



**“Nurturing and Empowering Families to Help Build Stronger Communities.”**

*Serving Flagler and Volusia Counties*

# The House Next Door From our House to Yours...

## October is Parenting Month

This month is Parenting Month. Parenting can be difficult sometimes with children of any age. Whether they're still a baby or a young adult. With each age comes with a new set of challenges. So much goes into different categories such as diet, school, friends, self confidence, fashion, etc. It is important to figure out when these transitions take place for each age and the best way to handle every situation, as they're all unique to each family. Even though parenting can be challenging and difficult sometimes, it is important to see that there are many rewards that come along with it as well. Parenting is also fun and enjoyable within each stage and transition as well.

Continue to read about challenges and rewards for The House Next Door teams individual families.



**October 2023**



[www.thehnd.com](http://www.thehnd.com)

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## Quarter One Leadership Award 2023 Stacy Brown



The leadership of our agency is not eligible for our monthly employee of the month award, our monthly raffle drawings and at our staff appreciation event it is their job to ensure each of you feels appreciated, meaning they have limited opportunities to be recognized for the outstanding work they are doing. Each quarter we will recognize one leader and share with the agency the work they are doing to ensure our sustainability and growth. Like our EOM, they will receive one paid day off.

Our first quarter leader has dealt with a great deal of turnover and has spent more time training new staff in the last year than most Supervisors do in three years. Their team depends on them, and they always come through. We are aware of the hard work that went into building, organizing and leading the CARES team. It is largely in part to your dedication and team spirit that CPC continues to entrust us with the contract to serve families at risk of separation from their children.

Please join us in congratulating our Quarter One Leader, Stacy Brown.

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To give a secure online donation, learn about our amazon smile and scrip card programs, help fulfill our wish list, or view current volunteer or career opportunities, please visit our website at: [thehnd.com](http://thehnd.com)

**The House Next Door Family Foundation**

Established in 2002, governed by local leaders, committed to the preservation of family services at The House Next Door.

Be a part of ensuring a healthy future for our community. Contact Tom Robertson, Foundation President, at [tomrobertsonrai@gmail.com](mailto:tomrobertsonrai@gmail.com) for further information.

**“Talkative Twos” Instead of “Terrible Twos”**

“Everyone made me think 2 was going to be a "difficult" age, hence the term "terrible two's" but I think it's such a fun age. His language development is so exciting because now he's able to form little sentences like "come here mommy" and using phrases like "oh shoot" in the correct context. I am able to understand him better when he's asking for things he wants/needs. Every day, he manages to surprise me with something new he's learned. it feels like his vocabulary just took off one day and it has not slowed down. He is like a little parrot, copying all the words he hears, which presents the challenge of making sure everyone around him watches what they say so he doesn't pick up any words he shouldn't be saying. All in all, watching him become this independent little human that is now able to verbally communicate better with us is so rewarding for the both of us and I am so excited to see what he's going to learn next.”



- Andrea Segura

**September 2023  
Employee of the Month  
Andrea Segura**



Our September Employee of the month has had many opportunities over the past month to grow within their position. This staff member chose to take advantage of those opportunities and has stepped up in their department. This employee believes in our values of family being the foundation of what we do. A couple times a year, she brings in our fiscal department mascot, little Luca, to spread some joy.

Please join us in congratulating our August employee of the month, Andrea Segura.

## Parenting in Different Stages

"Parenting is hard. We spend their entire childhood preparing them to leave us. When they are in high school, we begin to loosen the strings, to let them fly a little at a time. Some kids need to fall before learning and some kids need to be caught every single time. It's hard to know. They want to be gone from us, to be free, but we need to teach them: budgeting, do you really need Taco Bell for dinner 4 times a week? Time management, college professors like employers are sticklers for timeliness. Life skills, can they load and unload a dishwasher? Can they do their own laundry and put it away? Can they cook a meal without supervision?"

When your 'babies' move into college life or post high school life on their own, parenting becomes more challenging and yet at times so very rewarding! You don't always get to speak to them on the daily. You may not know their dating life or friends. You may only hear from them when things are 'bad' or they are sick, or want you to do the laundry for them. Watching them from afar, social media, or not seeing them at all for many reasons, is so challenging, but, if you lay the groundwork, it can be the most rewarding thing. Not because you made a 'mini-me'. But because you raised a (mostly) self sufficient human who still may need their parents."



- Diahann Suchan

"A big challenge that comes with raising teenagers is peer pressure. My girls, both 14 years old, are at an age where peer pressure is knocking at the door. I hope that by encouraging them both to be themselves and by keeping an open communication relationship with them, I can help them feel comfortable to speak with me when issues arise. I'm so very proud of both my girls, one is in the cheer squad and the other is in the childcare program in their school. Both girls keep me young at heart and I'm so grateful to see how their lives are changing and how they are growing beautifully.

My not so little son is 10 and discovering the world and its wonders through the technological screen. We encourage less screen time and more outdoors time. But with technology at our fingertips, it becomes difficult for him to see what the natural world has to give. A plus of technology is that he is able to research and explore in a way we were unable to when we were young. My son has a big heart for animals and caring for them. Every day is a challenge to continue to nurture his giving heart and encourage him and inspire his curiosity. He reminds me how sweet this world can be, if we all just had a little imagination and a lot of love."

- Waleska Guadalupe