



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Board Report January 2018**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

December 2017

The Executive Director and Interim Chief Executive Officer participated in the Florida Children's Coalition Rally in Tally December 4-6th. The event provides child welfare organization, the Department of Children and Families, community leaders, business leaders, elected officials and child advocates, youth in care and their foster families from throughout the state the opportunity to gather and discuss legislative priorities impacting children and families in Florida before the upcoming 2018 session. During our visit we had the opportunity to meet with several members of the Brevard delegation and the replication site delegation including Representative Goodson, Representative Plasencia, Representative Santiago, and Senator Hutson. While visiting the state capital, HB 3963 - National Center for Innovation and Excellence - Brevard CARES Expansion was filed by Representative Plasencia. This appropriations bill request \$150,000 to support the full C.A.R.E.S. Program replication in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. hosted our Winter Wonderland event for the families we serve on December 13th. The event continues to be well attended and enjoyed by attendees, volunteers and staff members alike. This year we had cookie decorating, rock painting, and tile design stations for the children to participate in while the parents went to collect gifts from Santa's Workshop. We provided hot dogs and chips for dinner and the children were able to visit with Santa. We had about 200 attendees to the event not including staff and volunteers. We are especially to Mr. Jonathan Hawes for serving as Santa for the third consecutive year and to Sunbelt Rentals for providing traffic cones for the event which allowed us to more safely control traffic flow and parking.

This year we once again had an outstanding group of donors who helped provide a memorable Christmas for over 400 children. Please help us in sharing our appreciation with the following donors: Upper Cervical, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary #109, VFW Post 4228, Newscycle, Terry Laboratories LLC, Melisa Dunham, Machinists, Melbourne SDA Church, PAFB First Sergeant Council, Independent Consultant Corporate Wellness & Performance, Jesse & Amber Forrest, Brian & Naomi Pelfry, **Lindsey Richer (does not want recognition)**, Mr. & Mrs. Parr, The Zeiser Family, The Shear Family, Girl Scout Troop 373, Corey Williams, and the Space Coast Iceplex Figure Skating Club.

On December 15th, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. hosted an Open Table Community Planning Workshop. In attendance were representatives from Open Table, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Brevard Family Partnership. Brevard Homeless Coalition and Discover Life Church. The focus of the workshop was to come together as the implementation team and identify key next steps. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. will serve as the government/agency champion for the implementation in Brevard. Brevard Family Partnership is providing the initial seed funding needed for training and implementation. In January our Community Services Program Manager will attend the Open Table train the trainer to help ensure sustainability in the community and I will be working with Vision Orlando and Open Table to meet with different faith based leaders throughout the community for mission introductions and exploratory meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Executive Director