



Podcast Committee Update

At last year's PD Conference, the concept of the *Forum Talks* Podcast was introduced to Forum employees. *Forum Talks* is the first Podcast of its kind in Florida to discuss state-specific early care and education (ECE) initiatives. Since last September, the committee has developed two podcasts. The first Podcast featured a discussion with **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President and CEO, on the state of ECE in Florida. The second Podcast included a panel presentation that was recorded at the 2017 One Goal Summer Conference. The presentation highlighted personal stories from early childhood educators and the impact of the Forum's T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ programs in achieving their professional development objectives.

Both Podcasts can be found on the Forum's YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ChildrensForumOrg>.

The committee is considering the following topics for future *Forum Talks* Podcasts:

- A Legislative Session update tailored toward issues that affect the early learning community
- The science on brain development in infants and toddlers
- How Florida compares to the rest of the nation in providing high-quality early care and education experiences
- Why investments in early care and education lead to positive outcomes both socially and economically

We invite you to serve on the Podcast Committee and welcome ideas you may have for upcoming Forum Podcasts.

Please take a brief survey at:

PODCAST SURVEY

by **Friday, October 6th.**

Your feedback will help us in our planning efforts.

The Podcast Committee includes:

Felicia Bonner, Jill Calhoun, Kiki Peters, Paul Robinson, Kati Settle, and is chaired by **Jenna Brown**



Get Involved - Volunteer Everyone

GIVE Committee Update

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

– Winston Churchill

The GIVE committee has been busy since its introduction to staff at last year's PD Conference. We are pleased to report that the GIVE committee has grown and now consists of members from all three Forum offices so that we can reach out and meet the different needs of our communities. Using the input and suggestions from last year's interest survey, the GIVE committee planned and successfully executed group volunteer events at each office this past Spring. We were thrilled to have **42** staff members along with your family and friends join in the spirit of giving and volunteer at one of these events.

GIVE committee members have already begun researching projects for the Fall and are asking for your input and suggestions as we move forward with planning the next group volunteer event.

Please complete a short survey at

GIVE SURVEY

by **Friday, October 6th.**

Your opinions and feedback will be very helpful to us.

If you're interested in helping to plan future volunteer events and would like to join the committee, please send an email to GIVE_committee@thechildrensforum.com.

The GIVE Committee is comprised of:

Ana Acevedo, Ana Avila, Jinan As-Siddiq, Laura Cain, Denise Leckey, Lilliana Murphy, Nayree Navarro, Erika Pope, and is chaired by **Lisa Roberts**



Forum Fun!



Ana Aviles, Quality Improvement Specialist, visited Europe for the first time earlier this month. She toured Lisbon, Portugal, as well as Madrid, Seville, Granada, and Toledo in Spain!



Several employees from the Forum's Tallahassee-based team attended the United Way of the Big Bend Kickoff Luncheon. The United Way committee has planned fun activities for our employee fundraising campaign the week of Oct. 16-20. Let the games begin...for an important cause!



Jinan As-Siddiq, CEU Coordinator, recently participated in a charity Zumbathon at Hotel Duval in Tallahassee. She was one of many certified Zumba instructors from North Florida and South Georgia who helped raise more than \$1,200 for Hurricane relief efforts in the U.S. and the Virgin Islands!



Bev Esposito, Vice President and Chief Quality Initiatives Officer, became a grandmother on August 6 with the birth of Domenic ('Nick') Paul Esposito! He weighed 7.3 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. Bev, who says Nick is the sweetest thing ever, will be taking care of him when her daughter-in-law goes back to work full time. Congratulations, Bev!

United Way Week!



TALLAHASSEE-BASED EMPLOYEES:

Join us for our Annual United Way Employee Fundraising Campaign!

OCTOBER 16-20

Our adopted agency this year is:

Children's Home Society

We will be collecting new children's underwear and socks to distribute to kids in need.

Mon. - 10/16

Wed. - 10/18

Fri. - 10/20



Show Your Face!
All-Staff Meeting
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.



Faceoff Bingo!
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.



Funny Face Friday
Live Auction
10:00 - 11:20 a.m.

Put on a smile and join the Show Your Face all-staff meeting! Learn how United Way agencies are making a difference in our community. United Way packets will be distributed and door prizes will be awarded to several lucky winners.

Faceoff with your co-workers Forum-style to celebrate good times and play Bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each game. **\$2** per card to participate. **There is no limit** on the number of cards available to purchase.

Warm up your bidding arm, don your favorite mask or headgear, and participate in our best auction yet! Win incredible prizes such as gift baskets, jewelry, home decor, massages, and more!

Week-Long Events

Jeans for a Week:

Pay **\$5** and receive a special pin allowing you to wear jeans October 23-30! Money is due to Tamela or Jinan by **Friday, October 20.**

Scavenger Hunt:

Look for cups, pens and other items that contain the Live United logo and United Way facts. If you find one, bring it to Tamela's office to receive a prize.

Penny Wars:

Donate as many pennies in your team's bucket as possible while putting silver coins and bills in your opponents' jars. The team that has the most pennies at the end of the week will **win a pizza party!**

Chance Drawing:

Purchase one or more tickets during the campaign week for a chance to **win 4 one-day Park Hopper Tickets to Disney World!**

\$3 for 1 ticket

\$5 for 2 tickets

\$10 for 5 tickets

Thanks for making a difference in our community and for Living United!

Questions?

Call Jinan at ext. 352 or Tamela at ext. 318.

Forum Happenings



Shout Out!



"I would like to give a huge shout out to all the kind souls that have reached out to me and asked about my family in Puerto Rico. It means the world that so many of you thought of me and my loved ones back on my beautiful island. I really, really, really appreciate the outpouring of love during this hard time. It has just confirmed for me that the Forum really is like family. Thank you all!"

-**Paula Grant**



The Forum's fiscal team worked together to construct a door for the cubicle of **Anita Bushnyakova**, Fiscal/Contract Specialist. They're very talented and may be hired out to do handyman repairs in the future!



Happy Birthday



September

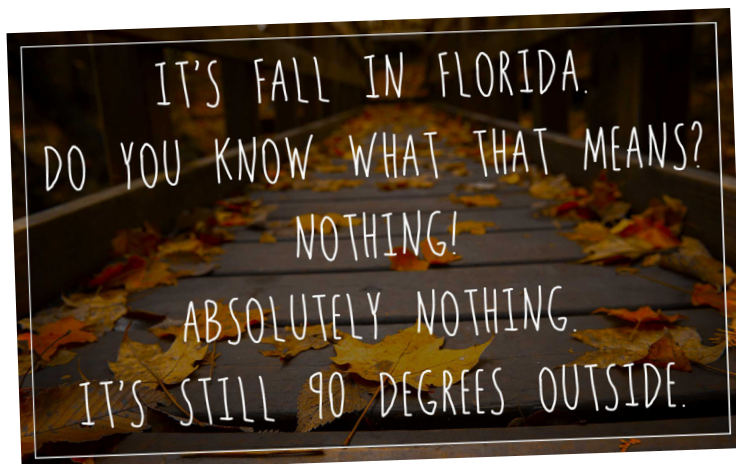
Kimyarra Gardner, Registry Sept 02
Ana Acevedo, QCCC..... Sept 11
Cristian Oliva, WAGES..... Sept 13
Jillian Davis, IT..... Sept 30

Happy Anniversary



September

Tricia Lindlau, T.E.A.C.H..... 18 years
Emily Fulkerson, T.E.A.C.H..... 12 years
Melissa Clements, Admin..... 7 years
Denise Bishop, Outreach and Innovation..... 3 years



Happy Fall Y'all!

Fall officially started on
September 22nd this year.

(Is it time to bring out the Pumpkin Spice yet?)