



# Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

**Executive Director Report  
October 14, 2020**

Kathryn Parker  
Executive Director

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

## September 2020

### Key accomplishment(s) this past month

- We are pleased to announce that two employees, Laketra Chick and RaSheena Mansel passed their Child Welfare Certification exam and graduated from the training class on October 1, 2020. Both employees will be Diversion Care Coordinators for our Non-Judicial team. We also had two new employees begin in the Family Support Services Program.
- It is with deep sympathy to announce that Marilyn Ghiz, Brevard CARES MRT Coordinator passed away on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn was a part of the CARES team for 2 years but was involved in child welfare for over fifteen years. Marilyn was a pillar of the community and we have received an outpouring of support and love for the work Marilyn has provided. Homegoing services were held for Marilyn on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- A grief counselor from Insperity attended CARES all staff meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to speak with staff as a group regarding the passing of Marilyn. Private sessions were available to staff through a virtual platform if anyone wanted to continue to process through the grief with a counselor.
- Our Human resource department has scheduled a Town Hall with all employees to help them understand and be able to utilize the benefits offered by the Employee Assistance Plan. Our staff have requested an ease to access process so they can utilize the Employee Assistance Program with less challenges.
- Through our Housing Program we have been able to partner with the Cocoa Housing Authority and secure eight Section 8 vouchers for our families. Several of the cases we received voucher on are families dealing with significant health or mental health issues so the ability to maintain affordable housing allows them to follow through with treatment. The condition of receiving these vouchers is the commitment from Brevard CARES to provide case management for twelve months.

### Key challenges moving forward

- We are predicting this will be a tough year for holiday donations due to the state of the economy, so we are challenging each Board member to solicit a donor or donors to support CARES Holiday Gift Drive. This has been one of the toughest years we have faced and are still facing as a community, but we are determined to ensure that the children involved in our program have gifts to open on Christmas. No donation is too small, and all donations are welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathryn Parker*

Executive Director