

**THE  
ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENT  
ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA**

**In partnership with Foster Parents in  
Regions 1, 2, 3 and 17**

**Is proud to announce a new and innovative training experience!**



**Training and Support**  
**For**  
**All Foster and Adoptive Parents**

**Saturday, November 22, 2008**  
**Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**

**Ellijay, GA.**

## *“Fostering...A Work of Heart”*



November 5, 2008

AFPAG (The Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia) is proud to announce an exceptional mini conference being held in your area for foster and adoptive parents. The end of the year is fast approaching with holiday plans and shopping. Do you still need those 10 hours of training certification? AFPAG is here to help you get that accomplished by December 31<sup>st</sup> as you plan to attend this training. Let AFPAG show you how to “Expand Your Heart” this holiday season. This eight (8) hour mini conference has been designed specifically for a Foster Parent to Foster Parent--Heart to Heart training experience. Please register as soon as possible, space is limited.

**The mini conference will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church located at 115 Pleasant Grove Road in Ellijay, GA 30540. Training workshops are scheduled from 9:30am through 5:30pm. Foster Parents or Adoptive Parents, including Private Providers, are invited to register.** Directions for this church can be found on “Mapquest.com”. The day will officially begin with check-in at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided and the closing session will conclude the conference at 5:30pm. (Note--This is an official AFPAG Mini Conference and is **not** associated with the Northwest Georgia Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Mini Conference held in December on Red Top Mountain.)

We are pleased to offer this Mini Conference on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at a reasonable rate of **\$25 per person**. Please see the enclosed Registration Sheet to enroll by Thursday, November 20th. Please mail your \$25 registration fee and form in by Nov. 20th, or email your information to AFPAG Secretary, Vala Peyton, at [vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net) or call 404-428-2104. Onsite registration is offered at \$30/person and you can call or email Vala to reserve your spot at the training.

The workshops have been developed to include the Foster Parent Manual, DFCS responsibilities vs. Foster Parent responsibilities, Foster Parent Bill of Rights, Grievance Procedure, Allegations in Your Foster Home, Discipline Policy, Working in Partnership, Sexual Abuse, and Nurturing, Bonding and Letting Go. Our presenters are an elite group of AFPAG board members, who are top of the line in experience and expertise. They have donated their time and attention to providing you with the tools necessary to improve care and insure quality homes for the children in Georgia. Please bring your foster parent manuals to the conference.

Due to the nature of the training, children will not be allowed in workshops. We also ask that attendees be considerate to the presenters and other attendees by following this house rule.

Your fee will include eight hours of training, handouts, door prizes and luncheon with a key note speaker. Breakfast or coffee will not be served prior to registration. Please be sure to plan accordingly. You will be given a receipt for your registration fee and copies of your training certificate for proof of attendance. You will have a chance to sign up early for the AFPAG annual conference and to have a chance to purchase our exclusive “Fostering A Work of Heart” license plate.

**It is with great pleasure AFPAG welcomes you to participate in this one-day event. We are looking forward to working with you “Foster Parent to Foster Parent---Heart to Heart”!**

Take Care and God Bless,

Sharon Carlson, AFPAG Executive Director

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Sharon Carlson/Executive Director  
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[vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net)  
404-428-2104



*“Fostering...A Work of Heart”*



**Mini Conference Schedule and Workshops**  
***Ellijay, GA – Pleasant Grove Baptist Church***  
***November 22, 2008***

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>9:00am-9:15am</b>	<b>Registration and Check-in</b>
<b>9:15am – 9:30am</b>	<b>Welcome by AFPAG Staff in Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>9:30am -11:30am</b>	<b>Workshop 1</b>
<b>11:30am-12:00pm</b>	<b>Workshop 2</b>
<b>12:00pm-12:45pm</b>	<b>Lunch with encouraging words “Never Give Up”</b>
<b>12:45pm-2:15pm</b>	<b>Workshop 3</b>
<b>2:15pm – 3:45pm</b>	<b>Workshop 4</b>
<b>3:45pm-5:15pm</b>	<b>Workshop 5</b>
<b>5:15pm-5:30pm</b>	<b>Closing – (Door Prizes given)</b>

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**Workshop #1**

**“Allegations in your Foster Care Homes”**

*Understanding the policy and circumstances surrounding an Allegation. This workshop will include information on the Grievance Procedure and Bill of Rights.*

**Workshop #2**

**“Nurturing, Bonding and Letting Go”**

*Foster parents are usually told not to get attached to children, but the reality is that after taking care of these children, becoming attached to them and nurturing them, foster parents do become attached and bonded. The flip side is foster parents have to let them go home. This can be a heartbreaking experience, but the more we are informed the less traumatic it becomes. Foster parents are under the impression that they will not get attached to children, but nurturing, bonding and loving these children is the reality of fostering.*

**Workshop #3**

**“Dealing with the Sexually Abused Foster Child”**

*This class will provide insight and added knowledge on why and how foster children behavior who have been sexually abused and will go over ways of dealing with those behaviors and how to recognize them.*

**Workshop #4**

**“Understanding the Highlights from your Foster Care Manual”**

*Dust off that foster parent manual you buried in a corner and bring it with you to this class. We are going to highlight the most abused of our rules and regulations and discipline policy, and have a good ole’ heart to heart” on the need to get back to basics. Foster Parent to Foster Parent, the presenter will show ways to improve the quality of care you are currently giving to the children in your home.*

**Workshop #5**

**“Creative Discipline”**

*Approaches to disciplining your foster child according to DFCS Policy. The Foster Parent Manual is very clear on discipline and its role in the lives of foster children. Bring your foster parent manual and participate in this open discussion. Participants will enjoy learning about alternative methods to physical punishment and why it so necessary to adhere to this rule.*

***(Note: Just a reminder that Foster Care policy states foster parent training hours do not transfer from year to year. You have until December 31, 2008 to obtain your 10 hours of certification.)***

**Mini Conference Registration**  
**Saturday, November 22, 2008**  
**Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**  
**Ellijay, Georgia**



**Please complete the form below!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Parent: \_\_\_ Adoptive Parent: \_\_\_ DFCS Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

**The registration fee is the same for a partial or a full day.**

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**Registration Fee** is \$25 per person by November 20th. Please call 404-428-2104 or email [vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net) if you cannot make this deadline to add your name to the Conference List and a spot will be held for you. Onsite registration is \$30 per person.

Amount enclosed today \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make all checks or money orders payable to AFPAG.)

You will receive a conference schedule and copy of your registration page upon check-in at 9am. A receipt and training certificate will be given at Closing Session.

**Please mail THIS COMPLETED FORM and your \$25/person registration fee by November 20, 2008 to:**

Vala Peyton, AFPAG Secretary

235 Sheffield Chase

McDonough, GA 30253

Email: [vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net)

Phone: 404-428-2104

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**Please Note:** We want to hear from you. How are you doing with your foster care endeavors? What is needed to help you? Are you looking for someone to listen to your concerns? AFPAG is here for you! During this one-day conference, we want to give you “one-on-one” time with a member of our AFPAG Executive Board. Please check below if you are interested in scheduling an appointment. We will inform you of the time as you pick up your mini conference schedule during registration. Meetings will be in 15-20 minute increments. Space is limited to 15 people. Please have your questions and concerns ready. We look forward to your visit. Please sign me up for a “Foster Parent to Foster Parent”---“Heart to Heart” interview with AFPAG

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