



You Can Change a  
Child's Life

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS OUTCOMES**  
Fiscal Year 2023/24

- 504 children & families served annually.
- 99% of families served had no verified reports of abuse or neglect during services.
- 100% of families who completed services successfully showed improvement in at least 3 of 5 basic minimum needs of the self-sufficiency standard.
- 100% of families who completed the program demonstrated knowledge and competency in accessing community resources.
- Community families were assisted with food and basic household needs such as personal hygiene products and baby supplies from our Food Pantry.

**OUR MISSION**

To provide safe haven, mental health, preventative care and life skills for at-risk children and families.

**Supporting Families in  
Crisis Program**

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**Hibiscus Children's Center**  
Saving Children Since 1985



**SUPPORTING  
FAMILIES IN CRISIS**  
Community Outreach Services



**Hibiscus Children's Center**  
Saving Children Since 1985



# HIBISCUS CHILDREN'S CENTER SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS (SFC)

Serving St. Lucie & Indian River County Families

Every child, every day, for a better tomorrow.



## SFC Helps New Father

*(Names changed for privacy)*

Austin contacted SFC for help to avoid an eviction which would cause he and his 3-year old daughter Emma to be homeless. At the assessment with Austin, it was discovered that he had just received custody of Emma. Prior to this, he was not aware that he had a daughter until Emma's mom recently passed away. Austin used whatever funds he had to provide clothing and necessities for Emma.



*SFC helped Austin avoid eviction and keep his 3-year old daughter safe.*

The SFC Family Advocate was able to talk to Austin's landlord and coordinate a payment plan and assist in paying a portion of the rent which resulted in cancelling the eviction. The Family Advocate assisted Austin with reference and the paperwork to secure daycare services for his daughter. The Advocate then reached out to the Hibiscus Thrift Store which was able to supply clothing and bedroom furniture for Emma. In addition, the Advocate also worked on helping Austin secure food stamps and Medicaid for himself and his daughter. They went over parenting techniques and what are reasonable expectations for a child this age to help Austin acclimate as a first-time dad.

During this time, Austin was unfortunately diagnosed with a potentially fatal disease and was unable to work due to his health. The Advocate assisted Austin with completing social security disability paperwork. *Throughout the years when Austin has a concern or needs advice, he still calls his Family Advocate for help.*

SFC has an annual **99% SUCCESS RATE** of keeping children out of the Child Welfare System.

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Families located in St. Lucie and Indian River Counties reach out for services on a voluntary basis. The program is for families that have at least one child between the age of birth to 17 years at home and do not have an open case with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) due to abuse or neglect.

### OUR STAFF

Family Advocates are caring staff trained to provide services to families and guidance as they work together through the crisis at hand. All our staff are trauma-trained professionals.

### PREVENTION SERVICES

When a family member seeks help for any type of a crisis that affects their family, a Hibiscus Family Advocate will complete an intake evaluation over the phone to begin the process. Once it is determined that the family does not have an open case of abuse or neglect with the State, a Family Advocate is assigned to work with the family seeking assistance.

Weekly home visits by the Advocate are arranged and plans are put into place to help alleviate the immediate crisis and minimize the chance of it being repeated in the future.

### SERVICES PROVIDED

Case Management Services provided include financial aid to avoid evictions or to reinstate utilities, if funding is available; help with domestic violence and substance abuse issues; and in-home counseling to help parents develop parenting, stress management, jobs and budgeting skills.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Our Family Advocates work closely with local organizations, non-profits and businesses to help assist families with resources available in the community. Referrals are an integral part of this program to ensure families have their needs met.

### OUR GOAL

Providing voluntary prevention services to families with the goal of keeping children out of Florida's Child Welfare System.