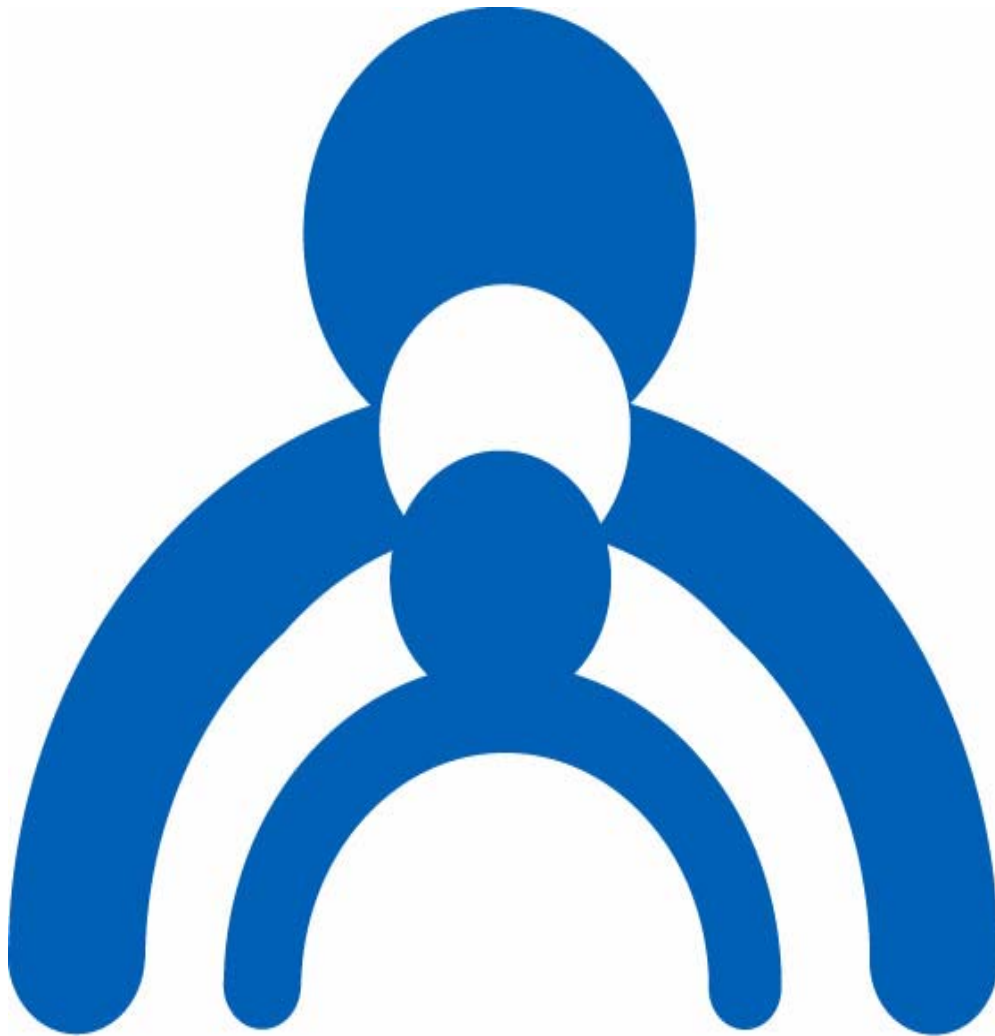


# UNITED FOR FAMILIES

## Frequently Asked Questions



10570 S. Federal Highway, Ste. 300  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
Tel: (772) 398-2920  
Fax: (772) 398-2925

**1. Who is United for Families?**

409.1671 Foster care and related services; outsourcing.--

(1)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Children and Family Services shall outsource the provision of foster care and related services statewide.

United for Families is the community-based lead agency that provides foster care and related services in District 15. United for Families received the contract from the Department of Children and Families following the competitive procurement process and all necessary negotiations. All children known to have been abused or neglected in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties are the responsibility of United for Families

**2. Is United for Families an independent non-profit corporation?**

Yes, United for Families is a 501(C) (3) corporation. We competitively procured the contract with the Department of Children and Families to become the lead community-based provider in District 15. In 1998 it was the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Children and Families should outsource the provision of foster care and related services statewide. United for Families was the only corporation to write a proposal to request consideration for the role of lead community-based provider in District 15.

Three contracts with the Department have been signed so far, as well as several amendments.

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Begin Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Amended Amount</b>
ZJ165	Startup Contract	5/21/2002	11/30/2003	\$ 25,000.00
ZJ183	Transition (Bridge) Contract	9/1/2003	11/30/2003	\$ 835,800.00
ZJ184	Service Contract	12/1/2003	11/30/2006	\$42,685,277.00

**3. How old is United for Families?**

United for Families began in 2002. Several agencies worked together and assisted to create United for Families. The agencies were: Children’s Home Society of Florida, Family Preservation Services of Florida, Exchange Club Castle, and New Horizons of the Treasure Coast.

**4. Who runs United for Families?**

United for Families has a Chief Executive Officer who runs the daily operations of the company. The Chief Executive Officer reports to a Board of Directors. The Board meets monthly and approves budgetary issues, by laws, etc.

## United for Families Board of Directors

NAME	ORGANIZATION/ CONTACT INFORMATION	BOARD POSITION	BOARD TENURE
McCoy, Pat	North Elementary School 3000 NW 10 <sup>th</sup> Terrace Okeechobee, FL 34972	<b>President</b>	May 2006 - Present
Bouchard, Debbie	Riverside National Bank 5300 SE US Highway 1 Stuart, FL 34997	<b>Secretary/ Treasurer</b>	May 2006 - Present
Bernauer, Brad	Indian River Co. Human Services 1900 27 <sup>th</sup> Street Vero Beach, FL 32960	Member	February 2007 - Present
Ciampi, Edward	Sweet Sarah's Inc. Palm City; Port St. Lucie	Member	November 2007 - Present
Foote, Sandra	Retired	Member	May 2006 - Present
Lawless, Marilyn	St. Lucie Medical Center 1800 SE Tiffany Avenue Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952	Member	February 2008 - Present
Lundy, Jay (Sr.)	Elite Marketing Productions, LLC 200 S. Indian River Dr., Suite 203 Fort Pierce, FL 34940	Member	November 2006 - Present
Morris, Michelle	Miller Insurance LLC 8505 S. Federal Highway Port St. Lucie, FL 34952	Member	May 2006 – Present
Sade, Scott	Smith Barney 729 S. Federal Highway, Suite 300 Stuart, FL 34994	Member	July 2006 – Present
Simon, Steven	Shareholder – Rosenthal & Levy, PA; 7410 US Hwy. One, #406 Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952	Member	November 2006 - Present

United for Families also provides company information to the Shared Services Alliance of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast. The Alliance serves as an oversight board, further assuring that the needs of the community are met. This board meets every other month.

**SHARED SERVICES ALLIANCE  
OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST MEMBERS**

James Vojcsik, <b>Secretary</b> Exec. Director United Way of Martin County P.O. Box 362 Stuart, Florida 34995	Elizabeth Whittles Director of Program Development CSC Martin 2030 SE Ocean Blvd. Stuart, Florida 34996	Sheriff Robert L. Crowder Martin County Sheriff's Office 800 S.E. Monterey Road Stuart, FL 34994
Andy Bradley Captain IRC Sheriff's Off. 4055 41 <sup>st</sup> Avenue Vero Beach, Florida 32960	Michael Kint, <b>Treasurer</b> IRC United Way 1836 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Vero Beach, Florida 32960	Beverly O'Neill Retired 9790 61 <sup>st</sup> Street Sebastian, Florida 32958
Leslie Spurlock Executive Director IRC Healthy Start Coalition 1603 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Vero Beach, Florida 32960	Bradley Bernauer IRC Human Services – Mgr. IRC Children Services Advisory Committee – Dir. 4675 28 <sup>th</sup> Court Vero Beach, Florida 32967	Elizabeth MacKenzie Guardian Ad Litem Director South Country Courthouse Annex; 250 Northwest Country Club Dr., - Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986
Michael Lannon SLC School Superintendent 4204 Okeechobee Road Fort Pierce, Florida 34947	Nancy Archer, <b>Chair</b> Executive Director SLC Early Learning Coalition 804 South 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Fort Pierce, Florida 34950	Kathy Basile Executive Director SLC CSC 546 NW University Blvd., Suite 201 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986
Sylvie Kramer SLC Healthy Start Kids Connected by Design 117 Atlantic Avenue Fort Pierce, Florida 34950	James Kirk, Mayor of Okeechobee P. O. Box 3 Okeechobee, Florida 34973	Denny Davis, Chief Okeechobee City Police 55 SE Third Avenue Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Sam Smith, <b>Vice Chair</b> Provost IRCC 2229 NW 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Okeechobee, Florida 34974	Mark J. Chittum, CHE Okeechobee County Health Department Administrator P. O. Box 1879 Okeechobee, Florida 34973	Cathleen Blair Executive Director – Okee. Children's Services Council 700 SW Second Avenue Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Vern Melvin DCF District Administrator 337 North US Highway 1 Fort Pierce, Florida 34950	David Hall, GRI Manager, Child and Family Resiliency Services Magellan Health Services P. O. Box 9342 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34985	Gwenda Thompson, President/CEO Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast 580 NW University Blvd., Ste 101; PSL, Florida 34986
Dan Rodgers Juvenile Justice Chief Probation Offcr. Circuit 19 2215 South 25 <sup>th</sup> Street Fort Pierce, Florida 34947		

**5. What is the mission of United for Families?**

The mission of United for Families is to *break the cycle of child abuse through a diverse network of community partners and innovative services.*

**6. How many children and families does United for Families serve?**

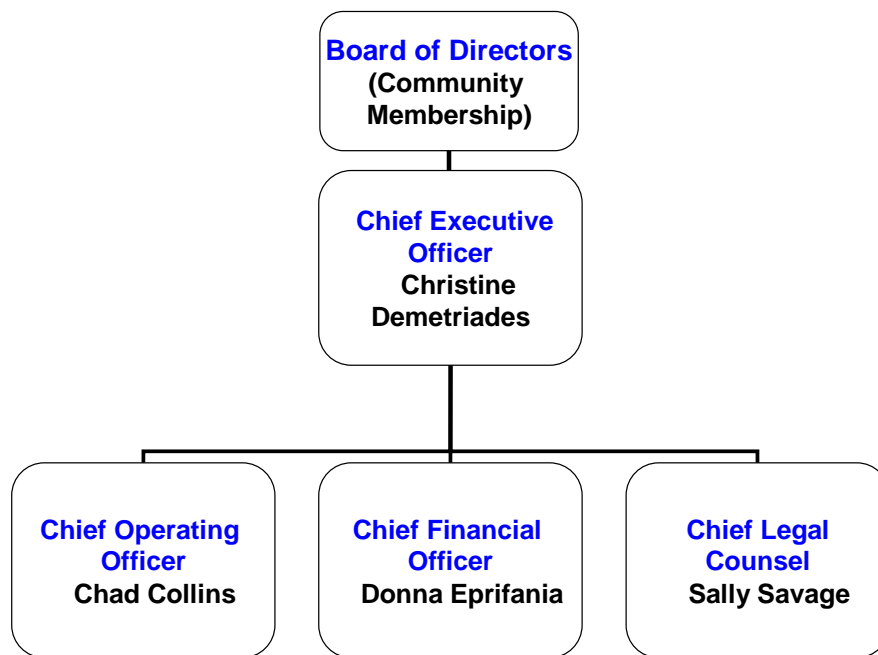
United for Families serves over 5,000 children annually. And the necessary support services for their families.

**7. How many employees does United for Families have?**

At this time United for Families has fifty-five (55) positions.

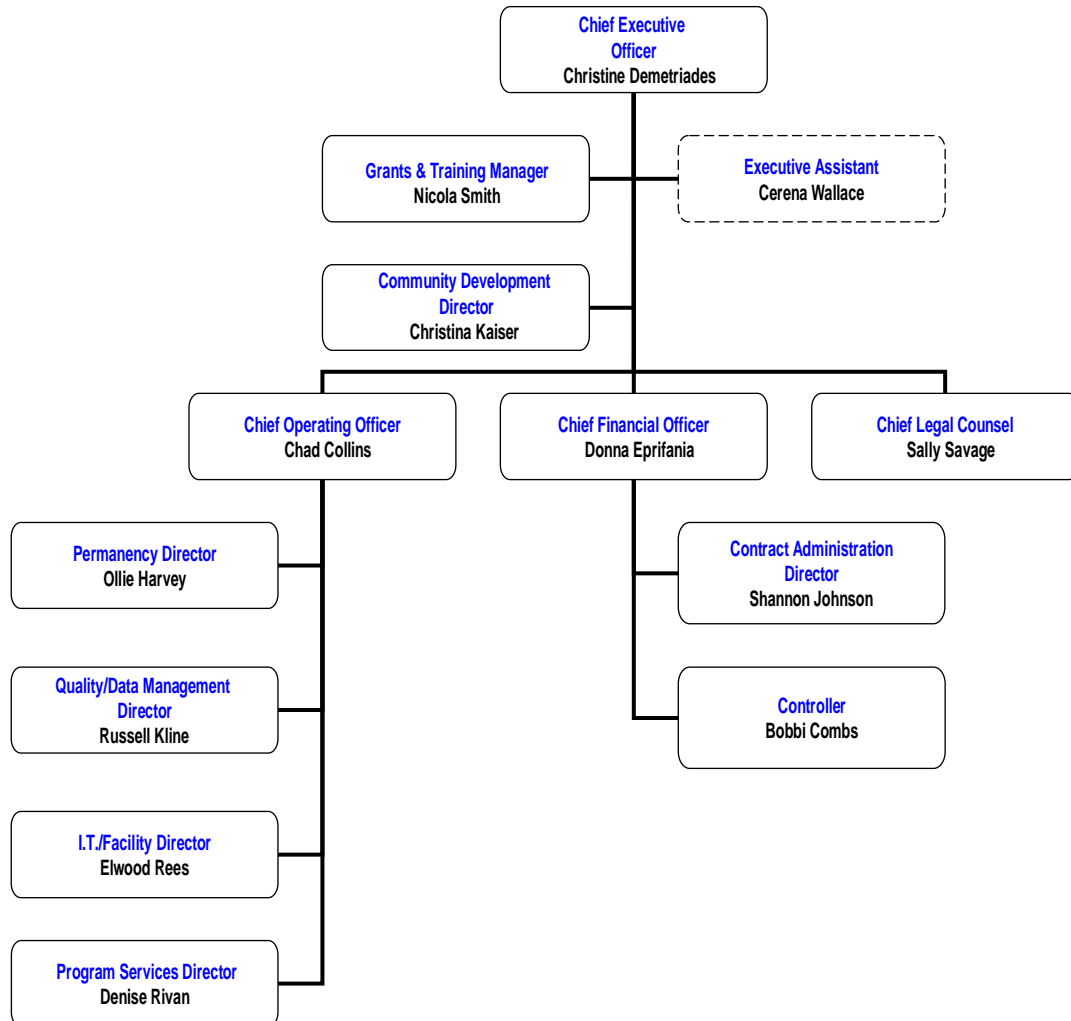
**8. United for Families Organizational Charts:**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**



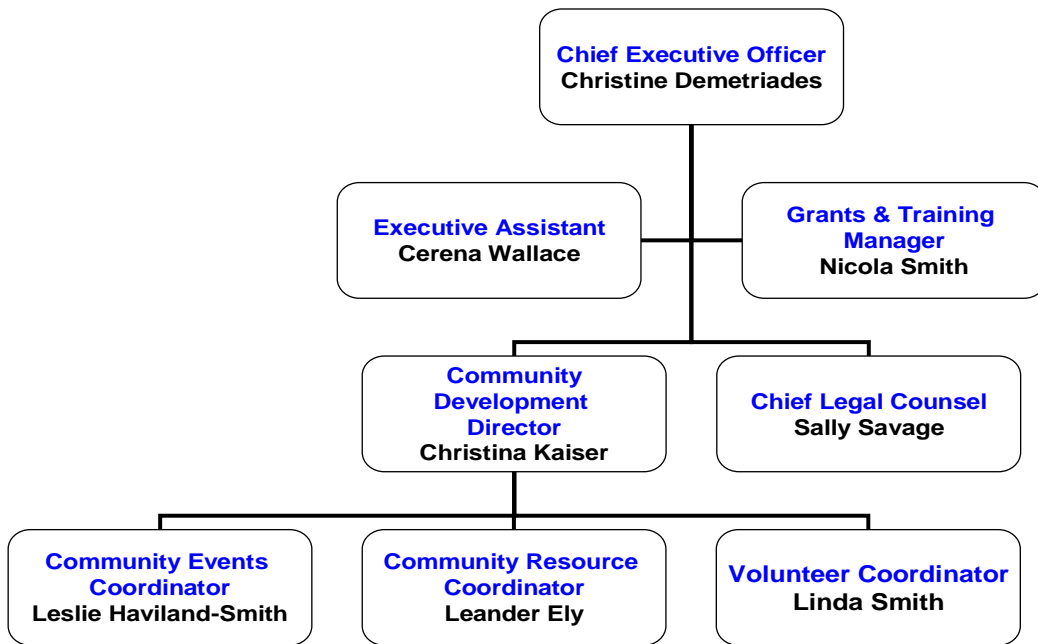
As at April 7, 2008

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



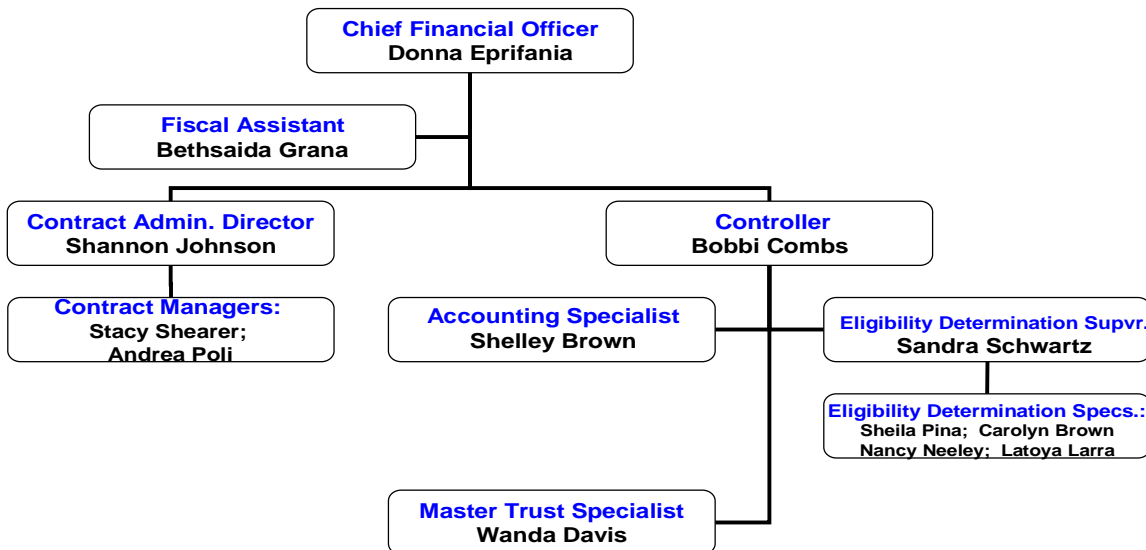
As at April 7, 2008

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



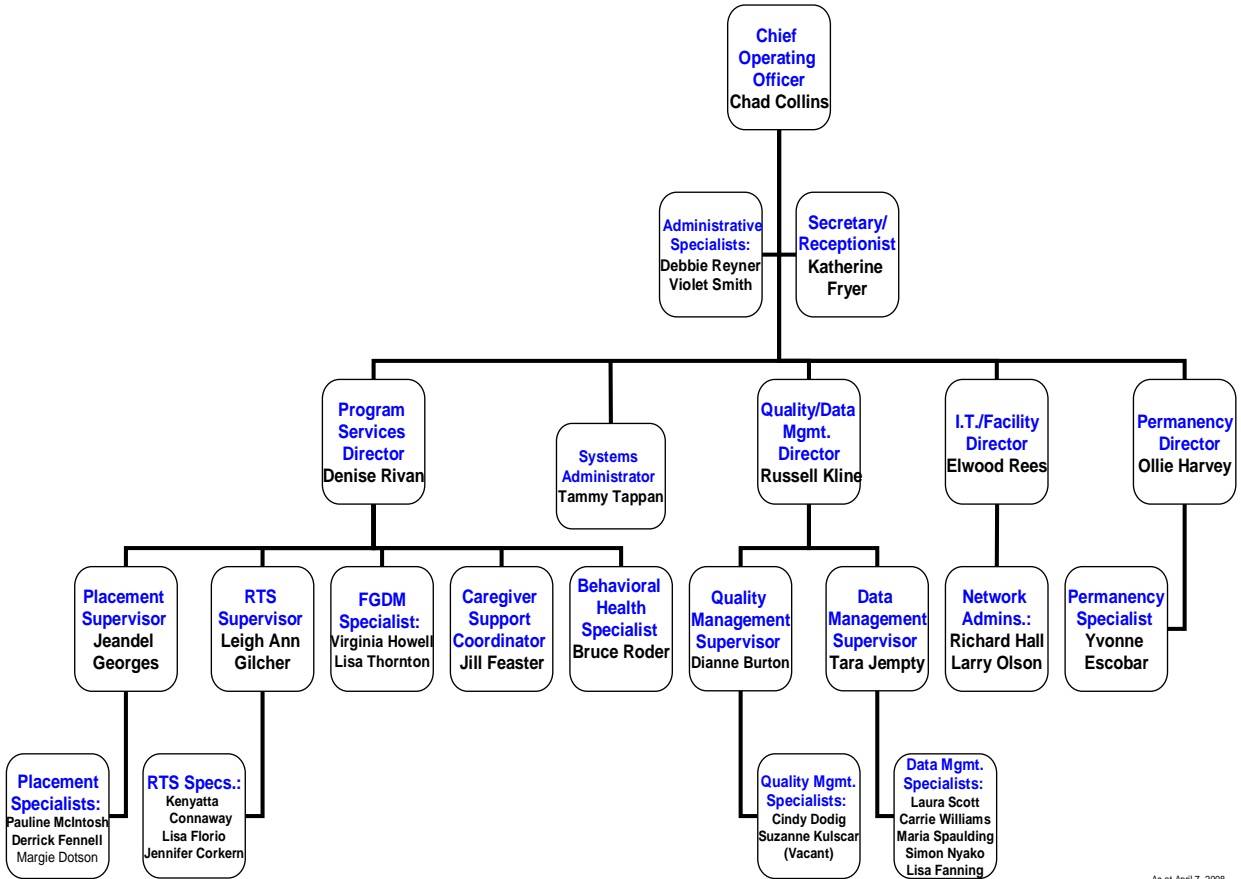
As at April 7, 2008

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**



As at April 7, 2008

## CORPORATE OPERATIONS DIVISION



As at April 7, 2008

### 9. Where is United for Families located?

The main office for United for Families is located at:

10570 S. Federal Highway, Suite 300  
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952  
(772) 398-2920

United for Families also has out posted employees in Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. We are also represented by the case management agencies with whom we contract to provide the daily case management activities associated with the care of the children under our auspices.

### 10. What is United for Families' administrative overhead?

United for Families' administrative overhead is currently less than 10%.

**11. With whom does United for Families contract for services?**

Program Services & Out-of Home Care			
Provider	Program	Administrative Contact	Administrative Address
Alpha House	Pregnant Teens	Bonnie Christiano	201 S. Tampania Ave, Tampa, FL 33609
Brookwood Florida	Residential	Pamela Mesmer	901 7th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
CHARLEE Family Care Services of Central Florida, Inc.	Residential	Cyril Sheppard	11875 High Tech Ave., Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32817
Children's Home Society	Vero Girls Group Home	Matt Anderson/Sabrina Barnes	<u>Local</u> : 415 Avenue A, Ste 101, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; <u>Corporate</u> : 1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Children's Home Society	Wave Crest	Dennis McCune/Sabrina Barnes	<u>Local</u> : 415 Avenue A, Ste 101, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; <u>Corporate</u> : 1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Children's Home Society	Hacienda Girls Ranch -Residential	Teresa Miles	3270 Suntree Blvd., Ste 100, Melbourne, FL 32940
Children's Home Society	Case Management	Sabrina Barnes	<u>Local</u> : 415 Avenue A, Ste 101, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; <u>Corporate</u> : 1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Children's Home Society	Adoption Support	Matt Anderson/Sabrina Barnes	<u>Local</u> : 415 Avenue A, Ste 101, Fort Pierce, FL 34950; <u>Corporate</u> : 1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Children's Home Society	Learning Institute	David Congdon	<u>Corporate</u> : 1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Children's Home Society	CAI	Matt Baker	1485 S. Semoran Blvd Ste. 1448 Winter Park, FL 32972
Covenant Kid's Manor	Residential	Cynthia Webster	830 Bellhaven Drive, Orlando, FL 32828
Daniel Memorial, Inc.	Residential	Mike Knox	4203 Southpoint Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32216
Devereux Foundation, The	Residential: Therapeutic; SIPP	Philip Putnam	5850 T G Lee Blvd, Ste 400, Orlando, FL 32822

Exchange Club	Visitation	Theresa Garbarino-May	3525 SW Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Exchange Club	Parent Ed / HRNB	Theresa Garbarino-May	3525 SW Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Family Preservation	Home Studies	Jo-Ann Prisco	121 North Second Street Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Family Preservation	Case Management	Jo-Ann Prisco	121 North Second Street Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Girls & Boys Town	Residential & Shelter	Kristi Short	37 Alafaya Woods Blvd., Oviedo, FL 32765
Genesis House	Shelter	Steve Rhem	1601 NE 25 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste 900 Ocala, FL 34470
Hands of Mercy Everywhere, Inc.	Pregnant Teen	Diane Schofield	6017 SE Robinson Rd., Belleview, FL 34420
Haven, The	Residential	Angie Bailey	21441 Boca Rio Rd Boca Raton FL 33433
Hibiscus	Children's Center--Emergency Shelter	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Hibiscus	Therapeutic Residential	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Hibiscus	Children's Center--Village	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Hibiscus	FCR & R	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Hibiscus	HOPE	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Hibiscus	Crisis Nursery	Kathryn Garbowski	4001 Savannah Road, Jensen Beach, FL 34957
New Horizons	Mobile Family Response Team	Julie Dolan & Beth Pernice	4500 W. Midway Road Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Real Life Children's Ranch	Residential	Mark Mayers	7777 U.S. Hwy 441 S.E. Okeechobee, FL 34974
Sandy Pines	Therapeutic Hospital	Kathy Healy	11301 SE Tequesta Terrace, Tequesta, FL 33469
Tampa Bay Academy	Therapeutic Residential Group Home	Ana Genne, CFO	12012 Boyette Rd. Riverview, FL 33569
Troy Foundation	Enhanced Foster Care Program	Dr. Angela Deal	3300 NW 27th Ave., Miami, FL 33142
University Behavioral Center	SIPP	David Beardsley, CEO	2500 Discovery Drive, Orlando, FL 32826
VisionQuest, Inc.	Residential	Donald Stewart	42660 Hwy 441 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972

Ancillary Services			
Provider	General Service Description	Administrative Contact	Administrative Addresses

ADAP	Substance Abuse	Laura Tougas	959 SE Central Parkway Stuart, FL 34994
Breakthrough Recovery	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Viki Lamberti	202 NW 5th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972
Deaf Communications Specialists	Sign Language Interpretation	David Braggs	16101 SW Palomino Street Indiantown, FL 34956
Dr. Blanton	Mental Health	Dr. Blanton	P.O. Box 3136 Tequesta, FL 33469
Dr. Coelho	Mental Health	Dr. Kari Freedland Coelho	1368 Presidio Drive, Weston, FL 33327
Dr. Garma	Mental Health	Dr. Brenda Garma	11382 Prosperity Farms Rd, Ste. 225 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Exchange Club	Positive Parenting Classes	Theresa Garbarino-May	3525 SW Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981
Evens Latortue	Interpreter Services	Evens Latortue	2597 SW Warwick Street, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984
Family Preservation	Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments	Jo-Ann Prisco	121 North Second Street Fort Pierce, FL 34950
Innovative Treatment	Mental Health & Substance Abuse	Timothy Hussey	410 NW 3rd Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972
LabCorp	Paternity Testing	Lisa Hartley	1440 York Court Extension, Burlington, NC 27215
Martin Human Services	Drug Testing	Anita Corcoves	416 SE Balboa Ave., Stuart, FL 34994
Medical Express	Drug Testing	Linda Rose	4237 Salisbury Road, Suite 304, Jacksonville, FL 32216
Mental Health Association	Mental Health	Carol Martin	777 37th Street, Ste D-104, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Substance Abuse Council of Indian River County	Drug Testing	Colette Heid	1151 19th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Suncoast	Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments	Jim Laseter	2814 S US 1, Ste D-4 Ft. Pierce, FL 34982
Tykes and Teens	Mental Health	Jeff Ralicki	735 Colorado Ave., Ste 6, Stuart, FL 34994

**12. What are United for Families' statutorily defined responsibilities?**

409.1671 (1) (a) states, "When a private nonprofit agency has received case management responsibilities, transferred from the state under this section, for a

child who is sheltered or found to be dependent and who is assigned to the care of the outsourcing project, the agency may act as the child's guardian for the purpose of registering the child in school if a parent or guardian of the child is unavailable and his or her whereabouts cannot reasonably be ascertained. The private nonprofit agency may also seek emergency medical attention for such a child, but only if a parent or guardian of the child is unavailable, his or her whereabouts cannot reasonably be ascertained, and a court order for such emergency medical services cannot be obtained because of the severity of the emergency or because it is after normal working hours. However, the provider may not consent to sterilization, abortion, or termination of life support. If a child's parents' rights have been terminated, the nonprofit agency shall act as guardian of the child in all circumstances.”

409.1671(1) (9) (e) states that “As used in this section, the term ‘eligible lead community-based provider’ means a single agency with which the department shall contract for the provision of child protective services in a community that is no smaller than a county. The secretary of the department may authorize more than one eligible lead community-based provider within a single county when to do so will result in more effective delivery of foster care and related services. To compete for an outsourcing project, such agency must have:

- (i) The ability to coordinate, integrate, and manage all child protective services in the designated community in cooperation with child protective investigations.
- (ii) The ability to ensure continuity of care from entry to exit for all children referred from the protective investigation and court systems.
- (iii) The ability to provide directly, or contract for through a local network of providers, all necessary child protective services. Such agencies should directly provide no more than 35 percent of all child protective services provided.
- (iv) The willingness to accept accountability for meeting the outcomes and performance standards related to child protective services established by the Legislature and the Federal Government.
- (v) The capability and the willingness to serve all children referred to it from the protective investigation and court systems, regardless of the level of funding allocated to the community by the state, provided all related funding is transferred.
- (vi) The willingness to ensure that each individual who provides child protective services completes the training required of child protective service workers by the Department of Children and Family Services.

- (vii) The ability to maintain eligibility to receive all federal child welfare funds, including Title IV-E and IV-A funds, currently being used by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (viii) Written agreements with Healthy Families Florida lead entities in their community, pursuant to s. [409.153](#), to promote cooperative planning for the provision of prevention and intervention services.
- (ix) A board of directors, of which at least 51 percent of the membership is comprised of persons residing in this state. Of the state residents, at least 51 percent must also reside within the service area of the lead community-based provider. “

### **13. Why do we seek additional funding?**

Every known abused and neglected child in the four-county area is served by United for Families through its network of services. Statutorily, United for Families has the responsibility for foster care and foster care services, protective services, and adoption and adoption services. Circuit 19 been notoriously under funded for these services for years. Our goal remains to provide our community with a child welfare system of which they can be proud. We are constantly searching for grants and funding to further improve and redesign the system of care for our community children and their families. United for Families must be more than a community-based care lead agency. We aspire to be leaders in every aspect of child abuse prevention and intervention. We are developing a true community system of care that begins with prevention services to keep children from requiring the court ordered foster care and related services we also provide.

Additionally, we recognize our statutory obligation to our children, but more strongly we recognize our moral obligation to these children and society at large. As a non-profit organization it is our vision to seek numerous funding sources, separate and apart from federal and state funding, to meet the needs of our children, prior to their being removed from their parents.

We also need additional funding for many of the programs we perform at United for Families. Our Road to Success program assists foster children to achieve success as adults, as they are taught life skills, receive mentoring, and learn to maneuver what may seem to them to be a very difficult world. We also support the relatives who care for the children their family members cannot. These relatives in many instances never expected to be caring for young children in their later years. We believe in strong staff development in this highly complicated field, and we enhance our staff's skills through our quarterly in-service training program. This program brings national experts to our area, so we can all learn the latest information in our field. This training is open to the community. We offer many programs at United for Families and are very proud of each of them.