



SUNCOAST
VOICES
FOR CHILDREN



This Child Needs Us

Dear Kiwanis of Seminole,

Sometimes when I attend our weekly Request Committee Meeting on Friday morning, I hear many similar requests, and it takes us very little time to agree to fund the request...

We hear of the need for beds, summer camps, tutoring and things that create normalcy for the child...

I am always thrilled to meet these requests, imagining how it truly impacts the life of the child...

However, I was in no way prepared for how this request would deeply touch me and cause all of us to stop and read it twice...with tears in our eyes...

The request was for a 16-year-old boy, Kyle, who lived in a group home...

The boy had been in foster care for a number of years...

He was removed from his parents due to violence and drug abuse in the home...

His parents did nothing to get Kyle back, and their rights were terminated.

I can only imagine how alone he must feel...

Kyle is also a "Crossover" youth - one who is in foster care and also has legal charges against him...

This is so difficult on the child, as they have very little support to handle their circumstances...

We found out from the Public Defender's Office that Kyle has no relatives, no supportive adults, not one person to stand up for this child and help him, and will likely age out of foster care without being adopted...

Suncoast Voices was asked to do what we do best – **Prevent, Protect and Provide.**

We will **Prevent** Kyle and other children from leaving foster care in debt with the Restitution Program...

We were able to **Protect** Kyle from feeling left out by giving him a birthday...

And we were able to **Provide** a laptop to help Kyle access school, counseling and more...

In short, we pray that we were able to give him hope!

And how were we able to do this? **Because of you, our generous donors.**

At Suncoast Voices for Children, these are the kinds of things we do every day.

We're a non-profit organization and are 100% reliant on special "gifts" from special people to help us care for abused and neglected kids in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

Pinellas and Pasco Counties now have the highest number of children in foster care in the entire state. Despite this unprecedented need, **Pinellas and Pasco children in foster care continue to receive less per child from the state than the average foster child in Florida.** This problem puts more children in Kyle's position, moving night to night. Our local child welfare providers have also lost access to critical local funds for childcare essentials, meaning agencies are turning to Voices for more and more help.

We want to help as many children as we can, and to do that, we need your support.

Here are two ways you can help these children today.

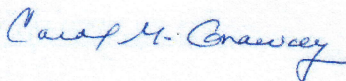
- Go to **www.suncoastvoices.org** to make a financial donation, or
- Return the enclosed self-addressed envelope with a check (even a small amount would help).

Even if it's not a lot of money...

A gift of any size may truly change the life of a child, like it did for this little boy.

Thank you in advance for giving to children who are so desperately in need.

All the best,



Carol Conaway, Past President
Suncoast Voices for Children Foundation