

# Sylvia Thomas Center for Adoptive & Foster Families

The Sylvia Thomas Center for Adoptive & Foster Families is seeking board members who are passionate about supporting strong Forever Families for adoptive children.

## The Heart of Our Organization: Forever Families

Every child deserves support, love and the experience of creating positive memories and traditions in a family that will last a lifetime. While adoptive and foster families are ready to open their hearts and their homes to provide those opportunities, they often find that it takes more than love to help a child overcome traumatic roots. That's where our organization comes in.

## Our Mission

The Sylvia Thomas Center strives to keep the "forever" in Forever Families across Hillsborough County. Each year, the Center provides support to hundreds of pre- and post-adoptive families through comprehensive case management, in-home family counseling, information and referral, advocacy, support groups and education. All services are provided at no cost to the families.

## How You Can Help as a Board Member

The Board of Directors is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to the center's continued growth and service to the community. The board meets monthly via phone/video call, with one in-person meeting each quarter. Board members serve a two-year term.

As a board member, you will help:

- Set long-term goals and vision for the center in the ever-evolving world of child welfare and social services
- Develop fundraising and "friend-raising" strategies to create and maintain partnerships within the community
- Act as an ambassador for the Center, occasionally joining the CEO to represent the Center at community events
- Support the staff, as needed, as they plan and execute events for the families of the Center

In return, you will gain:

- A new appreciation for the resilience of children and the incredible dedication it takes to be a parent
- Opportunities to translate your professional skills to benefit an established local non-profit
- A sense of satisfaction knowing that you are part of "the village" that Forever Families need

## Experience We Look for in Board Members

- Fundraising
- Event planning
- Business development
- Project management
- Financial management
- Marketing and public relations
- Information technology
- Child welfare system
- Legal system
- Foster and adoptive parenting

### **The Board at a Glance**

- Our current board size is six people.
- We meet monthly via phone, with quarterly in-person meetings.
- The time commitment is a few hours a month.

### **The Center at a Glance**

- The Sylvia Thomas Center was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) organization.
- The Center serves pre- and post-adoptive families throughout Hillsborough County.
- The Center provides services, programming and referrals for hundreds of families each year at no cost to the families.

### **Want to Know More?**

Contact Mary Ann Kershaw, CEO, [mkershaw@sylviathomascenter.org](mailto:mkershaw@sylviathomascenter.org).