



## Special Places/ Special Faces

DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Highlands  
FDLRS Heartland

### **ABUSE: ALCOHOL & DRUGS**

**1. Alcoholics Anonymous :**

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Alcoholics Anonymous® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-622-2255**

**Glades, Hendry, DeSoto**

**1-239-275-5111**

**Highlands**

**1-863-382-2694**

**2. Alcohol 24-Hour Helpline:**

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

If you're calling about a loved one, get as much information as you can on how long the alcohol addiction has been going on, dosages/amounts, frequency, or if there are any other substances being abused.

It will also be very useful to have details on the addict's mental state or whether they are suffering from any behavioral disorders or other co-occurring disorders.

Have your insurance information ready, if you do have insurance, or at least have an idea what type of insurance it is, whether it's PPO or HMO, for instance. If there is no insurance, or if your insurance will not cover the entire recovery cost, be ready to discuss finances or if you have money available for the treatment.

**Toll-free**

**1-866-643-6144**

**3. Alpha-Omega Crisis Center:**

Companies like Alpha Omega Crisis Center Inc. usually offer: Drug Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, Affordable Counseling, Phone Counseling and Professional Counseling.

**Highlands**

**1-863-699-1685**

**4. First Step of Sarasota:**

[www.fsos.org](http://www.fsos.org)

First Step of Sarasota is a non-profit provider of high quality, affordable substance abuse treatment. First Step offers more than 20 programs including detox, residential and outpatient. Using evidenced based practices, First Step's highly qualified, compassionate counselors implement emerging therapeutic techniques. First Step's "back-to-basics" approach to treatment is second to none. Along with an affordable fee scale, First Step is a results-oriented, effective option for substance abuse treatment.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-494-1324**

**5. Florida Center for Addictions:**

[www.rehabandtreatment.com/Florida](http://www.rehabandtreatment.com/Florida)

The Recovery Place Addiction Rehab Center understands the unique battle you are facing and has structured many client-centered programs to adhere to you or your loved one's struggle.

**Highlands**

**1-863-452-3858**

**6. Hendry/Glades Behavioral Health Center-Recovery Center:**

[www.wellness.com/dir/3831616/psychologist/fl/labelle](http://www.wellness.com/dir/3831616/psychologist/fl/labelle)

Since 1974, Hendry-Glades Behavioral Health Center has focused on providing high-quality behavioral health services. Our goal is to assist you on your road to recovery. Our organization is based on the belief that our patients' needs are of the utmost importance and our entire team is committed to meeting those needs. We are staffed by an interdisciplinary team of licensed psychiatrists, mental health counselors, certified addictions professionals, and other disciplines.

**Hendry, Glades**

**1-863-674-4050**

**7. Narcotics Anonymous:**

[www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

The group atmosphere provides help from peers and offers an ongoing support network for addicts who wish to pursue and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. Our name, Narcotics Anonymous, is not meant to imply a focus on any particular drug; NA's approach makes no distinction between drugs including alcohol. Membership is free, and we have no affiliation with any organizations.

**DeSoto**

**1-866-389-1344**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-866-288-6262**

**Highlands**

**1-863-683-0630**

## **ABUSE: CHILD & SPOUSE**

**1. Abuse Counseling and Treatment:**

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

Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT) is a private, not-for-profit agency committed to serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

ACT provides services to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, marital status, sexual preference or handicap.

**Interpreters available upon request.**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-800-500-1119**

**2. Florida Abuse Hotline:**

[www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline](http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline)

The Florida Abuse Hotline serves as the central reporting center for allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation for all children and vulnerable adults in Florida.

The Hotline receives calls, faxes, and web based reports from citizens and professionals with concerns of abuse, neglect, or exploitation on children and vulnerable adults in Florida.

The Hotline assesses the information provided by the caller and determines if the information provided meets statutory criteria for the Department of Children and Families to conduct an investigation.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-962-2873**

**3. Guardian Ad Litem Program:**

[www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org)

Guardians are adults who are legally responsible for protecting the well-being and interests of their ward, who is usually a minor. A guardian ad litem is a unique type of guardian in a relationship that has been created by a court order only for the duration of a legal action. Courts appoint these special representatives for infants, minors, and mentally incompetent persons, all of whom generally need help protecting their rights in court. Such court-appointed guardians figure in divorces, child neglect and abuse cases, paternity suits, contested inheritances, and so forth, and are usually attorneys.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-993-4638**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-863-674-4190**

**Highlands**

**1-863-402-6969**

**4. National Domestic Violence Hotline:**

[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Our highly trained expert advocates are available 24/7 to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-799-7233**

**5. National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline:**

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

It is a national, 24-hour resource specifically designed for teens and young adults. Accessible by phone or internet, the National Dating Abuse Helpline operates from a call center in Austin, Texas.

The Helpline offers real-time, one-on-one support from peer advocates. We train these young leaders to offer support, information and advocacy to those involved in dating abuse relationships as well as concerned friends, parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement and service providers.

**Toll-free**

**1-866-331-9474**

**6. Peace River Center Domestic Violence Shelter:**

[www.peacrivercenter.org](http://www.peacrivercenter.org)

Provides a free and confidential assessment, shelter and related services to domestic violence survivors and their dependents including crisis intervention, problem solving skills, self-help groups, safety planning, information and referrals, and outreach services including external support group

**Highlands**

**1-863-386-1167**

## **ADOPTION**

**1. Children's Home Society:**

[www.chsfl.org](http://www.chsfl.org)

**Mission:** Embracing Children. Inspiring Lives.

**Dream:** To break the generational cycle of child abuse in more families. To protect children from harm. To heal children who've been hurt. To create strong, stable families. To help children grow up safe, healthy and prepared for life.

**Desoto**

**1-813-949-8946**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-239-334-4544**

**Highlands**

**1-863-382-0007**

## **AIDS AWARENESS**

### **1. Family Health Centers of SWFL:**

[www.fhcswf.org](http://www.fhcswf.org)

Family Health Centers' vision is to improve patient outcomes by providing primary health care, preventive health care, disease management and health related educational services to everyone, including the medically underserved, migratory agricultural worker families, the homeless, and other special populations who require access to health care. Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. will work with the various communities to identify, plan, and deliver a variety of health care services which will meet the needs of those communities. All medical care and related services will be of a quality that insures dignity to and respect for the patient/client. Center services will not be denied due to an individual's ability to pay.

**Hendry**

**1-863-675-0160**

### **2. Highlands County Public Health:**

[highlands.floridahealth.gov](http://highlands.floridahealth.gov)

Protect and improve the health of communities through education and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Improving the quality of life for all of our residents and visitors, by providing access to quality health care to all of the people in Highlands County regardless of ability to pay. Our primary focus is on our population without a "medical home." A "medical home" is not a place but a special relationship that you have with the health care professionals who provide for you and your family. Continue to build partnerships in the community to maximize available resources.

**Highlands**

**1-863-386-6040**

### **3. HIV/AIDS Programs Health Planning Council of SWFL:**

[www.hpcswf.com/ryan-white-programs](http://www.hpcswf.com/ryan-white-programs)

The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida provides three programs that help those living with HIV/AIDS. Ryan White Part B provides core medical and supplemental care. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS helps to meet their housing needs. AIDS Insurance Continuation Program provides assistance to allow the continuation of medical, dental, mental health and optical coverage.

**Toll-free**

**1-239-433-6700**

### **4. National Prevention Information Network:**

[npin.cdc.gov/disease/hiv](http://npin.cdc.gov/disease/hiv)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Prevention Information Network (CDC NPIN) is a source of information and materials for both international and American HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and Sexually Transmitted Disease education and prevention organizations.

NPIN is located on the main campus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia and includes a small resource library, a call center, training facilities, and educational materials. The CDC NPIN project also supports/manages [www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.org), the national HIV and STD testing site locator web site and [www.FindTBResources.org](http://www.FindTBResources.org), a site dedicated to partners in TB education

**Toll-free**

**1-800-458-3253**

## **CHILD CARE**

### **1. Early Learning Coalition:**

[www.elcofswfl.org](http://www.elcofswfl.org)

[www.elcfloridasheartland.org](http://www.elcfloridasheartland.org)

It is our goal to make certain that children ages birth to five and beyond, have access to high quality early education experiences to cultivate their natural enthusiasm for learning.

<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>1-863-494-5233</b>
<b>Glades</b>	<b>1-239-935-6100</b>
<b>Hendry-Clewiston</b>	<b>1-863-599-8778</b>
<b>Hendry-Labelle</b>	<b>1-863-517-2586</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<b>1-863-314-9213</b>

### **2. RCMA:**

[www.rcma.org](http://www.rcma.org)

RCMA provides quality child care and early education for children of migrant farm workers and rural, low-income families throughout Florida.

The largest non-profit child-care provider in Florida, RCMA is a leader in high-quality early childhood services. More than half of RCMA's child-care centers are nationally accredited

<b>DeSoto</b>	
<b>Nocatee</b>	<b>1-863-993-4745</b>
<b>Princess</b>	<b>1-863-993-4762</b>
<b>Smith/Brown</b>	<b>1-863-993-4750</b>
<b>Glades</b>	
<b>ECC</b>	<b>1-863-946-2545</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>1-863-612-0783</b>
<b>Hendry</b>	
<b>Booker T Washington</b>	<b>1-863-946-1922</b>
<b>Krome</b>	<b>1-863-674-4515</b>
<b>La Belle CDC</b>	<b>1-863-674-4510</b>
<b>Mira Verde CDC</b>	<b>1-863-674-0322</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	
<b>Avon Park</b>	<b>1-863-452-3880</b>
<b>Hope Villa</b>	<b>1-863-314-5924</b>
<b>Hopewell</b>	<b>1-863-452-4377</b>
<b>Lake Placid CDC</b>	<b>1-863-699-3790</b>
<b>Lake Placid South</b>	<b>1-863-699-3794</b>
<b>MLK</b>	<b>1-863-471-5381</b>
<b>Sebring CDC</b>	<b>1-863-386-6137</b>

## **CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES**

### **1. American Cancer Society:**

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

More than one million people in the United States get cancer each year. Whether you have cancer or are close to someone who does, understanding what to expect can help you cope. In this section you can find basic information about cancer and what causes it, as well as in-depth information about specific types of cancer, their risk factors, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment options.

<b>Toll-free</b>	<b>1-800-227-2345</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<b>1-863-382-2828</b>

**2. American Red Cross:**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

More than one million people in the United States get cancer each year. Whether you have cancer or are close to someone who does, understanding what to expect can help you cope. In this section you can find basic information about cancer and what causes it, as well as in-depth information about specific types of cancer, their risk factors, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment options.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-773-2767**

**3. Central Florida Health Care:**

[www.cfhconline.org](http://www.cfhconline.org)

Central Florida Health Care offers a wide range of quality healthcare services to meet the needs of patients. Services are patient focused to produce positive health outcomes and to achieve real cost savings in health and prevention.

**Toll-free**

**1-863-452-3000**

**4. Department of Children and Families:**

[www.dcf.state.fl.us](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us)

Protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.

**DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Highlands**

**1-866-762-2237**

**5. FL Healthy Kids Program and KidCare:**

[www.healthykids.org/kidcare](http://www.healthykids.org/kidcare)

Florida KidCare is the State of Florida's high-quality, low-cost health insurance for children. The program was created through Title XXI of the Social Security Act and reauthorized in 2009. Through its four partners, including Florida Healthy Kids, the program covers children from birth through age 18.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-367-3253**

**6. Health Department:**

[www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov)

The Florida Department of Health works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-993-4601**

**Glades**

**1-863-946-0707**

**Hendry-Clewiston**

**1-863-983-1408**

**Hendry-La Belle**

**1-863-674-4041**

**Highlands**

**1-863-386-6040**

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

**1. National Parent Helpline:**

[www.nationalparenthelpline.org](http://www.nationalparenthelpline.org)

Being a parent is a critically important job, 24 hours a day. It's not always easy. Call the National Parent Helpline<sup>®</sup> to get emotional support from a trained Advocate and become empowered and a stronger parent.

**Toll-free**

**1-855-427-2736**

**2. Youth and Family Alternatives:**

[www.yfainc.org](http://www.yfainc.org)

Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc. is committed to working in a collaborative partnership with families and communities to establish and maintain a nurturing environment for children in Highlands County.

**1-727-835-4166**

## **CRISIS INTERVENTIONS**

### **1. Crisis Line for Runaways:**

[www.1800RUNAWAY.org](http://www.1800RUNAWAY.org)

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you are a teenager who is thinking of running from home, if you have a friend who has run and is looking for help, or if you are a runaway ready to go home.

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you care about a youth and want information on how you can help someone who may be at risk of running from home.

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY if you are a teacher looking for information to pass along to your students about youth homelessness or the reality of life on the streets.

Our 24-hour crisis line has an experienced front-line team member ready to help you now. If you're not ready to call, you can post to our bulletin board, send an email, or start a live chat. It's anonymous, confidential and free.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-786-2929**

### **2. Florida Missing and Endangered Children:**

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

The Florida office is the regional point for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's child protection education and prevention programs. In this role the Florida office raises the public's awareness about missing and sexually exploited child issues and Internet safety. The office also provides technical assistance to the public, law enforcement, schools and others.

The Florida office also supports NCMEC's mission by providing assistance to families, law enforcement, and other professionals concerning missing and exploited children cases.

**Toll-free**

**1-888-356-4774, 1-561-848-1900**

### **3. Rape Crisis Hotline:**

[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

At any given moment, more than 1,100 trained volunteers are on duty and available to help victims at RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)-affiliated crisis centers across the country.

How does the National Sexual Assault Hotline work?

The concept behind the hotline is simple. When a caller dials 1.800.656.HOPE, a computer notes the area code and first three digits of the caller's phone number. The call is then instantaneously connected to the nearest RAINN member center. If all counselors at that center are busy, the call is sent to the next closest center. The caller's phone number is not retained, so the call is anonymous and confidential unless the caller chooses to share personally-identifying information.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-656-4673**

**Toll-free**

**1-877-688-5077**

### **4. We Care Hotline:**

[www.contactwecare.org](http://www.contactwecare.org)

We Care is devoted to providing people in emotional distress an opportunity to express themselves to a compassionate listener in a confidential environment. We also offer training to people and organizations in the listening skills needed to support those in crisis. We facilitate opportunities for people to help other people.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-486-2358**

## **DISABILITIES SERVICES**

### **1. Agency for Persons with Disabilities:**

[www.apd.myflorida.com](http://www.apd.myflorida.com)

The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning, and Working in their Communities.

**DeSoto**

**1-813-233-4300**

**Glades/Hendry**

**1-239-338-1370**

**Highlands**

**1-863-413-3360**

**2. Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD):**

[card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu](http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu)

The agency supports individuals with autism and related disabilities.

**Sub-office serving Hardee, Highlands, & DeSoto Counties**

**1-863-699-3702**

**3. Central Florida Speech and Hearing:**

[www.cfshc.org](http://www.cfshc.org)

Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center is a premier world-class speech, language and hearing disorders treatment facility in the heart of Central Florida and Polk County. We welcome every patient, regardless of their ability to pay, and celebrate the dedication of our professional staff who have answered the call for outstanding, compassionate care, in an exemplary facility.

**Toll-free**

**1-863-686-3189**

**4. Disability Rights of Florida:**

[www.disabilityrightsflorida.org](http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org)

Disability Rights Florida was founded in 1977 as the statewide designated protection and advocacy system for individuals with disabilities in the State of Florida. Disability Rights Florida is a not-for-profit corporation that has authority and responsibility under eight federal grants. Our services are free and confidential.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-342-0823**

**5. Division of Blind Services:**

[dbs.myflorida.com](http://dbs.myflorida.com)

The Children's Program was established by the Florida Legislature in 2000 to facilitate blind and visually impaired children's fullest participation within the family, community, and educational settings. The program supplements services already offered by the school system to foster the child's learning and ability to function independently. The student's parents, family, and caregivers are an integral part of the program to foster independence.

Children's Program Specialists serve eligible children so that they may reach educational and independent living goals. Successful outcomes enable students to transition from school to Vocational Rehabilitation or other appropriate community programs.

**State Office**

**1-800-342-1828**

**DeSoto, Highlands**

**1-800-500-6412**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-800-219-0180**

**6. Early Steps:**

[www.floridahealth.gov/alternatesites/cms-kids/families/early\\_steps/early\\_steps.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/alternatesites/cms-kids/families/early_steps/early_steps.html)

Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Early Intervention is provided to support families and caregivers in developing the competence and confidence to help their child learn and develop.

**State Office**

**1-800-218-0001**

**DeSoto**

**1-941-957-8939**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-239-433-6700, 1-866-547-2793**

**Highlands**

**1-863-655-0547**

**Highlands-Avon Park**

**1-863-451-5139**

**Highlands-Lake Placid**

**1-863-451-5136**

**Highlands-Sebring**

**1-863-451-5147**



**7. Florida Deaf Services:**

[www.fadcentral.org/deaf-service-center-association.html](http://www.fadcentral.org/deaf-service-center-association.html)

DSCA is a unique not-for-profit agency in Florida; established to advocate and support consistent services for Florida's deaf and hard of hearing citizens. Deaf and hard of hearing populations are assisted individually by local agencies listed on the website. Local agencies each offer a wide range of services which may include advocacy, free distribution of specialized telephone equipment (Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.), American Sign Language interpreting services, sign language classes, client assistance, educational workshops/outreach presentations, and so much more. Contact your local agency to find what services are available in your area.

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-239-461-0334**

**DeSoto, Highlands**

**1-941-743-8347**

**8. Epilepsy Services of Florida:**

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

The Epilepsy Services Program of Florida is sponsored by the Department of Health and United Ways of Tampa Bay and Central Florida, servicing the estimated 360,000 Floridians who are afflicted with this devastating disorder. Services include targeted case management; prevention education to groups, employers, and organizations; employment services; counseling; access to quality neurological medical treatment; and support groups.

**DeSoto, Highlands**

**1-863-686-5880**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-239-275-4838**

**9. Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System:**

[www.heartlanded.org/fdlrs](http://www.heartlanded.org/fdlrs)

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities. Service centers include 19 centers that directly serve school districts in the areas of Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development (HRD), and Technology. In addition, the FDLRS Network also includes 5 Multi-disciplinary Centers who focus on in-depth evaluations and several statewide projects offering specialized services.

**Highlands**

**1-863-531-0444**

**DeSoto, Glades, Hendry**

**1-800-316-7057**

**10. Goodwill Industries:**

[www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org)

Goodwill works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work.

**DeSoto**

**1-239-656-5020**

**Glades, Hendry**

**1-239-995-6100**

**Highlands**

**1-863-473-4620**

**11. Heartland Horses & Handicapped:**

[www.heartlandhorses.org](http://www.heartlandhorses.org)

Goal is to assist each individual so that they may improve their motor skills, posture, balance, coordination, and strength. We help them stretch tight muscles and expand their minds. By grooming, stroking, and riding our wonderful horses, they reach, pull, turn, push, bend, and lift.

**Highlands**

**1-863-452-0006**

**12. School Districts:**

The four school districts FDLRS Heartland serves are listed below with website and phone contact for the county office. Individual schools will be listed on each district’s website.

<b>DeSoto</b>	<a href="http://www.desotoschools.com">www.desotoschools.com</a>	<b>1-863-494-4222</b>
<b>Glades</b>	<a href="http://www.gladesedu.org">www.gladesedu.org</a>	<b>1-863-946-0202</b>
<b>Hendry</b>	<a href="http://www.hendry-schools.org">www.hendry-schools.org</a>	<b>1-863-674-4642</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<a href="http://www.highlands.k12.fl.us">www.highlands.k12.fl.us</a>	<b>1-863-471-5555</b>

**13. Special Equestrians:**

[www.specialequestrians.net](http://www.specialequestrians.net)

Special Equestrians, Inc. is a PATH, Intl. Premier Accredited Center offering therapeutic horseback riding classes and equine assisted activities in Fort Myers, Florida. We serve children and adults with disabilities in Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties of Southwest Florida.

<b>Glades/Hendry</b>	<b>1-239-226-1221</b>
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**EMPLOYMENT AND JOB TRAINING**

**1. Heartland Workforce:**

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

Heartland Workforce offers workforce development opportunities for businesses and job seekers in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands Counties.

For employers, we offer online job postings, online business resources, virtual recruiting tools, recruitment and screening, and training funds to maximize the growth of your company and your employees.

We provide online resume posting services, career counseling, and job search tools for professionals looking for employment. We also offer services specifically for Veterans looking for jobs and career training programs.

<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>1-839-993-1008</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<b>1-863-385-3672</b>

**2. Job Corps :**

[www.jobcorps.gov](http://www.jobcorps.gov)

Job Corps is a free education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible young people at least 16 years of age that qualify as low income, Job Corps provides the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.

<b>Toll-free</b>	<b>1-800-733-5627</b>
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**3. Southwest Florida Works:**

[www.swflworks.org](http://www.swflworks.org)

Register for an account and you have access to job opportunities in area, disability services, youth services, and much more.

<b>Glades, Hendry</b>	<b>1-863-983-6138</b>
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**4. Vocational Rehabilitation:**

[www.rehabworks.org](http://www.rehabworks.org)

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers.

<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>1-863-993-4655</b>
<b>Glades, Hendry</b>	<b>1-561-992-1316</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	<b>1-863-386-6077</b>

**5. Welfare Transition Program:**

[www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org)

Florida's Welfare Transition Program enables welfare recipients to move from welfare to work by emphasizing self-sufficiency and personal responsibility.

**Toll-free**

**1-863-385-3672**

## **HOUSING**

**1. Fair Housing Project:**

[www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp](http://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes: utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-440-8091**

**2. Florida Nonprofit Housing:**

[www.fnph.org](http://www.fnph.org)

Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc. (FNPH) is the successor organization of the American Friends Service Committee's Florida Migrant and Seasonal Farm worker Housing effort. Formed in 1978, FNPH's initial goal was to improve farm worker housing throughout the state of Florida by providing technical assistance and training to non-profit housing providers. Florida's first Section 523 Self-Help Housing Grantees were products of this effort.

Today, our mission has broadened to include rental housing development and related services for low and very low income rural residents.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-494-4343**

**Glades**

**1-863-467-1171**

**Hendry**

**1-863-674-4056**

**Highlands**

**1-863-385-2519**

**Highlands**

**1-863-402-6648**

**3. George Harris Youth Shelter:**

[www.yfainc.org](http://www.yfainc.org)

Youth and Family Alternatives operates three short-term shelter programs for youth between the ages of 10 thru 17, one of those being the George W. Harris, Jr. Runaway and Youth Crisis Shelter, located in Bartow, Florida.

We are open to youth who are runaway or homeless or youth in need of a short-term out of home respite placement for any reason. We also accept youth who are in need of an emergency shelter placement due to abuse and/or neglect and for youth in foster care who have experienced a disruption in their foster placement. Shelter services are provided for up to fourteen days.

**Highlands**

**1-800-786-8614**

**4. Habitat for Humanity:**

[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

Habitat for Humanity believes that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. We build and repair houses all over the world using volunteer labor and donations. Our partner families purchase these houses through no-profit, no-interest mortgage loans or innovative financing methods.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-494-4118**

**Glades**

**1-863-357-1371**

**Hendry**

**1-239-652-0434**

**Highlands**

**1-863-385-7156**

**5. Safe House:**

A safe house is a secret place for sanctuary or suitable to hide persons from hostile actions, or from retribution, threats, or perceived danger.

**Highlands**

**1-863-386-1167**

**6. Salvation Army:**

[www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/)

From family tracing to disaster response, The Salvation Army offers a wide variety of services worldwide. Some services offered are addiction dependency rehabilitation programs, emergency response to natural and man-made disasters, restore or sustain family relationships, and provide social work services.

**DeSoto**

**1-941-629-3170**

**Glades**

**1-863-763-6020**

**Hendry-Clewiston**

**1-863-233-6190**

**Hendry-LaBelle**

**1-863-674-1441**

**Highlands**

**1-863-385-7548**

**7. United Way:**

[www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org)

United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-887-9234**

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

**1. Bureau of Victims Compensation:**

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

The Attorney General is the statewide elected official directed by the Florida Constitution to serve as the chief legal officer for the State of Florida. The Attorney General is responsible for protecting Florida consumers from various types of fraud and enforcing the state's antitrust laws. Additionally, the Attorney General protects her constituents in cases of Medicaid fraud, defends the state in civil litigation cases and represents the people of Florida when criminals appeal their convictions in state and federal courts.

Within the Attorney General's Office is the Office of Statewide Prosecution that targets widespread criminal activities throughout Florida including identity theft, drug trafficking and gang activity. The Attorney General's Office also conducts various programs to assist victims of crime.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-226-6667**

**2. Florida Rural Legal Services:**

[www.frls.org](http://www.frls.org)

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. is a non-profit law firm dedicated to providing quality civil legal advice, representation and education for low income people and communities

**Toll-free**

**1-800-476-8937**

**3. Office of the Attorney General:**

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

The Attorney General is the statewide elected official directed by the Florida Constitution to serve as the chief legal officer for the State of Florida. The Attorney General is responsible for protecting Florida consumers from various types of fraud and enforcing the state's antitrust laws. Additionally, the Attorney General protects her constituents in cases of Medicaid fraud, defends the state in civil litigation cases and represents the people of Florida when criminals appeal their convictions in state and federal courts. Within the Attorney General's Office is the Office of Statewide Prosecution that targets widespread criminal activities throughout Florida including identity theft, drug trafficking and gang activity. The Attorney General's Office also conducts various programs to assist victims of crime

**Toll-free**

**1-866-966-7226**

**4. State Attorney's Office-Victim Advocate:**

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

The Florida Attorney General's Division of Victim Services not only serves as an advocate for crime victims and victims' rights, it also administers a compensation program to ensure financial assistance for innocent victims of crime. As part of its responsibility, the division also notifies victims of the status of any appellate decisions regarding their cases.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-226-6667**

## **PARENTING**

**1. Family Café:**

[www.familycafe.net](http://www.familycafe.net)

The Family Café exists to provide individuals with disabilities and their families with an opportunity for collaboration, advocacy, friendship and empowerment by serving as a facilitator of communication, a space for dialogue and a source of information.

**Toll-free**

**1-888-309-2233**

**2. Family Network on Disabilities:**

[www.fndfl.org](http://www.fndfl.org)

The mission of Family Network on Disabilities is to ensure through collaboration that individuals have full access to family-driven support, education, information, resources, and advocacy and to serve families of children with disabilities, ages birth through 26, who have the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-825-5736**

**3. Parent Helpline:**

[www.nationalparenthelpline.org](http://www.nationalparenthelpline.org)

Being a parent is a critically important job, 24 hours a day. It's not always easy. Call the National Parent Helpline to get emotional support from a trained Advocate and become empowered and a stronger parent.

**Toll-free**

**1-855-427-2736**

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**1. 4-H Clubs:**

[florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

The UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens. This mission is accomplished by creating safe and inclusive learning environments, involving caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and the nationwide land grant university system.

**DeSoto**

**1-863-993-4846**

**Glades**

**1-863-946-0244**

**Hendry**

**1-863-674-4092**

**Highlands**

**1-863-402-6540**

**2. Big Brothers/Big Sisters:**

[www.bbbssun.org](http://www.bbbssun.org)

Big Brothers Big Sisters is not your typical organization. We help children realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities.

**DeSoto**

**1-941-488-4009**

**Glades & Hendry**

**1-239-288-4224**

**Highlands**

**1-863-402-9001**

**3. Boy Scouts:**

[www.swflcouncilbsa.org](http://www.swflcouncilbsa.org) (DeSoto, Glades, Hendry)

[gulfridgecouncil.org](http://gulfridgecouncil.org) (Highlands)

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation’s largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

**DeSoto, Glades, Hendry**  
**Highlands**

**1-800-269-8072**  
**1-813-872-2691**

**4. Girl Scouts:**

[www.gsgcf.org](http://www.gsgcf.org)

Girls develop their leadership potential through activities that enable them to discover their values, skills, and the world around them: connect with others in a multicultural environment; and take action to make a difference in the world.

**Toll-free**

**1-800-232-4475**

**5. Libraries:**

Public libraries are distinct from research libraries, school libraries, and other special libraries in that their mandate is to serve the general public’s information needs (rather than the needs of a particular school, institution, or research population). Public libraries also provide free services such as preschool story times to encourage early literacy, quiet study and work areas for students and professionals, or book clubs to encourage appreciation of literature in adults. Public libraries typically allow users to take books and other materials off the premises temporarily; they also have non-circulating reference collections and provide computer and Internet access to patrons.

**DeSoto**  
**Glades: Moore Haven**  
**Ortona**  
**Hendry: Clewiston**  
**LaBelle**  
**Highlands: Avon Park**  
**Lake Placid**  
**Sebring**

**1-863-993-4851**  
**1-863-946-0744**  
**1-863-675-3779**  
**1-863-983-1493**  
**1-863-675-0833**  
**1-863-452-3803**  
**1-863-699-3705**  
**1-863-402-6716**

**6. YMCA of Highlands:**

[www.highlandsymca.org](http://www.highlandsymca.org)

The YMCA is a non-profit organization that has been in existence for more than 160 years. Its foundation is built upon bringing communities together, one person at a time. The goals are simple: nurture the potential of children, promote healthy living and foster a sense of social responsibility.

**Toll-free**

**1-863-382-9622**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**1. Driver’s License Office:**

[www.flhsmv.gov/index.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/index.html)

People get a driver license to operate their vehicles or for photo identification purposes. They register and title their automobiles, mobile homes, and boats. They may receive assistance from the Florida Highway Patrol if they are involved in a crash or their vehicle breaks down along Florida’s highways.

The mission is to provide highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. Our department members around the state are dedicated to accomplishing this mission.

**DeSoto**  
**Glades**  
**Hendry**  
**Highlands**

**1-863-993-4861**  
**1-863-946-6035**  
**1-863-983-1460**  
**1-863-699-3769**