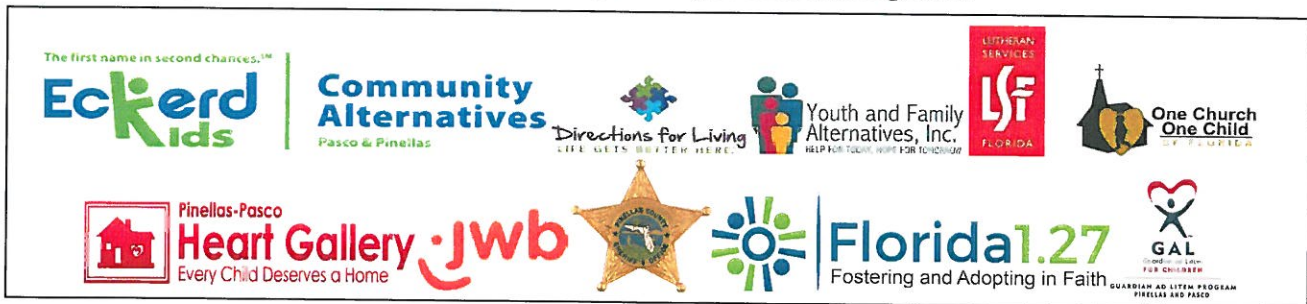
Faith Based Champions for Children Initiative

Faith Based Champions for Children is an initiative of Eckerd in partnership with One Church, One Child of FL, Heart Gallery of Pinellas & Pasco, Directions for Living, Lutheran Services Florida, Youth & Family Alternatives, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas and Safe Families for Children. The initiative is designed to identify and partner with you in an effort to find foster and adoptive homes for all foster children in the Tampa Bay Area. Partner places of worship will be known as **Faith Based Champions** and will receive a tool-kit of resources to help in recruiting foster and adoptive families, as well as information on helping provide much-needed resources for foster children.

What is a Faith Based Champion?

Faith Based Champions are places of worship. that commit to helping children like Anthony find a foster or adoptive home, as well as providing much-needed resources to children like Anthony in foster care. When you sign up, your place of worship will receive a Heart Gallery portrait of a local foster child available for adoption, so you can share their story with your congregation and pray for that child. Your spiritual leader or designee will also receive a tool kit of resources to educate your congregation about the need for foster and adoptive families, and resources our children need. Each **Faith Based Champion** tool kit will include:

- ✓ **Heart Gallery Portrait**– Heart Gallery portrait of a local foster child available for adoption, and child photo bio cards that includes the child’s digital photo and bio to feature in bulletins, flyers, websites, newsletters, etc.
- ✓ **Foster Parent Recruitment Materials**– Plexiglas card holder filled with foster parent recruitment materials, so your members will know what it takes to become a foster parent
- ✓ **Raising Hope Brochures** – Lists items needed to stock our Eckerd Raising Hope “Room of Hope” to meet the needs of infants, children and teens entering foster care – and beyond.
- ✓ **One Church One Child Materials** – Materials include a kiosk, photo album of children available for adoption, brochures, family referral form, and music CD
- ✓ **Access to Speakers** – Various speakers from Eckerd are available to speak to your congregation about your featured child or about foster parenting or adoption in general



Eckerd is a national nonprofit youth and family service organization that has given much-needed second chances to 100,000+ children and families since 1968. Eckerd Community Alternative, a program of Eckerd, is the community-based care lead agency for child welfare services in Pasco and Pinellas counties and serves over 3,400 children each day in the local foster care system.

To become a **Faith Based Champion** in Pinellas or Pasco County and receive a free tool kit or to learn more: **(Pasco)** please contact **Dave Farquharson (727)309-0666** or dfarquharson@eckerd.org, and **(Pinellas)** please contact **Joseph McCall (727)313-4947** or JMcCall@eckerd.org.



The first name in second chances.SM

Eckerd Kids

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES Pasco & Pinellas

Did you know ... The average child in foster care is age 9 and on average, children remain in foster care for two years.

Eckerd Community Alternatives is the community-based care lead agency for child welfare services in Pasco and Pinellas counties and manages one of Florida's largest systems of care, serving about 3,100 children each day. A program of Eckerd and governed by a community-based board, Eckerd Community Alternatives has developed an integrated and collaborative system of care for the safety, well-being and permanency of vulnerable and at risk children, while strengthening and supporting families. In its role as lead agency or "system manager," Eckerd provides: adoption support; child abuse prevention; child placement; contract and fiscal oversight; foster home management; performance and data management; resource development; and utilization management.

FEATURES

- Emphasis on collaboration, transparency and communication to maximize resources, ensure accountability and provide better outcomes for children and families
- Strong utilization management to provide the child with the right help at the right time
- Strengthening families and preventing abuse by providing training and support to families at risk, so children can be helped before they are harmed and families can remain intact
- Quality-driven and outcome-oriented systems to quantify, track, and continuously improve the well-being satisfaction and performance outcomes and processes of our own system of care
- Specialized training for case management staff, foster parents and other caregivers to equip them with enhanced knowledge and skills

LOCATIONS

Pinellas Office
8550 Ulmerton Road, Ste. 130
Largo, FL 33771
P (727) 456-0600
F (727) 456-0640

West Pasco Office
7916 Evolutions Way, Ste. 102
Trinity, FL 34655
P (727) 569-1740
F (727) 569-1760

East Pasco Office
36739 State Road 52
Dade City, FL 33525
P (352) 521-1266
F (352) 523-5035



No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any program or activity receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance administered by Eckerd Kids. Foreign language and sign-language interpreters will be made available at no charge to the client. Eckerd Kids is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, equal opportunity employer.

P: (727) 456-0600 | Eckerd.org

Population Served

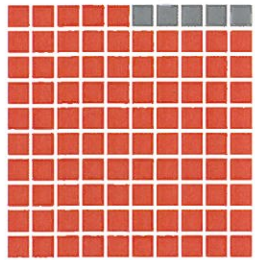
Families who have been adjudicated dependent and reside in Judicial Circuit 6 (Pasco and Pinellas counties).

Established 2008

Sponsored by Eckerd Kids and the State of Florida Department of Children and Families.

Some organizations claim success — we can actually prove it.

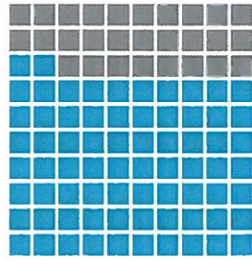
Eckerd Kids must continually transform and innovate in service provision to ensure that these kids, our kids, are getting that second chance of life that they deserve. Eckerd Kids' mission to both provide and share solutions uniquely positions the organization to not only change the trajectory of the children and families we serve, but also impact thousands of other children and families through sharing proven solutions in both practice, systems and policies.



95%

CHILDREN ACHIEVING PERMANENCY

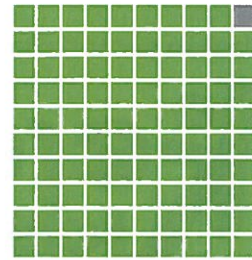
Before age 18



72%

DIPLOMA/GED COMPLETED

(Independent living youth ages 19-23)



99%

ESTABLISHED STABLE HOUSING

(Independent living youth ages 18-23)



Sastamoinen Family Success Story



The Sastamoinen's always wanted children of their own so when they learned that it would be impossible for them to bring their own biological children into the world, they decided to become foster parents. Since being licensed they have had a total of 9 children in their home and adopted their first child, Lucius in 2012. Since that time, they have adopted 4 other children! Unlike many adoptive parents, the Sastamoinens believe in keeping connections with the biological families and their grandparents as an integral part of the children's lives. This foster and adoptive family has created an amazing family and always focuses on what's best for their children.



How Can You Get Involved

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

SPREAD THE WORD

WORK AT ECKERD

Help us Help More Kids!

The first name in second chances.SM

Eckerd
Kids

Donating is easy. Just scan the QR Code to give online from your mobile device, call our 800 number below, or visit our website:

Eckerd.org | (800) 554 - **HELP** (4357)

