



Foster Closet

providing support to foster families

By Peggy McGuinness

The Foster Closet is a non-profit organization founded by Tammy and John McGuire, whose family is profiled in the cover story of this edition. Their unique organization helps more than 800 children a year in the foster care system, including "pathway teens," older children who have "aged out" of foster care and need supplies as they enter the adult world.

"Through the generous contributions of our community, Foster Closet's inventory is abundant and we rely on a vast network of volun-

teers and donors to access additional donations at a moment's notice," Tammy writes on the website. Clothing donations are carefully sorted by gender, age and size, and made available to children entering foster care. Other items are made available to foster parents and families to prepare their households to receive foster children.

Today, the Foster Closet is a nearly 5,000-square-foot facility staffed with 20-30 volunteers and assisted with support from Family and Children Services (FSS) which pays the rent and keeps the lights on.

According to their website at www.FosterCloset.org, their brief-but-powerful mission statement is "To look after the orphans...James 1:27." The site also provides extensive data about their work, including information about donating, volunteer opportunities, church and other partner organizations, support groups and information on how locals might arrange for speaking engagements to learn more.

The McGuire family feature that begins on page six provides some insight into the background and history of a little idea that has grown into a wonderful resource for thousands. Essentially, the Foster Closet is always in need of material and financial donations to make the following necessities available for children of all sizes from newborn through 18 years old.

SEE FOSTERCLOSET.ORG ABOUT DONATING:

One Week of Clothes: newborn through
XXL men's and women's sizes

Shoes of all sizes

Baby items: Diapers, highchairs, car seats, cribs
(and much more)

Beds: Toddler & Bunks, Twin/Full/Queen

Toys for any age (7-8 per child)

Ten books each (at the child's reading level)

Bibles - age appropriate and devotionals (NEED)

Age and content appropriate DVDs

CDs and computer games

Sporting equipment | Bicycles | Scooters | Skateboards

Backpacks | School Supplies | Handbags

Teen jewelry | Prom dresses

Unused Make-up, Hair and Hygiene Products

Pathway teens (18 year-olds who have aged
out of the foster care system):

furniture, household goods, small appliances

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
Home Services
Florida Network Realty

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13916 ATLANTIC BLVD, Water's Edge at Harbortown/ICW
Waterfront Townhome, 3 Bed + Office + Entertainment Loft/3.5 Bath, 3,092 Sqft, 2 Car Garage, on Intracoastal with water views from all levels, elevator (yes, elevator!), private courtyard, boat slips available on MLS

OFFERED AT \$760,000

Other Fabulous Homes



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Coastal Oaks at Nocatee
4 bed + office /3.5 bath, 3,380 Sqft,
salt water pool, summer kitchen, 3 car garage,
endless private amenities in Nocatee
\$655,000



4568 SWILCAN BRIDGE LANE N
Glen Kernal Country Club
4 bed/4 bath, 3,780 sqft, live right on
the golf course, heated pool/spa,
enjoy exclusive club amenities
\$769,000



1645 SELVA MARINA DR
Atlantic Beach
4 bd/ 3.5 bath, 3,311 sq ft, 2 car garage, lot
size 150 x 180, Freshly renovated with wide
plank wood floors, crisp white kitchen!
\$1,249,000



330 COUNTY CLUB LANE
Atlantic Beach
6 bed/7 bath, 5,346 sq ft, 3 car garage,
heated salt water pool, detached guest suite
\$2,240,000

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