

Seminole County Communities

A Newsletter for Community Service Agencies
Volume IX, Issue XVII March 2008



The March of Dimes
is about all babies...
those born healthy and those
that need our help to survive.

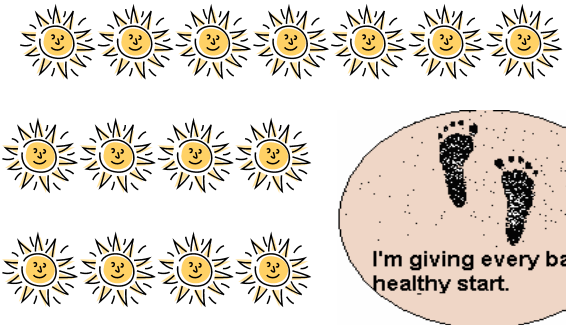


Be a part of our growing online community that celebrates every baby's story. Your story along with a photo of your choice will be added to our interactive quilt.

Because right now, premature birth touches half a million babies and the families every year

Because babies born too soon and are more likely to die, or have lifelong disabilities, 120,000 babies are born with serious birth defects every year. Every baby deserves someone in their corner. The March of Dimes is here for all babies—those born healthy and those that need help to survive and thrive.

<http://www.marchofdimes.com>



Drive Away Child Abuse

ABOUT KIDS HOUSE

Each year in Seminole County, 4,000 reports of child abuse and neglect are investigated by the authorities. Kids House of Seminole staff is part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team who work together on child abuse cases. Our mission is to aid children by providing all necessary services for children who are victims of abuse, in a friendly and non-threatening environment.

Kids House, Children's Advocacy Center, provides trained professionals who do crisis intervention, forensic interviews, medical exams and follow-up treatment, mental health assessments and counseling, victim support services, community outreach and education, and professional tools trainings. Any child who is a victim of abuse can receive help at Kids House. Other offices housed at Kids House are the Seminole County Sheriff's Crimes against Children Criminal Investigative Unit and medical staff Florida Hospital- in Altamonte Springs.

DRIVE AWAY CHILD ABUSE CAMPAIGN.....



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Kids House is doing all we can to reach out to the community and speak out about child abuse. We are asking for your support in our campaign this April. Kids House of Seminole will be holding a Drive Away Child Abuse campaign to raise awareness of child abuse through a widespread outlet, with car dealerships and other motor vehicle venues. There are 19 major car dealerships widely spread throughout Seminole County alone; this campaign will reach tens of thousands during the month of April.

Please contact a Kids House representative listed below if you would like more information about the campaign or wish to schedule an interview with any of the following: Caretaker or family member of an abused child, a law Enforcement Officer who investigates crimes against children, Medical Provider who treats victims of child abuse, Victim Advocate for child victims and their families, therapist who works with victims of abuse, Child Abuse Prevention Specialist.

The Drive Away Child Abuse Kick off Event is Saturday, March 29th at Kids House from 10am-11am. I appreciate your support in this campaign”



**Kids House of Seminole
(407) 324-3036**

Quote: ~ “A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child” ~Knights of Pythagoras



Construction has been completed and certificates have been issued, Hospice of the Comforter is now accepting patients for its Hospice House. Located in Altamonte Springs, the only free-standing Hospice House serving Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties will provide hospice patients and their families who require specialized, acute care the highest level of medical attention in a home-like environment.

Hospice House has 16 private suites to accommodate the needs of hospice patients and their families. The Hospice House is intricately designed with patients in mind: murals in the foyer, stained glass windows in the chapel, furniture that accommodates overnight visitors, gardens and patios attached to every patient room. A highly trained staff works around the clock provides 24/7 care.

Hospice of the Comforter cares for patients and their families who have an advanced illness. The focus of hospice care is on caring, not curing. Hospice of the Comforter aims to make a patient's last months dignified and pain-free in a comfortable setting with family and friends. Making a referral to Hospice of the Comforter and Hospice House are the same and very easy. If you are interested in Hospice of the Comforter, issues surrounding end-of-life care or Hospice House you may visit: www.hospiceofthecomforter.org or contact Jenna Shrum (407) 682-0808 x 2252 JennaShrum@hospiceofthecomforter.org.



FAMILY connections

A Seminole County Family Focused Program

FREE CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES!

Please share this information with any family/individual that may be interested. The Family Café Conference (featuring the summit on disabilities) will be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, June 13-15. The Family Café Annual Conference provides a forum for individuals with all types of disabilities and their families from all regions of Florida to gather information about available services and how to best access them.

This is also an opportunity for agencies/groups to display their information at the exhibit hall. Please view the website for more information.
www.familycafe.net

Seminole County Events Calendar

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTHS

February, March and April 2008

March 27-28

Hanging of the Hands" Collection

Thursday or Friday March 27-28 from 9:00-5:00
Schools, child care centers, non-profits, or any organization involved with kids should get involved.



"Two Week" Campaign!

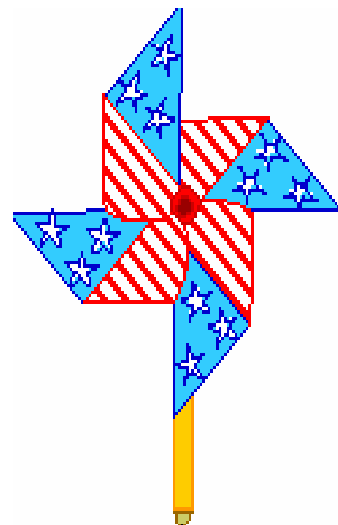


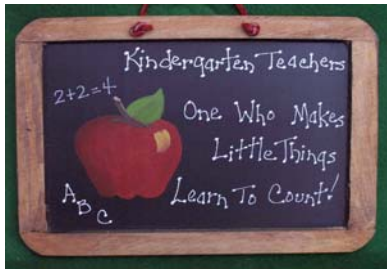
Step Up, Florida! Celebration Winds of Change Pinwheel

Over 4,000 Pinwheels will be displayed at 6 different locations in Seminole County. While driving down the road if you see Pinwheels you should know that each pinwheel represents a births in Seminole County & a new beginning. See more details at www.thechildrenscabinet.org and Ounce of Prevention Fund www.ounce.org

Seminole County hands can be dropped off at SC Sheriff's Office, SC Health Department, or CBC of Seminole. See link to flyer www.cbcseminole.org
This event starts at 10am and is located at Fort Mellon Park in Sanford on Lake Monroe.
Activities include: Frisbee throw, trail walks, hoops contests, jump rope and much more.
See link to flyer www.seminolecohealth.com

"To nourish children and raise them against odds is in any time, any place, and more valuable than to fix bolts in cars or design nuclear weapons"~ Marilyn French





What is VPK?

A quality early education program aimed at helping your child enter school ready and eager to learn.

Is my child eligible?

◆ The Summer 2008 program is available to all children who turned 4 years old on or before September 1, 2007 and who are eligible for Kindergarten in the Fall season of 2008.

◆ The Fall 2008-2009 program is available to all children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2008 and are eligible for kindergarten in the Fall season of 2009
Seminole County VPK.

www.seminoleearlylearning.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CHILD CARE CONSULTANTS PRESENTS...OPERATION DAYCARE RENOVATION.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The Child Care Consultants has made a pledge to work with our parents, providers and employer groups to provide the necessary resources and services to reach the ultimate goal of protecting our most valuable asset; our children.

We would like to extend our appreciation to those child care providers in the Orlando, Florida area who have made valiant efforts of continued exceptional service and whose true goal is to ensure the children in their care are safe and secure. In doing so, The Child Care Consultants is sponsoring a community project that will award one child care facility the opportunity to take part in their "Operation Daycare Renovation".

*Evenings Classes are from:

6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Also, Adult Anger Management Classes

Michele Katz, MSW,

Instructor (407) 851-5920

Contact: Consuela Nelson

Tel. 1.866.247.4220

P.O. Box 634

Plymouth, Florida 32768

Email: cnelson@TheChildcareConsultants.com

2-1-1 Community Resource Information Hotline

Thank You!

Special Thanks to *Tracy Pellegrino*, Debra Groseclose, Consuela Nelson, Kelly Moroney, Jenna Shrum Kids House of Seminole and all others that contributed articles for this month's newsletter.



Seminole County Communities is a monthly newsletter issued by the Division of Community Assistance to provide information on activities and events that benefit the residents of Seminole County, focusing on the efforts of social service agencies in the community. *Seminole County Communities* is sent to an electronic mail list of government officials and staff, non-profit service providers, civic organizations, and private individuals. Newsletter recipients are encouraged to submit information on upcoming events, news, and current needs to llara@seminolecountyfl.gov