

In the Spotlight: Mike Samway, Permanency Roundtable Volunteer



As a volunteer-based non-profit for more than 25 years, Florida Foster Care Review strategically recruits and specially trains community members to serve on our [citizen review panels](#). With the inception of the [Permanency Roundtable \(PRT\) Program](#), our newest venture to help children and youth in foster care, the essential role of volunteers in pursuing our mission has expanded. Through the PRT Program, soon to enter its third year,

FFCR organizes and facilitates team-driven, highly structured strategy sessions focused on actively seeking lifelong families and connections for children and youth in foster care.

We are lucky to count Mike Samway among our PRT volunteers. Mike began volunteering with FFCR as a CRP panel member in late October 2007, nearly nine years ago. Since that time, he has faithfully served at least one day per month and attended nearly every in-service training. This year alone, Mike has acquired almost 50 hours of continuing education (volunteers are required to complete 10 hours each year). Now that he has transitioned from CRP volunteer to PRT volunteer, Mike is a crucial member of the PRT team, serving as a community expert and managing a set of tasks for 30 of the children involved in the program. He is instrumental in connecting participating youth and their case managers with community activities, services and mentoring. After the PRT team identified the need for a mentor for several youth, Mike stepped forward to fulfill that role.

Mike goes above and beyond – always. For example, after learning that a youth was an avid equestrian but life in foster care had interrupted her pursuits, Mike researched the options and linked her with a local ranch. She is now volunteering with horses – building critical life skills and following her dreams. Her exposure to others with similar interests also increases the chances of her meeting a forever family.

Mike's devotion to family and children's well-being shines through in his own life. A beloved father and grandfather, he's known best as "Pappy," and he's

set an example of lifelong service. His son, Michael Samway, served as FFCR's board chair a decade ago and introduced Mike to FFCR. We are so grateful that he did!

Mike, we're inspired by your energy, passion and devotion. You are a valuable member of the FFCR team, and we are grateful for all you do. Thank you!