



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Board Report January 2017**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

December 2016

Our Annual Winter Wonderland event was held on December 14th. Over 200 were in attendance at this year's event. We are thankful for the overwhelming number of sponsors, gift donations, food donations, and volunteers we received to make this a magical holiday season for our families. (If you have contacts with any of the following donors please thank them for their generous support: In Dyne, Inc. sponsored 25 children, Upper Cervical sponsored 30 children, Figueroa Law Group sponsored 10 children, AT&T Pioneers sponsored 25 children, Ascension Catholic Church sponsored 90 children, Disabled Veterans Association sponsored 80 children, Newscycle sponsored 30 children, Terry Laboratories LLC sponsored 20 children, Health First sponsored 100 children, Viera High School sponsored 5 children, Melbourne Seventh-day Adventist Church sponsored 30 children, Maggie Dickinson provided funds for the event, Melvin Mitchell donated food for a family's holiday, Gamma Na Chapter donated two food baskets, Charles Howlett donated gift cards for 5 children, Kristin Pirozzi donated toys for children, Eria Spall donated gifts for teens, Mary Ann Chance donated gifts for teens, and Discover Life Church donated toys for children.)

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is requesting \$20,000 from the Space Coast Health Foundation Pickett Responsive Grant to support our Mobile Response Team. In a 2015 report, Florida had a 59.06% increase in the number of children, aged 4-17 who were Baker Acted, resulting in over 220,000 involuntary examinations. This is a tremendously large increase in the number of Baker Acts in our state, well beyond our population growth. According to the Baker Act Reporting Center, Brevard County had 6,240 involuntary exam initiated in 2015, 19.55% of those were for children under the age of 18. The Mobile Response Team supports families in serious distress with immediate crisis intervention and mental health services in an effort to reduce Baker Acts, arrest, and/or placement disruptions, and ensures everyone receives the proper care. In our first full twelve months of service delivery the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Mobile Response Team served 771 children and was able to preserve the child's placement at the time of the crisis, reducing additional trauma to the child and family. In order to provide timely crisis response to all families, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. subcontracts with a number of master level clinicians. In FY2015-2016, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. overspent our Mobile Response Team contracted services budget by nearly \$13,000. To minimize additional overspending, management re-assigned one of the Safety Management Team Family Engagement Coordinators in May to provide back-up and support to the Mobile Response Team Coordinator. This action allows the agency to work within our allocated budget but reduces the number of families we are able to provide with Safety Management Services. In addition to providing internal support, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has also re-negotiated our rate agreement with current subcontractors and established a lower rate for new subcontractors. (If you have contacts with Space Coast Health Foundation I would ask your assistance in advocating for our agency. Space Coast Health Foundation Board members and leadership include: James Dwight/Chair, Bill Bancoft/Vice Chair, Linda Dale/Treasurer, Fran Pickett/Board Member, Patrice Pilate/Board member, Tricia Romesberg/Board member, Adam Bird/Board member, Khalid Yasin/Consultant, Johnette Gindling/Executive Director, Dawn Hannon/Chief Financial Officer, and Donna Larson/Operations Director.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Executive Director