



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.  
Report May 2018**

**Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!**

## April 2018

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. staff members participated in a number of awareness and outreach events throughout the month. We kicked off the month with a Family Fun Dine Out at Squid Lips in Melbourne. Pinwheel Gardens were planted throughout the community including at the State Attorney's Office, Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral, the courthouse, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, The Children's Center, Trinity Fitness, Brevard Health Alliance, Rockledge Fire Departments, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Family Allies, and the Brevard Sharing Center. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, one of our Care Coordinators Sandy Gotwalt arranged for her daughter's Girl Scout troop to come in and stuff 300 bags with prevention materials that had been provided by numerous community organizations, these bags were distributed during a community neighborhood walk in the Gibson Center area of Titusville on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The final event of the month was the Annual Child Abuse Prevention Awards Banquet. A number of our team members were involved in the successful planning and execution of this event which is designed to recognize those in the field who are making a difference every day in the life of children.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has been working with the Space Coast Human Trafficking Task Force to plan the 2018 Human Trafficking Symposium. We are hoping to have Congressman Posey's office once again champion the event. Members of the planning committee are currently seeking a location to host the event in June that will allow for a general session of up to 300 participants and several breakout sessions.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has recently experienced an influx of new referrals for Post Adoption Support. The majority of the new referrals we have had over the past two months have not been new Brevard County adoptions but instead families that have adopted from the Florida child welfare system in another county.

In an effort to continue to enhance and develop the interagency working relationship between Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Protection Investigations (CPI) we hosted a joint Leadership Roundtable Meeting to discuss strengths and opportunities for improvement. We had great dialogue and were able to identify several areas to focus our relationship building that would improve the services that are provided to families. Our next steps will be to do a joint meeting with the DCF CPI Operations Manager, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director and the Children's Legal Services Managing Attorney, followed by front line staff Roundtable meetings to continue discussion on the items identified by the joint leadership teams.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. continues to promote Open Table in the community. During the month of April we hosted a Community Convening Team discussion, two community introduction webinars, and a Next Step Webinar. Interest is continuing to grow but for successful implementation we really need at least one congregation to step up and provide leadership for the faith based community.

The National Center for Innovation and Excellence has partnered with Growing Tree Solutions to create materials and technology that will support the C.A.R.E.S. model replication. In April, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. staff members participated in a Wraparound Case Management System Demonstration to discuss the required functionality, alignment with the model, alignment with Brevard C.A.R.E.S. implantation of the model and identify acceptable variations required by implementation sites.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phebe Powell  
Executive Director