



**OUR PLACE**  
**PSI COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
**"HELPING PEOPLE GROW"®**

SPRING 2006

**PSI DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES SERVICES**

PSI Community Service Center opens unique community programs for adults with developmental disabilities. PSI is a newly licensed Waiver Provider.

"Our goal is to bring quality pre-vocational and supported employment opportunities to our under-served community", says Patricia Stevenson, MR Program Coordinator for PSI.



PSI brings over 25 years of success in mental retardation services to its new state-wide Family-2-Family multi-year contract. Working in partnership with Challenge Enterprises of North Florida, Inc. , PSI will support parents and family members with developmental disabilities living in the community.



**READ ABOUT PSI DD  
PROGRAM**

Article in the **Jacksonville Free Press**, Wednesday, March 16, 2006 on our new developmental disabilities day training program.



**PSI FOSTER CARE STAFF  
IN THE COMMUNITY**

Rickie Shaw, a former Jacksonville Jaguars football player and PSI Foster Care Team Coordinator was the celebrity participant in a golf tournament. The event was sponsored by Team Challenge.



Mr. Larry West, PSI Executive Director, was featured speaker at Teachers Training Day at Sallye B. Mathis Elementary School. Larry's



message was that PSI wants to help make a difference to children through collaboration with partners like Sallye B. Mathis Elementary School.

PSI sponsors important community events. It is our way of giving back to the community that has welcomed us", says Larry West, PSI Executive Director. *(Article continued on Page 3)*



Congratulations to PSI foster care staff for their volunteer work in the districts served by the PSI Community Service Center.

**PSI MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES**

PSI Community Service Center brings needed community services to North Jacksonville. Joe Zichi, PSI Clinical Administrator says "Our mental health services are where they are most needed--here in the heart of North Jacksonville."

"Families can get professional help. DCF can get therapeutic foster homes and mental health assessments."

"We believe we are adding to the quality of the life in our community."



**BY OUR DEEDS SHALL  
YOU KNOW US**

"It is always challenging when you are the new kid on the block", says Willean Hadley, PSI Team Coordinator. "We worked very hard to get it right for our children and families." Since 2005, PSI consistently ranks 1st, 2nd, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place of all eight community based centers on all critical measures of quality services, according to DCF evaluation reports.

"We are very proud of our staff."

***By our deeds  
shall you know us!!***

## LISTENING TO THE CHILDREN

By A.

Male age 15, PSI Foster Child



Of course I would be a foster parent. My home would be in a good neighborhood, and I wouldn't want the kids to live in a place that is unsafe. I would want four guys, not little one's, and I wouldn't know how to handle a baby. I want my boys to have their independence, but I wouldn't want them to spend time in the streets. I would put them in activities that all of us could attend. If one of my boys got into trouble, I would stand by his side. Sometimes you get into things in the streets that you shouldn't, but it won't change our relationship or our family.

My kids will look good; they will be as well dressed as any kid in the school. They will know how to carry themselves and be noticed for their manners. My kids will have cell phones so I know where they are at all times, and I can go where they are if they need me. If they aren't doing well in school, we will have a tutor at the house. That way, I will know what they are doing and be certain they are taking advantage of the opportunity to bring up their grades.

I don't want my kids to join a group or be with a crowd. I believe it's safest for them to be independent. I want them to fit in but not get caught up with too many friends. I will be their biggest fan. They are going to be at home learning the things they need to know to go out in the world. If when all is said and done, I need to adopt them, then that would be fine with me.

I see myself getting along with their caseworkers, but I have a couple of things I will tell them. If you take my kids to court or other places during the day, please feed them. Kids notice if you don't care enough to see that they aren't hungry. Also compliment my boys when you see them because everybody needs a compliment.

PSI has always been there for me and my caseworker takes care of me. I feel welcome when I come to PSI."



### PSI FOSTER CARE STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

"Most of the PSI foster care staff was born in Jacksonville. Many in the Districts we serve. For us, this is more than a job. It is a commitment and challenge to make a difference", says Rickie Shaw, PSI Team Coordinator."

Here's what the PSI staff have been doing in their free time:

- Children's Dance Ministry at Grace and Mercy Deliverance Ministry
- Senior Saints event at Shiloh Metropolitan Church
- Sons of Allen event at St. Paul AME Church



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For information, call Larry West, PSI Executive Director, at 904-723-6049.



### FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH

May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Join us for our annual Foster Parent Appreciation activities.

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

The annual event co-sponsored by PSI will be held April 22, 2006. Save this date.

### NORTHEAST FLORIDA FOSTER ADOPT ASSOCIATION

Northeast Florida Foster Adopt Association monthly meetings will be held at PSI at the usual time in April. Public is welcome.

### NEW DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE

PSI offers free distance learning courses for staff and foster parents. Our newest 5-part accredited course is Substance Abuse and the Elderly. Visit our website



[www.psifamilyservices.com](http://www.psifamilyservices.com) for additional information.

### OUR PLACE

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