



## CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

### From The President

For those who were not able to attend last months meeting "Fostering-Parent to Parent", we will be doing it again. Everyone who attended thought it was a great meeting and loved it. Lots of questions were asked and answered.

We have a new **fundraiser** to announce and everyone will have a chance to get involved. It should be fairly easy way for us to earn donations as long as we put forth a little effort. Applebee's will be sponsoring us with an event called "**Dinning to Donate**".

Here is how it works, we are to circulate an invitation to anyone and everyone we can and invite them to come to Applebee's for lunch and/or dinner on April 28th between 11 am —9 pm. They **MUST** present the invitation to the server in order for Applebee's to donate **15%** of the bill to our Association minus taxes and gratuity.

This is were you come in, send the invitation to everyone you know, ask your child's school if they will add it to the Friday folder the Friday before the event, if you work in the Canton area see if your boss will let everyone go to lunch at Applebee's that day to show support. Be sure you have permission before leaving a flyer at a business or pass out the invitation in front of Wal-Mart or any other business, check to see if your church will allow it to be posted on the bulletin board, this should be fun and creative. We will announce the proceeds at our May meeting.

This will be an ongoing event for us on a quarterly or bi-annual bases so lets make it work. If you want to print it and pass it out try to use Yellow paper so that it will stand out. We are not to modify the invitation or it will be voided and we are not to distribute the invitation on or around Applebee's on that day or it will void the event. There will be a link on the home page of our website so that you can print it as often as you like. We would love to hear any experiences you have while you get the word out and don't forget to get the kids involved as well. This could be a good family team building event for all.

Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

April 2009  
Issue 46

Inside this issue:

Letter from President	1
Featured for April	1
Message from D'Anna	2
Julie's Corner	3
Events & News	4
Association Information	5

### Featured for April

This month our training is on **Sexual Abuse**. The program is through "**Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children**" and Gwynne Maffett will be our instructor. Her goal is to educate adults on what steps to take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. We will learn the 7 Steps to Protecting our Children. In order for foster families to feel more comfortable dealing with children who have been abused you first have to understand abuse. Hopefully this will make you feel more equipped to handle these types of situations. We welcome all to attend. Let us know if you'll be attending so that we have enough course materials for everyone. RSVP to Marie as soon as possible. **We ask that you be on time as the class will start promptly at 6:30 pm**. Attendees will receive two (2.5) training hours for attending.

**For the Kids:** We have a special program for the children as well, the **Woodstock Fire Department** will be coming out to speak with the children about fire safety and they are bringing the **fire truck** and a Woodstock Police officer will be talking to the children about safety as well and how the police are their friends. We will also have Ms. Molly Schultz with **Childhelp** to talk to the children about Good Touch/Bad Touch. She will have a book for parents to purchase for \$1 that will give you the information that the children learned. Domino's is donating Pizza for the kids and if we have enough there may be some for the adults as well.

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## Message from D'Anna

### April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Cherokee Child Advocacy Council Inc. along with Cherokee County DFCS will join together to honor children and raise awareness about child abuse prevention and intervention efforts in our area. Throughout April, communities in Georgia and all over the U.S. will participate in activities to raise awareness for child abuse prevention. Of course, preventing child abuse is important year-round; however April's focus provides opportunities for renewed commitment to valuing children and strengthening families. Preventing child abuse requires all of us to work together to reduce the risks that threaten the health and safety of children. Each year in Georgia, over 80,000 children are victims of child physical abuse, sexual assault and neglect.

During the month of April, members of both agencies will put Pinwheels for Prevention in the Canton and Woodstock Squares for Prevention and Awareness. Each pinwheel represents Cherokee County children who have been a victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect in our community. The Pinwheels will also be displayed at Cherokee County Department of Family and Children's Services front lawn announcing April as Child Abuse Awareness Month so the public will continue to keep this issue in the forefront. In 2008, there were 1,852 reports of child abuse made to Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services, and of those reports, 331 were substantiated for child abuse maltreatment. Over 1000 referrals were assessed using Family Support Services providing resources to families in Cherokee County. Please join us on Saturday, April 18 for Whistle Stop Cherokee - All Aboard for Cherokee's Children for a train ride and family fun in Canton and Woodstock.

In March, we took custody of 26 children. This is the highest number of children that have entered care since January 2008. The following describes the children we gained custody of ~ there were 15 boys and 11 girls. 12 of these children were from 0-5, 7 were from 6-12, and 7 were 13 and older. 15 of these children were white, 3 were black, and 8 were Hispanic. 19 of these children came from CPS and 6 were from Family Preservation (1 case came from foster care as a re-entry). The placements were as follows: 17 placed in our own Cherokee DFCS Foster Home's, 4 children were placed in group homes, 4 children were placed with relatives, and 1 child remained in the hospital. We got 1 child directly from the bench. There were 2 sibling groups of 4 and 4 sibling groups of 2 children. 1 child was returned home at the 72-hour hearing.

We currently have 84 approved family foster homes in Cherokee County. We had 3 homes closed in February and we added 7 new homes. The closures included one family who moved out of county and two voluntary because they wanted a specific child to foster-adopt.

We are currently training a class of new foster parents whose class started March 19<sup>th</sup>. We are also communicating more within the Region to Cobb and Douglas regarding placements needs and resources. We have initiated our new office tour for fully approved homes.

In March, we participated in Roundtable discussions within our agency and with the help of CASA, Cobb and Douglas Social Services staff to plan more effective strategies for any child who has remained in our care 15 months or longer, or who is older than 16 years of age. These roundtable discussions lasted approximately 1-1/2 hours per child and proved to be very helpful in our planning for permanency for each child. As you can imagine these discussions created a heavier workload on our social services staff and took them away from their desk for blocks of time during the month. We appreciate your understanding of this work and your patience as we continue to work with you and your family on a day to day basis.

Please let me know your issues and concerns. I appreciate the feedback as this information helps create a stronger partnership between us. You can email me at: [dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us).

Continue Next Page →

## Message from D'Anna

I continue to look forward to many great things to happen for you and for the children and families in Cherokee County. Thank you again for your valuable service to the children and families.

D'Anna Liber (Director)

770-720-3629

[dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us)

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## Julie's Corner

Happy Easter everyone! If you have not already RSVP'd, it is not too late to let us know if you would like to attend the Lake Arrowhead Easter Egg Hunt and Puppet Show. Please let me know by Thursday if you would like to attend!

The Cherokee Child Advocacy Council is hosting the "All Aboard for Cherokee's Children" train ride and day of family fun on Saturday April 18, 2009. To buy train tickets, or for additional information, please visit [www.whistlestopcherokee.com](http://www.whistlestopcherokee.com).

April 25th is the Region 17 recruitment event at the Sparkles skating rink in Douglasville. All foster and adoptive families and their children are invited to attend. Bring a friend interested in learning more about how to become a foster or adoptive parent! The event will take place from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

May 9th is the Jonesboro Video Conference. This video conference will focus on medically fragile/medical special needs children. Please speak to your RD worker if you would like to receive a brochure about this event.

The foster parent appreciation dinner is Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Room at the First Baptist Church of Woodstock. You will be served Prime Rib by wait-staff in black ties who will serve each course to you.

We plan to have speaker, Tony Nolan, who spent time in foster care and was adopted at age three by a family that abused him. Tony became addicted to drugs and even attempted to take his own life. After a life changing experience, Tony turned his life around and became a preacher. He has changed his life and enjoys sharing his testimony with others. Tony and his wife are in the process of adopting a child from overseas. He is an inspirational speaker who has toured with groups like Jars of Clay and Toby Mac, and DC Talk.

The children will be entertained by a local magician while the adults enjoy their time with other foster/adoptive parents. Please come out for the food, fellowship, and inspiration while we show our appreciation to you for the care, love, and support you give to our children on a daily basis! Invitations will be sent out soon and we hope to see you all there!

The Woodstock Jaycees have graciously prepared Easter Baskets for the children in care in Cherokee's custody. You are welcomed to come up and get the baskets for the children in your home. If you already have a visit scheduled with your worker this week, please remind them to bring the baskets with them. Or, you can call your case manager to see if they can arrange to drop off the baskets. There are some workers out this week because of Spring Break, so you can call their Supervisor, or your RD worker!

Thanks,

Julie M. Evans, SSCM  
Cherokee County Department  
of Family and Children Services  
770-720-3650

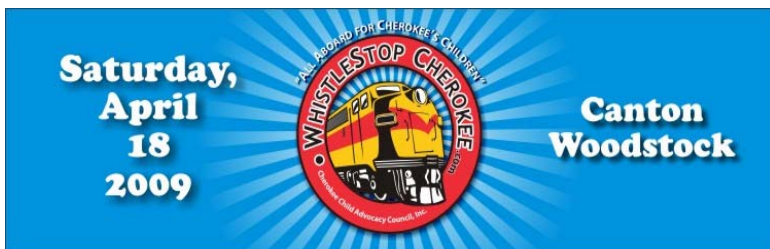
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## Up Coming Events

**Easter Egg Hunt** April 11th sponsored by Lake Arrowhead Chapel, 218 Lake Arrowhead Drive, Waleska, GA 30183 from 11am - 1 pm. This event is for all the foster and adoptive families in Cherokee County. They will have an Easter Egg hunt and puppet show. A sack lunch is included for the children so please RSVP to **Julie Evans** [jevans@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jevans@dhr.state.ga.us) so that your child has a sack lunch. Noah Elbe is the contact person. When entering the gate to Lake Arrowhead tell them you were invited to the Chapel.

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### "All Aboard for Cherokee's Children"

WhistleStop Cherokee is a unique, family oriented event to raise money for the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council. The Council provides services for the abused and neglected children of Cherokee County. [Click for ticket and train schedule.](#)

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**Fundraiser scheduled for April 28th Dining to Donate** — from 11am—9 pm. You must have invitation in order to for us to receive the donation. The invitation will be on the website for download. Tell everyone, court house staff, fire station or hospital. Go to <http://www.fosteroradopt.org/pdf/D2D%20Invitation.pdf>.

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**SPRINGFEST at Tanglewood Farm** for the whole month of April, 171 Tanglewood Dr, North Alpharetta/Canton, GA 30115. Tour: \$10 per person (free for infants under one). Bring your basket to collect chocolate eggs and meet real miniature Easter bunnies. Take a pony ride or a hay ride and see, pet and feed more than 100 miniature farm animals that call Tanglewood their home. Visit our web site for other events <http://www.tanglewoodfarmminiatures.com>.

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## CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE

Please contact Jeff Blackwell at [jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com](mailto:jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com) or 770-652-9051 to register for either an individual class or group training. Foster parent should look for the Heart Saver CPR Course, he uses the AHA curriculum. For those who need specialized training he offers a wide variety of classes, check out the web site at [www.firstactioncpr.com](http://www.firstactioncpr.com).



CPR & First Aid Classes are reimbursable with an ORIGINAL receipt. Certification is good for 2 years. You will receive training hours for the class.

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# Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

Building The Future with our Foster and Adoptive Parents as they open their hearts & their homes to children.



Check out our web site at [www.fosteroradopt.org](http://www.fosteroradopt.org) for upcoming events and announcements. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email go to our web site and signup.

If your email changes let us know so that we can update our records.

Phone: 770-378-0759  
E-mail: [mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org](mailto:mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org)

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## Board Members

### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jimmy Duncan

### SECRETARY

Debbie Earle

### TREASURER

Mary Duncan

## Other Associations or Support Foundations

### **Foster Care Support Foundation**

located on Alpharetta Hwy in Roswell, 770-641-9591

Email: Rachel Ewald [racedwald@hotmail.com](mailto:racedwald@hotmail.com) or visit [www.fostercare.org](http://www.fostercare.org).



Contact Laveda Moore Doxey or Beverly Miles at 404-929-0401 or visit [www.familiesfirst.org](http://www.familiesfirst.org).

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## **Embrace Cherokee**

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton @ [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com). or visit them on the web [www.embracecherokee.com](http://www.embracecherokee.com).

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