

**THE ORLANDO TIMES**  
EST. 1976  
YOUR KEY TO CENTRAL FLORIDA'S  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
WWW.THEORLANDOTIMESNEWSPAPER.COM

IG & TWITTER: THEORLANDOTIMES  
FB: THEORLANDOTIMESNEWSPAPER

**VOL. 46 NO. 14**

**Section B**

**\$ .50** **AP** Associated Press **NNPA**

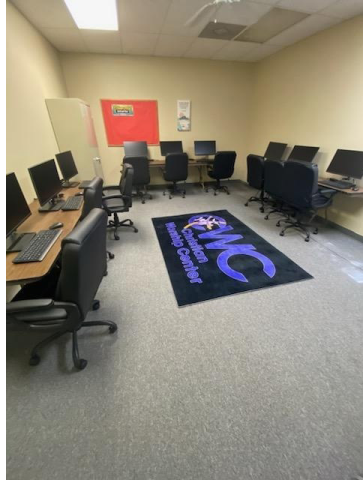
## Christian Worship Center Dedicates New Computer Lab

BY LOUIS C. WARD  
LEESBURG - Youth and adults who do not have access to a laptop computer will now be able to sign up for computer use at Christian Worship Center's (CWC) new Computer Lab, where 10 brand new Lenovo desktop computers and keyboards will be available for their use thanks to a partnership between Christian Worship Center and Peacock Capital, a "forward thinking real estate investment and advisory firm focused on acquiring, renovating, building, and operating neighborhood multifamily properties in Central Florida."

The new computers were installed Tuesday at CWC's Leesburg Campus at 1414 West Main Street. John Christian, Senior Pastor of CWC, officiated over the Dedication Ceremony Wednesday, March 22, 2023 while Kenneth Polsinelli, managing partner at Peacock Capital, Mina Robinson, a consultant, Mike Pederson, Leesburg, City Commissioner, Nathaniel Sanders, Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, other civic and community leaders looked on with agreement for the positive investment for residents



New computer lab at CWC of the Leesburg community.



New computer lab at CWC and get that access."



Kenneth Polsinelli, Peacock Capital Pastor Christian.

The partnership between CWC and Peacock Capital is nothing but a plus for our community, and the community has already benefited with the installation of 10 new computers with keyboards, said Pastor Christian. "There are many residents that do not have computer access when they have to apply for jobs, housing, or have to complete school assignments. Now, they can come to our church, CWC,

"Peacock Capital is more than a company that provides multi housing. It is a housing provider that understands that more is needed than a housing investment. It also invests in the people who will live in the communities where they build houses, providing tools for learning and advancement of an individual's skills for self-sufficiency is a win-win investment in people," emphasized

Kenneth Polsinelli of Peacock Capital, commenting on the company's donation of the new computers to CWC's Computer Lab, said, "I hope they (youth and adults) advance their learning and come to see that there's opportunity no matter who you are. Everybody should have an opportunity, that's what makes life worth living." Mina Robinson, called the "Star of

the Show" by Polsinelli because she was responsible for bringing Peacock Capital and CWC together, said Peacock Capital is very in tune with the community. Housing providers just don't come in and leave. Peacock Capital likes to build and stay; they invest in the community and this is why they don't mind giving to the community."

"It's awesome! First Lady and Co-Pastor of CWC Constance Christian remarked. "I know the possibilities that can come out of this computer lab. We don't know what the future holds. But for the mere fact that those who cannot afford computers can come to CWC's Computer Lab and get what they need."

CWC congregation member Eula Donaldson said, "I think it's awesome. I think adults can use it, too."

Nathaniel Sanders Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Leesburg Chapter, and commissioner of Planning and Zone, revealed that his fraternity will definitely find a way to take advantage of the new computer lab.

## City Of Orlando Connects Neighborhood And Community Leaders Through Workshops And Engaging Dialogue At 18th Annual Neighborhood & Community Summit

*City Recognizes Community Award Recipients Who Make an Impact on Residents' Quality of Life*



Representatives from 26Health and Mayor Buddy Dyer



Margaret Hill from the Rock Lake Neighborhood Association along with Mayor Buddy Dyer.

ORLANDO – On Saturday, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer hosted the City of Orlando's 18th Annual Neighborhood & Community Summit. This one-day of interactive networking and workshop sessions connected more than 350 residents and community leaders to encourage a stronger, more vibrant community.

The event also honored volunteers and community organizations who excel in building better neighborhoods and strengthening the city. To recognize

these efforts, Mayor Dyer presented a myriad of awards to the 2023 Neighborhood & Community Summit honorees.

"It is important to honor the individuals and organizations that give their time, talent and resources to improve the quality of life for all our residents," said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. "I am thankful we could recognize some of those who exemplify what it means to be a good neighbor and work to help build a stronger, more compassionate city for all."

**The Diversity and Inclusion Champion award** was presented to **26Health**, which offers comprehensive, quality healthcare for everyone regardless of ability to pay, with an emphasis on helping those in LGBTQ+ communities.

**The Neighborhood Champion award** was presented to **Margaret Hill from the Rock Lake Neighborhood Association**. Hill has been president of the Rock Lake Neighborhood Association and has worked alongside city departments to host annual National

Night Out events and encourage getting involved in city sustainability programs, including Green Up and Keep Orlando Beautiful.

**The Community Builder award** was presented to **Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)**, which supports families with young children by providing access to affordable, quality care and critical services from growth and development to education and training.

"Collaboration and partnership are our community's greatest strength, and

this annual event is just one example of the many resources and programs we offer to foster relationship building," said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. "I am proud of what we are all doing to make our neighborhoods and our community a place where every resident feels equally valued, equally protected and has a fair and real opportunity to thrive."

For more event information, please visit [Orlando.gov/summit](http://Orlando.gov/summit).

## Department Of Children And Families Kicks Off Child Abuse Prevention Month



TALLAHASSEE — The Department of Children and Families (Department) Secretary Shevaun Harris joined key partners in recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and together planted pinwheels at Florida's Historic Capitol. Pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention and serve as a reminder of the happy and carefree environment desired for every child. Everyone can play a role in supporting families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Governor Ron DeSantis has declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Florida, and Florida is committed to improving the lives of all children and families.

"The Department recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect," said Secretary Shevaun Harris. "We will continue to collaborate with our partners on ensuring the safety of

all children in our state. Child and family well-being is a top priority for the Department and over the past few years we have put a major focus on our prevention efforts. Through programs like Family Navigation and First Lady Casey DeSantis' Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity, we are able to support strong and resilient families in Florida."

"There is no greater charge in government than to protect those who are the most vulnerable among us," said Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director, Taylor Hatch. "Thank you to Secretary Harris and the Department of Children and Families for leading the charge and challenging each of us to look farther upstream to provide supports at the earliest moment possible and to avoid deeper end crisis for the most precious of Floridians – our children."

"It is an honor to come together with agency and community leaders to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and the important role we

all play in ensuring our children are growing up in a safe environment where they are happy, healthy, and thriving," said Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Eric Hall. "It is important that we reach children early in life because those first experiences will inevitably shape who they will one day become. We will continue to support our kids and families with the help they need before they are in crisis to make a positive impact in their lives and help them succeed."

"The Florida Department of Health is honored to participate in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign with partners as a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring children have an opportunity to enjoy safe, healthy, and happy childhoods," said Florida Department of Health Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health Melissa Jordan. "This Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize that promoting healthy families, strong communities, and raising awareness about protective factors can reduce the

risk of child maltreatment. We all play a vital role in the prevention of child abuse, and we will continue to work through statewide collaborative efforts like the State Health Improvement Plan to protect Florida's children and families."

"We will never stop moving upstream to strengthen families and communities before abuse or neglect occurs," said Jenn Petion, President and CEO of Family Support Services. "By reaching families before crisis happens, we can prevent a hotline call from ever needing to be made. This is the future of child welfare."

"Everyone has a role to play in promoting happy, healthy childhoods and empowering families to be resilient and strong," said Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida President and CEO Jennifer L. Ohlsen. "We believe in building on the strengths of individuals, families and communities to prevent problems before a crisis occurs. We are proud to partner with the Governor and First Lady,

Secretary Harris, and the many organizations across our state in this important effort. Today, I am full of hope for the future of every one of Florida's children."

This month is a time when child wellness and child welfare organizations across the U.S. elevate the importance of creating systems and programs that put children and families first. Extreme stress and uncertainty for families may increase the risk of child abuse and neglect raising the need to support families and prevent abuse before it occurs. Child abuse and neglect are preventable, and all communities benefit when children and families are well supported.

Throughout CAP month, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, its national organization Prevent Child Abuse America, alongside other chapters, affiliates, and supporting organizations are using the metaphor of building blocks and construction to reinforce the concept that prevention cannot and does not happen alone. Prevent Child Abuse Florida recognizes that all community members have a role in ensuring children have positive experiences and families have the resources they need when they need them, well before they are in crisis. The theme of this year's awareness and impact campaign, led by Prevent Child Abuse America and its national network of state chapters, is "Building Together: Prevention in Partnership."