

## **Permanency Roundtable Program Offers Youth Hope for a Family, Lifelong Connections**

### ***Concentrated, Team-Driven Process Offers a New Approach***

In conjunction with Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., FFCR is currently launching the Permanency Roundtable (PRT) Program, a revolutionary new initiative designed to focus the skills and knowledge of various stakeholders on the goal of finding permanent families for all youth, including those likely to age out without permanent connections. The initiative has the potential to curtail many of the negative outcomes associated with aging out, including homelessness, unemployment, involvement with the criminal justice system, unplanned pregnancy and more.

The program is in direct response to what FFCR has seen frequently in cases reviewed by the CRP: kids languishing in care far too long as permanency falls to the wayside while case workers and others deal with more immediate, sometimes easier-to-tackle challenges. And the older kids get, the more likely it is that aging out will become a foregone conclusion.

But that's not the way it has to be. Through the PRT's, various stakeholders including case workers, DCF attorneys, the youth themselves, their caregivers

and others will come together to develop a permanency-focused plan with action items assigned to each team member. That same team will meet monthly to track progress on action items until permanency is achieved or the teen ages out. To this process, FFCR will bring its experience in leading team-driven reviews, as well as its deep knowledge of the obstacles facing children in care.

The PRT Program marks the largest - and hopefully highest impact - expansion of FFCR's work since our founding. FFCR's role in coordinating and facilitating the PRT's is funded with generous donations from Peacock Foundation, Inc., The Miami Foundation's Safe Passage Grant Program and The Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation. We are grateful for their support!

We look forward to reporting our progress as this program goes full swing.

