



PSI FAMILY SERVICES OF FLORIDA, INC.

OUR PLACE
PSI COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
HELPING PEOPLE GROW®

SUMMER 2006

**PSI DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PSI FAMILY2FAMILY PROGRAM**

“Our ambitious statewide program for families with children with developmental disabilities is exciting”, says Pat Stevenson, PSI Mental Retardation Services Coordinator.



PSI recent accomplishments:

- ✓ New Family2Family website – opening shortly
- ✓ 9-member statewide consultant group of parents and professionals holds regular meetings and reviews all program content
- ✓ PSI Toast Master’s Club for adults with developmental disabilities is opening at our Community Center in No. Jacksonville
- ✓ New Public Service Announcements for radio and television are approved by APD (Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities)
- ✓ PSI innovative Mentor Program for persons with disabilities is in final review by APD.

“These are exciting times for PSI DD Services. In addition to, Family2Family Program, our day training program begins its internship program this summer,” adds Pat Stevenson.

**PSI MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC BUSY
SUMMER PLANS**

“This will be a very busy and productive summer for us”, says Joe Zichi, PSI Clinical Director. “PSI was awarded a contract for Comprehensive Assessments for children in foster care. And, in response to a request from FSS, PSI is also expanding its summer recruitment for therapeutic foster homes”, says Joe Zichi.

**PSI FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION
A PSI 25-YEAR OLD TRADITION**

Foster parent appreciation is a PSI 25-year old tradition because our foster parents make a difference in the lives of children.



Mr. Joe Zichi, PSI Clinical Director and Mr. Larry West, Jr., PSI Executive Director hosted a luncheon for PSI Therapeutic Foster parents. The keynote speaker was Ms. Lillian Blackshear, President of the Northeast Florida Association of Foster Parents. All PSI therapeutic foster parents received special plaques and recognition.

All PSI staff join in saying “thank you” to our general foster parents. PSI case managers deliver special “thank you” coffee mugs filled with jelly beans to all foster parents.



MEET MARGIE AND HER THREE SONS

PSI's success in adoption is due to its exceptional staff and to adoptive parents like Margie. After Margie's son was born she adopted a seven year nephew. When her adopted son's half-brother went into DCF custody in 2001; DCF discouraged Margie from seeking custody because the child had serious emotional problems requiring long term treatment. When his case transferred to PSI in 2003, our clinical staff began working with Margie to qualify her to become a therapeutic foster parent. Although he was not released from the therapeutic group home until 2005, Margie and her boys made frequent trips to visit and Margie worked with the treatment team. Although improvement was gradual it was hard fought and treatment was successful. In July, her youngest son joined the family and Margie took over the role of therapeutic mom. We didn't realize until Margie went into action, that she was so awesome", says Larry West Jr., Executive Director. She can teach all of us lessons on strength based treatment.

In Margie's house, bad behavior is that person's responsibility, good behavior is what Margie's all about. That means lots of praise, heartfelt joy about success, and lots of behind the scenes work so the boy's won't be affected by stuff beyond their control.

"I don't let life pass us by" says Margie. "If one of my son's is not succeeding in school I don't stop until I get help – even if it means transferring to a new school". In fact that is how her youngest son brought his grades from 5 D's and 2 C's; to 4 B's, 2 C's and a D. He also excelled in sports and earning trophies in basketball and soccer for the family trophy case.



There is no bad ending to a story like this in fact there is a better ending. Margie's youngest son was adopted by Margie, June 12th in Judge Gooding's courtroom.

PSI -- ONE OF THE HIGHEST PERFORMING CBCs IN JACKSONVILLE "After only two years, PSI is one of the highest performing agencies in Jacksonville because of our dedicated staff", says Willean Hadley, PSI Team Coordinator.

"We always put children first", adds Ricky Shaw, PSI Team Coordinator, "and it shows":

- PSI was one of the six Community Service Centers awarded a three-year contract by FSS for foster care services.
- PSI still leads the Community Service Centers on 100% completed home visits for March, April, and May 2006.
- For the past 6 consecutive months, PSI has exceeded its family reunification goals.
- PSI staff earn daily praise from the courts, advocates, and foster parents for exceptional service to children.
- For the second year in row, PSI has exceeded its adoption goals.



- This year PSI will receive the FSS bonus for being a high performing agency in 2006.

By our deeds shall you know us.

CONGRATULATIONS, PSI STAFF!!! – *HELPING PEOPLE GROW®*

"I am so proud of our staff. We have worked hard and it shows," says Larry West, Jr., Executive Director.

- ▶ May 2006, PSI Case Manager AnJanette O'Neal and Team Coordinator Willean Hadley presented PSI at the state-wide Adoption Conference in Daytona Beach.
- ▶ May 2006, PSI Case Manager Biafra Thomas successfully ended a potentially dangerous runaway crisis by locating the foster child at 2:00 a.m.
- ▶ June 2006, PSI Case Manager Latoya Davenport received commendation from DCF for the sensitive handling in another weekend crisis.
- ▶ June 2006, PSI Prevention Worker Shahin Heydari, received commendation for assisting girls with special education needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

READ MORE ABOUT PSI DD PROGRAM

See the June 2006 issue of "E-Bulletin", the statewide e-newsletter of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Article features the work of PSI Developmental Disabilities Services in Florida.

PSI ADVISORY GROUP SUMMER MEETING

PSI Advisory Group will hold its summer meeting in our Community Service Center in North Jacksonville. For more information contact Mrs. Elaine Jackson, PSI Community Liaison, at 904-723-6049.

PSI FOSTER CHILDREN HONORED

In April 2006, three PSI foster children received the Department of Children and Families "Ounce of Prevention Award."

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT – JOB COACHES WANTED

Part-time and On-Call Job Coaches needed. Work evening and weekends helping adults with disabilities succeed on the job. Call PSI Human Resources Department 1-800-250-3754 or email: personnel@asiworks.com for information. FAX your resume to (301) 654-0230.

OUR PLACE

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