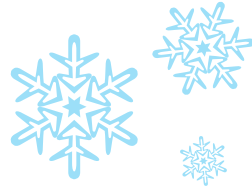
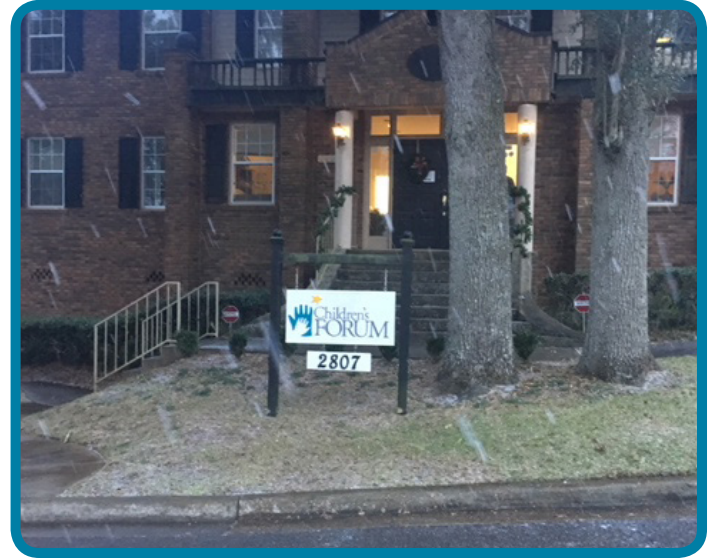


Snow Day!



North Florida residents have experienced a relatively mild winter season. That all changed on Wednesday, January 3rd, when Tallahassee residents enjoyed a winter wonderland of real snow, which resulted in the closure of local schools. While it didn't last long, it did leave lasting memories for many.



Baby Shower

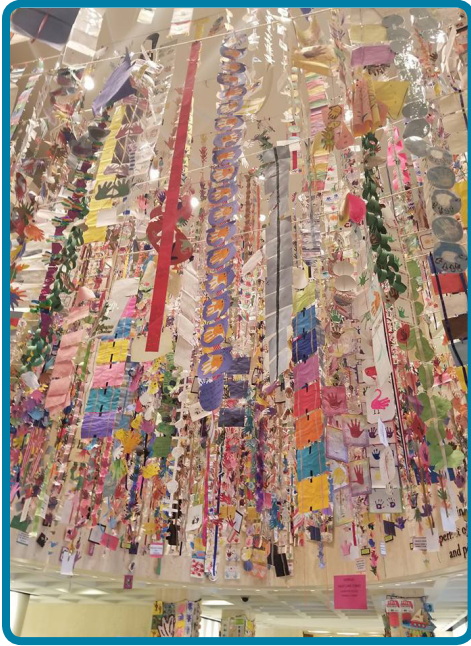


On January 18, Tallahassee-based employees celebrated the impending arrival of baby Mikael, son of **Anita Bushnyakova**, Contracts and Grants Specialist, and her husband Erik. This is the couple's first child and they are thrilled to become new parents. Baby Mikael will make his debut in February. Best wishes, Anita and Erik!





Children's Week



Children's Week

The Forum proudly participated in Children's Week again this year. This annual celebration, held in Tallahassee, honors the commitment to children and their advocates. The following were highlights of this year's Children's Week:

- The Advocacy Dinner and Reception honors and recognizes Children's Week partners and non-profit organizations who advocate for children. This year's event was extra special as the Forum's board vice chair, Dr. Wil Blechman, received the 2018 Chiles Advocacy Award! This achievement is presented annually to a Floridian who has dedicated his or her life to improving the lives of children and families, and who has successfully engaged others to promote policies and programs that benefit those children and families.
- Children's Day at the Capitol included activities and educational exhibits in the Capitol building, Rotunda, and courtyard. The Forum and Help Me Grow both had exhibit tables where several employees shared information about our programs and services.
- The Hanging of the Hands is an amazing visual arrangement of tens of thousands of children's hands represented through "hand art" from children across the state. This awesome display hangs in the Capitol Rotunda and is a reminder to legislators and advocates alike that we must take care of our most precious commodity – our children.



Tricia Lindlau's Retirement



On January 8, Tallahassee-based Forum employees celebrated **Tricia Lindlau**, who retired after 18 years of service! Tricia was truly one-of-a-kind and we will all miss her wit, charm, dedication, and generosity.



We hope she comes back to visit her Forum Family often and wish her well in her retirement!



Congratulations!

Joshua Williams, son of **Erika Williams**, Senior WAGE\$ Counselor, entered the 2018 Tobacco Free Art contest, where participants submitted original artwork depicting an anti-tobacco message. He won 2nd place in the high school division, and his artwork was displayed at the Tallahassee Fitness & Food Festival on January 27th. Erika is one proud mama!!



Shout Out!

Nicole Ballas, Fund Development Director for Elder Care Services, recently wrote a note to the Forum's Tallahassee-based employees, thanking them for their kindness and generosity during the Elder Elf holiday drive. The following is a snippet from the letter:



"On behalf of the clients of Elder Care Services, I want to thank you for serving as elves for local seniors this holiday season. Your generous in-kind contributions played a role in brightening the holidays for over 169 seniors!

With programs providing community-based, compassionate care to seniors in all phases of life, Elder Care Services is the recognized leader in advocating for and serving seniors in our area. Your generosity makes it all possible. Thank you for spreading joy during the holiday season!"

Happy Birthday

January

- Debbie Conley, PAC** Jan 02
- Ashley Casey, T.E.A.C.H.**..... Jan 02
- Latoya Jackson, QCCC**..... Jan 04
- Aymara Aguiar, QCCC**..... Jan 10
- Lisa Roberts, Outreach and Innovation**..... Jan 10
- Denise Leckey, PAC**..... Jan 29
- Lisa Adams, T.E.A.C.H.**..... Jan 30
- Allyson Adolphson, Help Me Grow**..... Jan 31

Happy Anniversary

January

- Ana Naranjo-Gonzalez, QCCC**.....5 years
- Nikita Allen, WAGE\$**5 years
- Kimyarra Gardner, Registry** 4 years
- Leidy Sevilla, RCCDP**..... 3 years