

## Connected by 25 Brevard receives donation from Bar



### Brevard Bar Foundation's donation to Connected by 25

This is an organization to serve those 18 to 25 years old who have aged out of foster care by developing programs to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Pictured left to right: Suzi McQuagge & Kim Torres of the BBF, Renee Valletutti & Charlie Parker of CBY 25 and Michael Kahn, BBF President.

Connected by 25 Brevard, a new organization striving to make a difference in the lives of young adults formerly in state-run foster care, recently received its first donation from the Brevard Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Brevard County Bar Association. "Local attorneys are in a unique position to witness the difficulties faced by young adults whose life experiences are limited to those found in foster care," said Kim Torres, a member of the Brevard Bar Foundation board. "Lawyers are actively assisting community organizations to provide support services for these individuals. We are excited to be a part of this wonderful initiative for former foster children. Judge Jack Griesbaum, a member of the foster care task force and someone who has seen first-hand the processes which these young adults must work through, adds, "Many teenagers have been in the foster-care system for years. Their Mom and Dad is the foster-care system. They have the same wants and fears as any child who is raised in a traditional family with a Mom and Dad. They, too, want a shot at life and success. Connected by 25 gives them this opportunity." Connected by 25 Brevard is part of a larger statewide initiative developed through a partnership with Eckerd Family Foundation and Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. Connected by 25 Brevard seeks to expand services to young adults that have "aged out" of the foster-care system, many of whom have not completed high school and have nowhere to go once they become legally independent adults at age 18. "We have the opportunity to provide a community support network for these young adults so that they may enjoy many of things which we easily take for granted: completion of their education, finding suitable transportation, guidance on career and financial choices, and basically how to get the most out of life," said Renee Valletutti, Connected by 25 Brevard board chair. For more information, call Connected by 25 Brevard Executive Director Charles Parker at 474-1504, or visit:

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