

# Real Children, Real Hope

## Treasure Coast | December 2017



### A Note From Our Leadership



Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of the children, youth and families who have been impacted by your love, advocacy and generosity, we thank you.

As we approach our third year serving Martin, Indian River, St. Lucie and Okeechobee, we have witnessed over 140 children placed into high-quality and loving foster homes, licensed over 45 families and facilitated 10 adoptions into forever families! None of this could be accomplished without each of you. Every person plays a significant role in transforming the life of a child once abused and neglected, now loved and cherished. With so many precious children who desperately need hope and healing, we need your continued support to provide hope, one life at a time.

With sincerest appreciation,

Charles L. Bender, III  
Founding CEO  
Place of Hope



We are excited to share our Hobe Sound Building is under-way, with an estimated ground breaking in mid-first quarter of 2018! This building will serve as our Treasure Coast “hub” for training and licensing future foster families. Additionally it will boast a co-shared work space and a trendy retail/café welcoming the surrounding community. Naming and

Capital opportunities are available.

We welcome you to join us in 2018 as we transform and provide hope to more children and families here in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee! To learn more, email me at [jamieb@placeofhope.com](mailto:jamieb@placeofhope.com) or call 561-775-7195.

Gratefully,

Jamie Bond  
Business Development & Community Relations  
Place of Hope Treasure Coast



### NOVEMBER WAS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!

Last month, Place of Hope celebrated 14 forever families! Place of Hope foster-adopt parents, Richard & Ericah Brinson shared with us their story of hope.

“We have been married for 7 years. Four years ago we adopted our first son, through private adoption. For just over 2 years, we have been fostering. It is a hard, yet beautiful calling that God has placed on our lives, and we love it! This month we are adopting a sibling group of 3 and can’t wait!”

**What made you decide to foster?** “In 2013, we were pursuing private adoption as we were struggling with infertility. We attended a Place of Hope orientation, not knowing they didn’t do private adoption. However, we were placed there for a reason! God knew we needed to learn about foster care. We left knowing that at some point, we would become foster parents. “

**How has it impacted your decision to adopt?** “We went into foster care with no intent on adopting. After 2 years with the same placement, and no chance of her returning to her biological family, we welcomed her older brothers into our family in March and are adopting all 3 this month!”

### What is the best part about being a foster-adopt parent?

“There are so many amazing ways fostering has changed our lives, but if I had to narrow it down, I would say that being able to provide a safe, stable, loving home to vulnerable children who are alone, is so rewarding. Seeing their growth and watching them blossom is so beautiful. The support around us enables us to keep fighting the good fight!”

### What is the hardest part about fostering or being an adoptive parent?

“Holding on tightly and loosely at the same time. Loving them like they are yours forever, but having no clue if they will be there for a week or a year or forever.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Place of Hope Treasure Coast

9078 Isaiah Lane, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418  
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## Our Community at a Glance

### Children under DCF supervision (by county) as of August 2017

Martin—145  
St. Lucie—500  
Indian River— 179  
Okeechobee—183

### Number of available beds (by county) as of August 2017

Martin—58  
St. Lucie—141  
Indian River— 29  
Okeechobee—6

*"If not us, who? If not now, when?" John F. Kennedy*

## Supporter Spotlight



Angel Moms Megan Canizares (left) and Jen Burrage (right), pose for a quick photo while making meals for Martin County foster families. *Meals with a Purpose* is an effort Megan and Jen are spearheading to provide support to Place of Hope foster families.

"Place of Hope has done so much for our community and children. I'm blessed to be able to help foster families in our area because what they do truly matters. They are impacting the future of these children by being the hands and feet of Jesus." Jen Burrage.

Megan and her husband, Patrick, are currently going through the foster parent licensing process through Place of Hope. Before coming to Florida, they were foster parents in Georgia. The Canizares' have two biological daughters, ages 11 and 12.

Jen and her husband, Brian, are also foster-adopt parents to Chinelle. Jen is a teacher at The King's Academy, where her husband Brian is the Director of Global Initiatives. While in care at Place of Hope, Chinelle was able to attend The King's Academy, where she met her best friend and future sister, Lylah. The Burrage family fell in love with Chinelle, and after only six months they welcomed her into their forever family.

To learn more about being an Angel Mom or helping provide *Meals with a Purpose* in Martin, St. Lucie, or Indian River, email [jamiieb@placeofhope.com](mailto:jamiieb@placeofhope.com).



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Learning to parent trauma kids and accepting that they have different needs. Understanding that it will look different than typical parenting, and being ok with other people not understanding a lot of what you do."

**What has been your favorite memory?** "We struggled with our middle son. He was 3 years old when he came to us had bonded with his previous foster family. At first, he would ask for them constantly and his behavior was difficult. Because we were intentional with forming a bond with him, and with the support and hard work of therapists, things have become so much better! He is now calling us "mommy and daddy" and telling us he loves us all the time!"

**For someone who is considering being foster or adoptive parents, what advice would you give them?** "Accept help. You can't do it alone. Let God's people bless you! Connect with the foster community. Accept the fact that your world and relationships will change. But know that any sacrifice you make is well worth it!"

*Richard & Ericah Brinson*

Interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, or know someone who is? Email [JenniO@placeofhope.com](mailto:JenniO@placeofhope.com) or visit [www.placeofhope.com/foster](http://www.placeofhope.com/foster).

## Current Needs

**Help us reach more future foster families!** Place of Hope recruits people of faith to partner with our mission and assists them in becoming licensed foster families. The program trains and supports foster parents, enabling them to take placement of foster children, ranging from newborns to teens, into their own home.

With your help, we can share the life changing opportunities [jenniO@placeofhope.com](mailto:jenniO@placeofhope.com) with any questions.

Become a  
**FOSTER PARENT**  
Change Lives

**ATTEND AN ORIENTATION**

- Christ Fellowship - Stuart Campus  
Every 1st Monday
- Treasure Coast  
Every 3rd Thursday
- Paxon Campus - Palm Beach Gardens  
Every 4th Thursday

To RSVP or for more info email [homesofhope@placeofhope.com](mailto:homesofhope@placeofhope.com)

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[www.placeofhope.com/treasure-coast](http://www.placeofhope.com/treasure-coast)

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Sporting Clays Fun Shoot

Join us and over 200 others on January 19, 2018 for a fun-filled day of clay shooting at the beautiful South Florida Shooting Club! The day will kick off with breakfast followed by a few hours of riding around the picturesque course and stopping at stations to shoot clays and try to improve your score. The event will wrap up with a buffet lunch, raffles, a live auction and an awards ceremony.

Shooters will be equipped with their choice of 12 or 20 gauge ammo. Gun Rentals are available, but limited, through the South Florida Shooting Club. To secure a gun rental, contact the South Florida Shooting Club directly.

**Whether you are a novice or experienced shooter, this is an event you don't want to miss!**

All sponsorships and funds raised in the Treasure Coast will directly support Place of Hope's reach into these communities, saving the lives of more local children.

Volunteer opportunities are available! Email [jennileep@placeofhope.com](mailto:jennileep@placeofhope.com).

### Sea of Hope Luncheon

Celebrating three incredible years of providing hope in the fragile lives of foster children throughout Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee, this event will be hosted at the beautiful Willoughby Golf Club.

We invite you to join us for our "Sea of Hope" themed luncheon, boasting a silent auction, a live auction, raffles and other entertaining opportunities to support the children and families in Place of Hope's daily care.

This luncheon is our Treasure Coast's signature event raising critical support to reach more hurting children. Well attended, this afternoon event attracts influential leaders in the community, future and current foster families, volunteers and philanthropists! We will be awarding a Volunteer of The Year, a Foster Family of The Year, as well as our 2nd annual Hero of Hope.

Sponsorships and tickets are available. Support Place of Hope's Treasure Coast children and families. Reserve your sponsorship or ticket at [www.placeofhope.com/sea-of-hope](http://www.placeofhope.com/sea-of-hope) or [jamieb@placeofhope.com](mailto:jamieb@placeofhope.com).



## Give a Holiday Gift in Their Name

The perfect gift—one that is meaningful and surprising—can be hard to find, especially when your loved one seems to have everything. We have the solution: Make a tribute gift to honor someone who appreciates the work we do at Place of Hope.

A tribute gift will make your loved one feel special because it honors their passion and also provides us with needed support. Plus, you can guarantee you're getting something they don't have. Additionally, it's an easy gift to purchase—no need to visit a store or to agonize over whether your gift is the right size or whether it'll arrive in time for the holiday. And it's affordable; you choose how much you can spend. You could also consider:

- Giving a gift to Place of Hope in memory of a loved one. A memorial gift is a meaningful way to celebrate the legacy of someone special this time of year.
- Telling your friends and family members to donate to Place of Hope in YOUR honor. You're not the only one who has a hard time holiday shopping!

Don't give a gift your friends and family won't use. If your loved one appreciates the work we do at Place of Hope, give a gift in their honor. This type of gift truly embodies the spirit of the holidays.

Ready to make the perfect gift? Email [jamieb@placeofhope.com](mailto:jamieb@placeofhope.com) or visit <http://plannedgiving.placeofhope.com>

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