

HOPE, HEART & HOME

*A Faith-Based Community Coalition
Supporting Children in Foster Care*

NEWSLETTER

June 2020



The New Norm?

Hope, Heart & Home wants to keep you updated during these hectic days. In this issue we keep you posted on HHH events, opportunities with our partners, and inciteful articles for our Child Advocates. We hope you enjoy it! - *Editorial Staff*

MONTHLY MEETING -Monday, June 8

Unprecedented Times Calls For Extraordinary Leadership



Hope, Heart & Home Child Advocates heard a passionate appeal Monday night from the President of the South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (SFFAPA), Denise Beeman-Sasiain. Weaving a story of her organization's advocacy in the child welfare system with her incredible personal story of fostering some 40 children and adopting four of her own. Denise delivered a powerful call for recruiting foster and respite parents from the South Dade Deanery. "Parents shouldn't be afraid," she told the HHH audience. "There are some incredible resources out there to support foster families, including yours!"

HHH is working with SFFAPA to identify ways to marshal the resources of the parish communities to aid the new foster families that have come forward.. Gift cards, backpacks, books, and toiletries may be part of the equation. "It all depends on the age of the children and the family's economic situation," Beeman-Sasiain pointed out. "I'm hoping HHH and SFFAPA can team up on a number of projects!"

A total of 27 HHH Child Advocates climbed out of their covid hibernation and jumped on this virtual monthly meeting. (See photo attached). It was great to see old and new friends! Participants included newcomers Yaritza Gonzalez, Pamela Bernal, Jenny Ardilla, and Carmenza Ortiz. They were welcomed by veterans including John Sennetti (our virtual host), Malvi Longoria, Lorenzo Cosio, Maria Jacques, Valerie Van Ostran, Joann Pierre, Mike Carrier (who displayed the colorful HHH banner like a billboard in his background - Mary and Luis Andujas, Vivian and Wieland Uchdorf, Harrison Griffis, Chuck Caldwell, Susan Dinger, Minette Rivero, Jimmy Searle, John Gentile, David Castrillon, Maria & Elizabeth Romanek, and Eric Schwindeman. We also attracted some HHH Child Advocates who listened in on their phones.

HHH's next monthly meeting will be held Monday night, July 13 at 7:00 pm. Circle the date NOW! It may be a live meeting or another virtual conference call (or maybe a combination of both!). All are welcome (and welcomed back) to these monthly meetings held the second Monday of each month. Invite your friends to get involved!

We'll keep you posted on up-coming trainings with Educate Tomorrow, Florida Foster Care Review, Citrus Family Care Network, and the Guardians ad Litem. Classes are filling now. Visit and "Like Us" at www.facebook.com

NEW HHH FOSTER PARENTS – Graduate - Monday, June 8

Please join us in welcoming two new **Hope, Heart & Home** foster parents who graduated from the *Citrus Family Care Networks'* 7-week **South Pride Training Course**.

YOHANDRA ACOSTA

MARIA ROMANEK

Congratulations to these two families for opening up their hearts *and homes* to children in need of safe, secure, and loving homes!





**CITRUS ANNOUNCES SOUTH PRIDE TRAINING DATES
FOR PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS**

Good Morning Eric,

Below are the South Pride Trainings for the remaining of the year:

June 22- Full

August 1st - September 12th Saturdays 9am-1pm for 4 weeks (Held in English and Spanish)

August 10th – October 5th Mondays 6pm – 9pm for 7 weeks

October 12th – December 7th Mondays 6pm – 9pm for 7 weeks

November 7th – December 19th Saturdays 9am – 1pm for 4 weeks (Held in English/Span)

Kind regards,

Joanne Pierre 786-717-2236

HHH Child Advocates interested in exploring foster or respite care should contact Joanne for an interview, screening, and training class assignment.

HHH is now recruiting Guardian ad Litem to represent the best interests of children in the foster care system. Interested volunteers should call HHH Liaison Malvi Longoria @ 305-812-0559

GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAININGS

Hey Eric,

Hope all is well. I do not have calendars set up for the training since it's mostly virtual . The way we have been doing them so far is me hosting two video virtual calls with the volunteers. One at the beginning of the month (usually the second week of the month) and one at the end (usually the last week of the month). The rest of the training is virtual and can be done at the volunteer's leisure. Depending on how many leads we have that month I may offer more than one intro call and more than one wrap up call. So far it's been working out great.

I also have an attorney do a virtual legal training for them as well. This month we had two possible times and dates and it was done by two different attorneys. It just depends on the size of the class. – Cindy Bobadilla *GAL Training and Development Manager*

GUARDIAN AD LITEM VIRTUAL COFFEE CHAT



Please join us for our next (and very important) virtual coffee chat taking place on **Tuesday June 23rd at 11 am**. We will be talking with our director Jessica Allen regarding our updated visitation protocol, and with Dorothy Marin from Voices for Children who will be informing us about current available resources for our families. The flyer is attached. Please register using the link below. Register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcofu-vrDkpH9I232K2gDOdZAbJZwATAJHF> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

HHH is recruiting Mentors to work with college students at MDC – Kendall and FIU who have aged-out of the foster care system. A training class, run by *Educate Tomorrow*, will be held this summer at St. John Neumann. To join this exciting team, please call Dr. John Gentile @ 305-798-0493

EDUCATE TOMORROW



Students meet individually with Educate Tomorrow staff who promote students' educational attainment by providing opportunities that are designed to support the physical, emotional, social, and academic needs of students who experienced foster care or homelessness. During each individual meeting, staff use appreciative advising to understand students' needs, values, beliefs, and aspirations. Educate Tomorrow staff provide supports in-house (noted below in yellow) and external resources. Depending on the students' needs, they may be required to meet with staff anywhere from three times per week to one time per month to address their individual concerns and goals.

HOUSING

Casa Valentina: Provides housing and support services related to life skills training for at-risk youth who have transitioned out of foster care or experienced homelessness.

Housing Assistance Network of Dade (HAND) Program: Provides temporary rental assistance for eligible low-income individuals and families who are currently homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Family Unification Program Housing Voucher: Provides young adults and families with a housing voucher and financial coaching for varied amounts of time.

Homeless Hotline:
1-877-994-HELP (4357) or
305-375-CARE (2273)

Other Housing Providers: Lotus House, Camillus House, Paragon Partnership, Chapman, Concept Health Housing, Safe Haven, Carrfour

ADVOCACY

Lawyers For Children America: Provides quality pro bono legal representation to protect the rights of children who are victims of abuse, abandonment and neglect, and collaborates for systematic change to improve the lives of children.

Disability Independence Group: Provides expanded opportunities for participation, education, employment, and acceptance of persons with disabilities through advocacy, litigation, education, and training.

Guardian ad Litem: Provides volunteer advocates and professional staff creating a powerful voice on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children.

Americans for Immigrant Justice: Provides protection and promotion of basic human rights of immigrants in Florida and on a national level, championing the rights of unaccompanied immigrant children and advocating for survivors of trafficking and domestic violence.

Voices For Children: Provides stability, safety, and a feeling of home by ensuring children in foster care have a caring and consistent person to be there for them and by providing resources to fulfill their needs.

EDUCATION

AOK Scholars: Provides scholarships to selected AOK Scholars who are eligible to receive needs-based funding, professional development funding, bonuses based on their grades and graduations, and mentoring to overcome barriers to graduation.

Fostering Panther Pride: Provides tailored academic and support services to students who experienced foster care or homelessness.

Positive Pathways Program: Provides postsecondary students who use the DCF tuition exemption with access to a network of campus- and community-based professionals that facilitate transition to and success in college.

Citrus Family Care Network: Provides physical and behavioral health care, school-based health programs, and housing and is the Community Based Care Lead Agency for foster care and related services in Miami-Dade and Monroe. Citrus FCN is a division of Citrus Health Network.

EMPLOYMENT

Finding Your Power, Purpose and Presence (P3) Executive Internship: Provides an opportunity for young ladies engage in two weeks of self-development and workforce readiness skills to prepare them for a six-week internship with local executive-level women where they earn a cash stipend and receive ongoing mentoring.

Graduate Fellows: Provides positions that are individually-developed based on interests and provide financial support in the form of a paycheck, professional development, and job readiness training for selected senior-level students. Graduate Fellows typically get paid an hourly rate to build professionalism and relevant skills for their professional goals, while serving as a role-model for their peers.

Changemaker Corps: Provides peer-to-peer mentoring and training on professionalism and social services. Changemakers provide enrollment assistance and academic support to their peers, and attend community service projects every month.



A service partnership funded by The Children's Trust

www.educatetomorrow.org | 1717 North Bayshore Drive Suite 203 | Miami, FL 33132 | 305.374.3751 | Fax: 866.897.1564

EDUCATE TOMORROW SECURES NEW GRANT – Link Below:

<https://www.facebook.com/ETfanpage/videos/1132410127139003/UzpfSTeZNDg1NTI2NTY6MTAyMjQxNzc1Mzc2MTAwMDC/>

NEW REFERENCES

A great 3-part look at Foster Family *recruitment and support*. Dr. Denise Goodman emphasizes the need to “leverage existing support groups,” ie, Hope, Heart & Home and the parishes of the South Dade Deanery. She also introduces new ideas on “Respite Care.” A must read for HHH Child Advocates!



Foster family recruitment, development and support: During the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond A Three-Part Conversation with Denise Goodman, PhD

In this three-part series, Denise Goodman, a national expert in foster family recruitment, development and support, shared with CHAMPS her perspective on how child welfare agencies can ensure children and youth in foster care continue to have stable, quality foster homes during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part 1: Foster Family Recruitment (see below for links to Parts 2 & 3).

Denise, overall, what are you seeing in the child welfare field right now, as agencies continue their work during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Child welfare agencies are strained on many levels. There is very little PPE to go around. They are dealing with workforce shortages due to workers being ill, health concerns, caring for sick relatives, or lack of childcare. There are also technology challenges. Agencies are trying to ramp up capacity to work virtually. I’ve noticed that agency leaders have initially been focused on workforce issues, visitation, court proceedings, and caseworker visits. But agencies are now turning to the recruitment, development and support of caregivers. There’s an understanding that we need to keep our current foster families and continue to recruit new families.

This work is tough, for sure, but what I’m also seeing is that the flexibility and innovation of the jurisdiction can make all the difference. We need to keep in mind that sometimes crisis can be the birthplace of creativity. Barriers that used to be there have somehow gone away. If we can do it now, we can do it after. We don’t want to put foster care back where it was, we want it to be better. That was the commitment in Louisiana after Katrina. We need to have similar focus across the country.

What has changed, or should change, related to how agencies recruit foster families?

The pandemic has created the necessity of using social media. If you weren't doing it before, you should now. If you were doing it before, you should increase your visibility even more. Everyone is at home and online these days! Some ideas include:

- Send out a recruitment message to existing foster parents to post on their social media and have people like it. Do the same for your staff.
- Ask churches and schools to put recruitment messages in their newsletter and on websites. People are on those websites now more than ever.
- Get on local news media. Here in Columbus, Rita Soronen, CEO from Dave Thomas Foundation was on local news reminding us that we still need foster and adoptive families. [[Story here](#)] Every community has someone who can speak to this issue.

How should agencies think about changing their foster family recruitment messaging during this time?

I'm starting to see some good recruitment messaging on social media platforms. You definitely want to address the current crisis. Keep in mind that news coverage has been highlighting that child abuse reports are going down. Agencies need to get the word out that foster parents are still needed. Some ideas for recruitment messaging are:

- Share that becoming a foster parent can be done from the comfort of their home. Training, orientation and some of the home study can all be done virtually.
- Stress that if they have been thinking about being a foster parent, now is a good time to start the process.
- Highlight that this is a good thing to do for kids and teens right now. We need homes every day, and we're going to need more down the road!
- Reinforce that families can go at different speeds. They can take a fast track or take their time.
- Consider sharing that we need to get kids out of group homes right now. We're all isolating, but we don't want kids further isolated in those settings.
- Tell prospective foster parents that they can commit to the next year to help some children and your community through this tough time.
- Stay in contact with families and continue to encourage them. Shepherd them through each step of the licensing process.
- Lastly, times are tough for folks who have lost jobs. Be sure to emphasize that this will not supplant family income

Are there any best practices that agencies should consider implementing now?

Nationally, very few agencies have dedicated staff for recruitment. Often, recruitment staff are also doing licensing or other functions. There are big advantages to dedicating staff to recruitment. And even bigger gains when agencies engage foster parents as recruiters and pay them. Some agencies pay a "finder's fee" to foster families who help recruit. Foster families are often helping recruit others, but it's not recorded or incentivized. Agencies need to find ways to formally partner with their existing families in order to institutionalize and maximize the benefits of family-to-family recruitment.

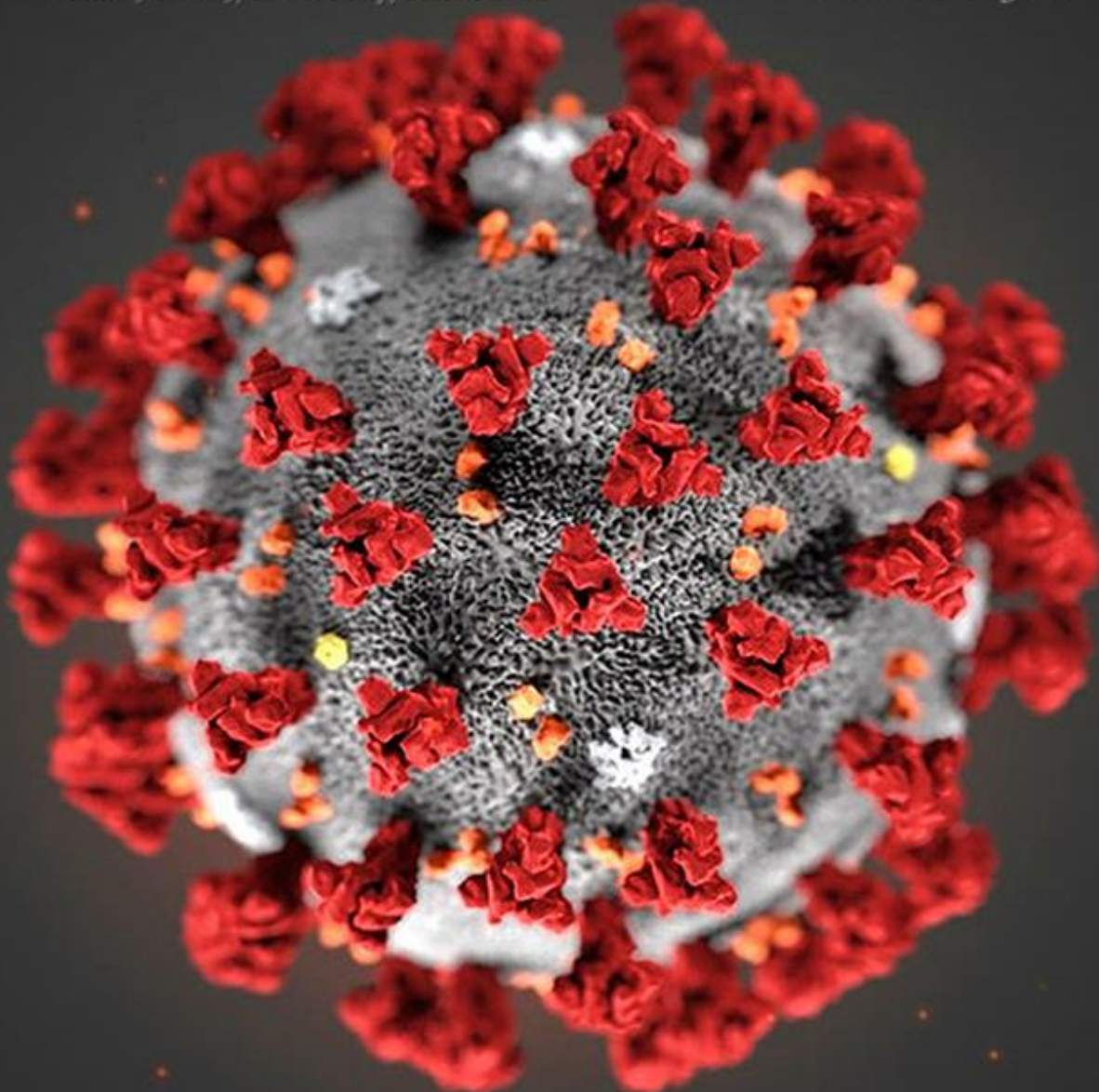
See [here for Part 2](#) See [here for Part 3](#)

Dr. Steve Rios from *Positive Pathways* (Educate Tomorrow) and HHH Guest Speaker at our February monthly meeting: “This is the only national monthly magazine devoted to foster care. It provides some insights into the challenges faced by the college students we work with.”

Foster Focus

Volume 9 Issue 9/10 February/March 2020

FosterFocusMag.com



Corona & Care



Eric

Faith and Community Leaders of Florida,

Introducing our Council:

VISION: To maximize the collaboration between faith-based and community organizations and State agencies to help strengthen individuals and families.

MISSION: The Council exists to facilitate connections to strengthen communities and families in the state of Florida.

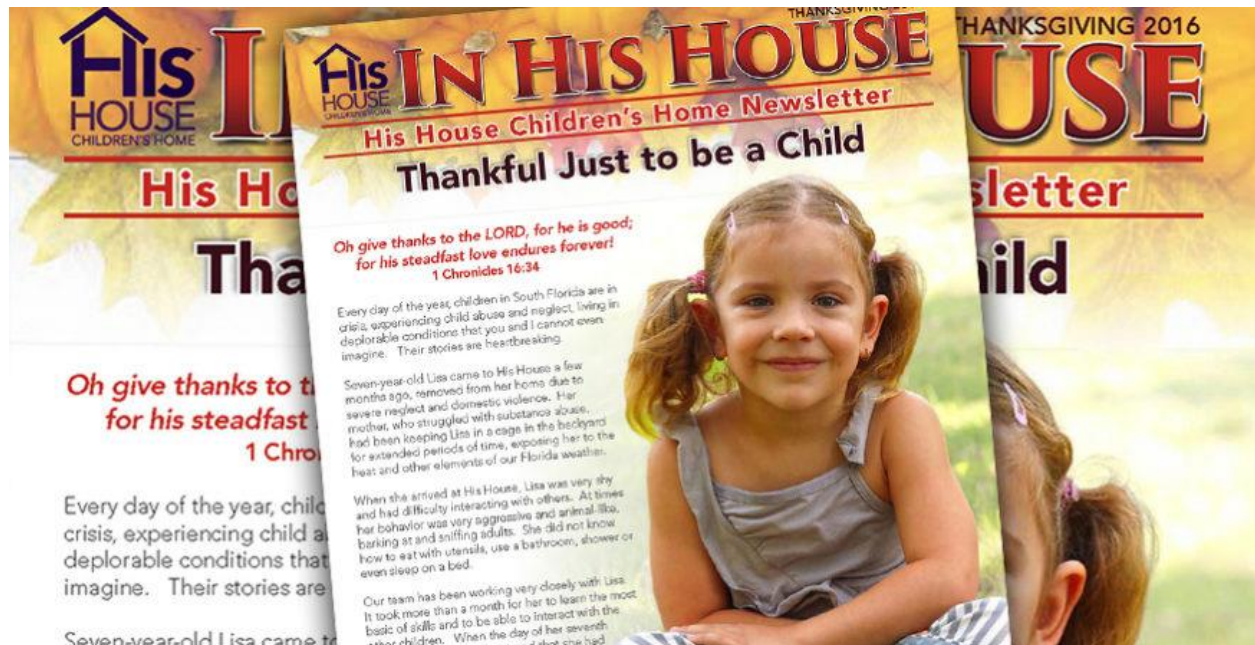
The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Council serves as a formal advisory council to the Executive Office of the Governor and to the Legislature. The goals of the Council are to enlist, enable, empower and expand the work of volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations. There are many [volunteer opportunities](#) throughout state government. The Council is tasked with providing annual recommendations to the Governor and Legislature that will encourage the government and the faith-based community to work together to improve social services for Floridians.

Looking forward to working with Hope, Heart & Home.

Serving Together,

Erik Dellenback
Faith and Community Liaison to the Governor
Governor's Faith and Community Based Initiative
State of Florida

HIS HOUSE - Update



Eric,

Great speaking to you. As I mentioned, since mid March the kids have been quarantined on campus. We had two separate two homes to covert them to quarantine homes in case children tested positive and a run away home. As you know foster children are already dealing with the trauma of the abuse, abandonment or neglect and now a pandemic. We have had extraordinary unexpected expenses as a result of being quarantine for such a long time. From over \$100K we have had to spend for food and PPE supplies along with a nose dive of fundraising dollars it has been quite difficult.

Even with all these precautions COVID has found its way on campus. Here is the first article: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article243455611.html> and more articles and news stories are coming from both local and national outlets.

However, because God is good all the time, one of our very special donors provided us an opportunity for us to start a match campaign called BE THE ONE. The donor has agreed to match every dollar up to \$50K that we are able to raise through June 30th. So as you can imagine, every dollar counts particularly now that we are so close to meeting our goal. If you could please provide the information to the group and folks in your circle, I would greatly appreciate it. The link is: www.hhch.org/be-the-one

Thank you in advance for your support in our efforts to continue to keep our kids safe and calm. Sincerely, David *Director of Development, HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME*



**Good News! The Kickoff:
Fostering Love and Support Group Session**

**Saturday June 20, 2020
(Always the 3rd Saturday)
10:00 - 11:00 am**

Facilitated by Dr. Melissa Miller-Munoz

Registration in advance is required!

(See Links Below)

-Would you like help in Managing the Continual Stress of Parenting Trauma-Exposed Children?

-Are you Currently Helping a Child to Transition out of your Home?

-Are you Experiencing Grief and Loss over a Child Being Reunified with Family?

-Is the Adoption Journey More Challenging than You Ever Expected?

This ongoing support group is a safe haven for foster and adoptive parents to connect and support one another as we navigate the uncertainties, stressors, anxieties, and grief that comes with being foster and adoptive parents. The group will focus on well-being and healing while working through grief and loss, managing expectations, coping with stress, and self-care. It is open to all foster and adoptive parents, whom may come and go on an as needed basis.

This long-anticipated group is facilitated by Dr. Melissa Miller-Munoz, who is not only a psychotherapist trained in group therapy, but also a foster parent who has intimate knowledge of the emotional and psychological challenges involved with fostering and loss.

To participate in this week's session, enter your contact information on the Zoom link below, and the access information will be emailed to you.

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

For those who have not previously registered, please fill out the following forms prior to

the session start time:

[Member Participation Questionnaire](#)

[SFFAPA Consent Form](#)

To create an environment of trust, please ensure that your video camera is turned on so that we can visually see all who are in attendance.

For questions or more information, contact Dr. Melissa Miller-Munoz at (305)609-8622 or email millermunoz@gmail.com.

FLORIDA FOSTER CARE REVIEW



Training classes for **Panelists** to serve on the Citizen Review Board of *Florida's Foster Care Review* will be held this fall at the *Children's Courthouse* in downtown Miami *or on-line this summer*. Contact Attorney **Ada Avallone** (GAL) @ 305-586-5200 for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Pending

**BACK TO SCHOOL
DRIVE THRU
FOR
FOSTER FAMILIES**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST (8th OR 15th)
12 - 3 PM**

Drive thru Only to pick up Backpacks
and Other Much Needed School Supplies

Sponsored by the **HOPE, HEART & HOME**
CITRUS FAMILY CARE NETWORK
South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Partnership

Coming to a Catholic Parish Near You

HOPEFULLY!

T. B. D.



NEXT MEETING:



Hope, Heart & Home
Is Recruiting Child Advocate Leaders
to Support Children in Foster Care

Become a *Guardian ad Litem*, a *Foster* or *Respite Parent*
a *Mentor of College Students*, or a *Case Review Panelist*

JOIN US

Monday Night, July 13 @ 7 PM
For A Virtual Monthly Meeting
To Learn What We Are Doing
And
How You Can Help

INVITE A FRIEND

<https://www.facebook.com/ministryHHH/>

SEE YOU IN JULY !!!!!

