



February
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Introducing our President

GETTING TO KNOW LYNDA THOMPSON

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Lynda Thompson, and I am the newly elected President for Florida FAPA. I have been married for 27 years to my wonderful husband and fostering children for 24 of those years. We have 10 children between us and are currently fostering two little ones. I also have the pleasure of working at Kennedy Space Center. I have worked there for 44 years. It has been an honor and privilege to work with such a great group of folks.

I have always wanted to give back to my community and fostering children had meaning and purpose. I started out as a Guardian Ad Litem and wanted to do something more, so we became Foster Parents. During our journey of fostering, we became a 'forever home' for four of our children. We have witnessed the good, the bad and the ugly but it has always been worth it.

I started out working on the Bylaws and Policy and Procedures for the Association, then appointed as Liaison for East Central Florida and then most recently served as Vice President. I have been with the association for over 10 years. I look forward to working with the Florida FAPA Board and our Foster Parents. Florida FAPA strives to support, educate, and advocate for our Foster Parents and we are working hard to become a stronger voice for them by building stronger relationships with our partners in child welfare. Together we can do great things.

WINTER MINI CONFERENCE

Our Winter Mini Conference was held at The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art in sunny Sarasota, Florida. We welcomed attendees via Zoom and in-person for this great hybrid event. Our first training of the day was presented by Bailey Jackson, LHMC and Jenn Werden, BSW from The Florida Center For Early Childhood on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, which was very informative. Next we had a delicious lunch provided by Safe Children Coalition and snacks from the local FAPA along with our Florida FAPA General Membership Meeting. The afternoon kicked off with Building Strong, Supportive, Trauma-Informed Relationships with Children presented by Chelsea Hernandez, LCSW and Mary Bane Stevens, LMHC of All Star Children's Foundation. We closed out the day with an introduction to Trust Based Relational Intervention and some real life TBRI questions with some of our Florida FAPA Board Members who are also TBRI Practitioners. Thank you to all who joined us for this great event, it was wonderful seeing so many of our foster & Adoptive parents!



FLORIDA FAPA
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F.A.S.T.
FLORIDA'S
FOSTER
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SUPPORT TEAM

Support is available to
foster, adoptive, and
relative caregivers.

1-800-FAST-119
FAST@FloridaFAPA.org

POINTERS FOR DEALING WITH AN ALLEGATION

- ▶ CALL F.A.S.T. HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT! FAST IS TO PREPARE YOU IF & WHEN AN ALLEGATION IS FILED ON YOU. IT'S OKAY TO STOP AND BREATHE.
- ▶ KEEP A COMPLETE WRITTEN JOURNAL OF ALL DATES, TIMES, EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
- ▶ BE A PARTNER AND INSIST ON HAVING FULL INPUT INTO THE INVESTIGATIONS.
- ▶ REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM DCF OR THE CBC IN EXPLAINING TO CHILDREN WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHY.
- ▶ MAINTAIN YOUR SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM WHEN COOPERATING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
SUPPORT IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY



OUR FLORIDA FAPA BOARD

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Join Florida FAPA

Every licensed foster parent, relative, non-relative and adoptive caregiver in the state of Florida is automatically entitled to the benefits provided by Florida FAPA. Some of these benefits include mini conferences offered each quarter in various parts of the state or online, participation in Children's Week in Tallahassee where we advocate for the families we serve, and an annual educational conference attended by more than 300 foster and adoptive parents!

A dues-paid member is eligible to vote on issues and concerns and participate in the election process. It also provides support for an agency that is working around the clock for you and your family.

Visit FloridaFapa.org to join today!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



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