



giving

YOU make the difference

In 1994, the State of Florida funded **Hibiscus Supporting Families in Crisis** (formerly Crisis Nursery) as a test pilot program in District 15 (Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties).

Today, the program continues to receive funding, in part, by Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County and United Way of St. Lucie County, with additional support from grants. Our generous community's support is also critical to maintain the program's level of excellence and to provide the resources our families need.

All because of our Community's Support. Thank you for helping families thrive.

OUR MISSION

To maintain a safe shelter for children who are abused, abandoned and neglected by providing prevention, early intervention, and advocacy in quality residential, assessment and recovery programs.

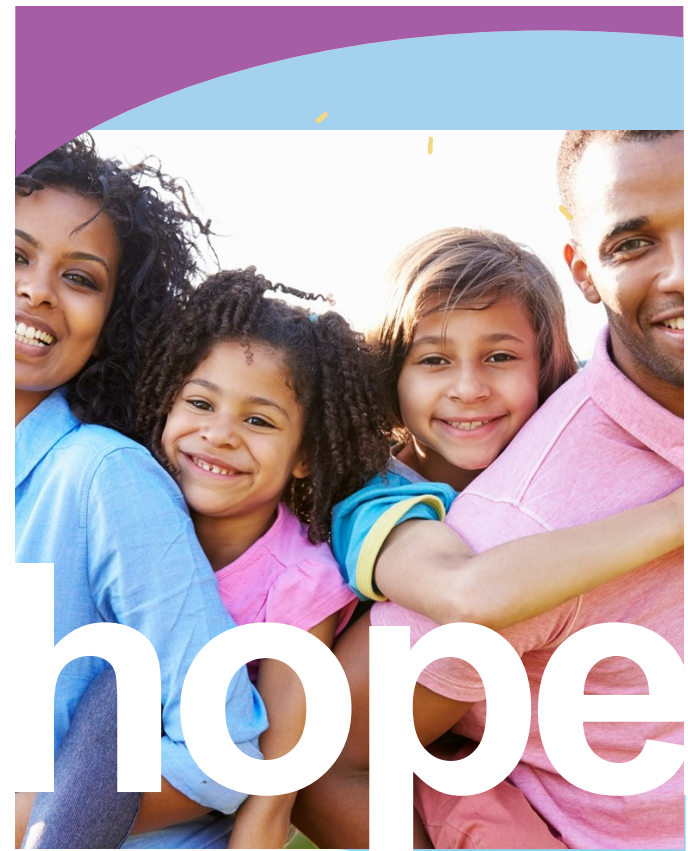
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HibiscusChildrensCenter.org



**Primary
Child abuse
PREVENTION
program**

**Supporting
Families in Crisis**



Hibiscus Children's Center
Saving Children Since 1985

the big picture:

building stronger futures
for our children & families

ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH

A Family Advocate received a telephone call from a single mother of four children. She had recently given birth and was dismissed from her job for taking too much time off to deal with family matters. She and her children were currently living with her mother and her brother which was not an ideal situation. The home was overcrowded and there was hardly enough food to feed the children. It was also reported that, at times, the grandmother and uncle became verbally abusive.

The advocate provided case management to the family to assist in finding affordable housing, a referral for mental health services and referrals to other agencies for additional financial assistance. The mother was able to secure affordable safe housing for her family, but still needed supplies for her new home. A Hibiscus Thrift Store voucher was completed for the family and they received furniture, clothing and other household items.

During the last visit to the home, one of the children came up to the advocate, gave her a hug, and stated it was the first time in her life she ever had her own bed.



safety
advocating
prevention
can produce
big
smiles



Supporting Families in Crisis Located in Fort Pierce Serving Families in St. Lucie County



Our Children & Families

Families 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 provide guidance as they work together through the crisis at hand.

Prevention Services

When a family member seeks help for a crisis ... any type of crisis that affects a family ... a Hibiscus 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.

Supporting Families in Crisis has an annual 100% success rate
of keeping children out of the child welfare system.