

▶ JUNE 21-23
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ORLANDO

▶ AUGUST 28-30
CHILD PROTECTION SUMMIT, ORLANDO

▶ OCTOBER DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
FSFAPA QUARTERLY MEETING

▶ OCTOBER 23-25
ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD CONFERENCE,
TAMPA



Florida State *Foster/Adoptive Parent Association*

2013 Educational Conference

Conference Keynote Speakers



Lucas Boyce

Lucas Boyce, a former foster child, is the Director of Community Relations, Multi-cultural Insights, Cause Marketing and Government Affairs for the Orlando Magic, joining the organization in July 2008. Lucas is the author of *Living Proof: From Foster Care to the White House and the NBA*, published in January 2011. He travels throughout Central Florida and across the country giving speeches designed to motivate young adults to make an impact in their generation.

Lucas was recently appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group, serving as Chairman of the group, and has accepted an appointment to the National Coalition for Adoption Institute. He also serves on the Family Services Board for Orange County and the Orange County Library Board, both appointments by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. He is on the Boards of Directors for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Take Stock in Children Advisory Board, and the Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida.



Mary Peterson

Jason: Ward of the State is the inspiring story of Mary J. Peterson's commitment to and care of one of her students who became a ward of the state long after she had been his first grade teacher. She guided Jason as well as his brother, forging a bond that goes beyond blood ties. Her love and determined focus on the importance of education helped them survive the "system," attend college and become successful adults.

Mary J. Peterson taught in the Chicago Public Schools for 25 years. She has a master's degree in Special Education from Roosevelt University. Mary is also a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

Board Nominations

There are several board positions open nominations will close at the end of the conference and elections will be at the October Quarterly

More information can be found on our website.

2013 Awareness Day

By Lloyd Dunkelberger, Herald-Tribune
Thursday, April 11, 2013
TALLAHASSEE

Foster children will be able to participate in more activities with less intervention under a bill signed into law Thursday by Gov. Rick Scott.

The measure (HB 215) will let "kids be kids," Scott said at the signing ceremonies, while calling sponsors Sen. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, and Rep. Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, "champions for children."

"This new law recognizes the importance of allowing children in foster care the ability to take part in everyday activities without the involvement of case managers, provider agencies or the court system," Scott said.

Under the law, which takes effect July 1, foster parents will be able to make those decisions using a "reasonable and prudent" parenting standard.

Detert, who has made improving foster care one of the priorities of her 13 years in the Legislature, said much of the impetus for the legislation came from the foster care children, including those who participate in Florida Youth SHINE, an advocacy group of current and former foster children.

"This bill is the result of wishes of the foster care kids themselves," Detert said, while also giving credit to the Guardian ad Litem program, which advocates on behalf of children in the welfare system.

Detert said the goal of the legislation was to provide a more normal life for the 19,000 children in Florida's foster-care system, including the 9,000 living with foster parents or in group homes.

"You don't want to be a foster care kid. You just want to be a regular kid and this bill will help you do that," Detert said.

Albritton, the House sponsor, said child advocates told him how the regulations "bubble-wrapped our kids in this veil of safety, not normalcy."

David Wilkins, secretary of the Department of Children and Families, said the

revamping the foster-care system has been a priority for the child welfare agency since Scott took office in 2011. He called the bill signing "momentous."

2013 Duffels for Kids Walk



When
Saturday May 18, 2013
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT

Where
Jungle Island
1111 Parrot Jungle Trail
Miami, FL 33132

Support us in this effort
and register for the walk
today!
More information and
registration can be found
on our website.

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Website: www.floridafapa.org ~ Email: info@floridafapa.org
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Sign up for FSFAPA'S email newsletters! Contact Curtis Byrd at
FSFAPA-secretary@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

Check FSFAPA's website often for updated news and events happening around the state!

Membership is now available online! A free FSFAPA Novelty License Plate with each new Membership.