



## CHEROKEECOUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

### From The President

**Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent  
Association**

April 2010

**Inside this issue:**

Letter from President	1
Featured Event for Mar	1
Past Event Photos	2
Monthly Feature	3
Message from D'Anna	4
Julie's Corner	5
Calendar	6
Association Information	7

Our event for March was a Pajama Party for the kids. Everyone had a great time playing games, singing and watching a movie. Our next "Give Me A Break" event will be June 12th at the Woodstock Recreation Center gym. It will be from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Be sure to save the date.

We would like to plan a picnic for everyone, if you live in a subdivision that has a club house with a pool and you wouldn't mind helping us coordinate this event let me know. Let me know how much they charge to rent the club house and how many people you can have in your party. We are looking to do this in July on Saturday and can be either 10th, 17th or 31st. I tried to see if the lake had any pavilions available but they are all booked and since July is a hot month I wouldn't want to be outside without having a pool near by.

Time is getting closer to our 5K walk and Festival in May. In order to make this event a success we need volunteers, walkers & donations. It would be great if foster parents, DFCS workers & others who care for these children could register for the walk and get your friends and family to make a \$30 donation. It adds up really fast. You can register on the [www.walkmehome.org](http://www.walkmehome.org) website. Once you register you will get an email that can be sent out to your potential donors and the National Foster Parent Association has suggested the this is the best way to raise money and online contributions and can usually double your amount vs just asking for donations. Your help is much appreciated.

The Mayors office will be coming out for the walk and marking the event with a proclamation. We will be having some locale amateur talent coming out that morning to entertain the group and as the day goes on we will be having other local bands entertaining everyone with music and one of our groups is a professional Elvis Tribute Show. We have close to 30 vendors registered so far and registration are still coming in. If you have a business that you want to participate in this event let me know.

### Financial Report for March 2010

Expenses for March:	Ending Bal: \$505.35	Ending Bal: \$2,100.98	
	Exp: <b>\$130.57</b>	PJ Party Exp: \$ 402.25	
	Deposits: <b>\$812.13</b>	Donations: \$ <b>261.06</b>	value moved to operating account
	Operating Account \$1,186.91	Respite Grant Bal: \$1,437.67	Total: \$2,624.58

### Featured Event for April

#### Day Conference - See form attached with schedule

We will be providing a continental breakfast and Chick-fil-a will be providing lunch for everyone so be sure to RSVP so that we can have enough boxed lunches. See info on registration form.

The children were able to hang out at the youth center while the small children were supervised in the daycare. Don't forget that Heather Dalton will be there she holds a title as "Miss Georgia Girl" and "America's National Girl". She will give autographs and take pictures with her crown. She would love to speak to the kids and parents on how you can over come anything and with the right guidance they can accomplishments whatever they set their minds to and to show them that no matter where they came from, it only matters where they're going.

# Give Me A Break Respite Event



Some of the KSU Student Volunteers



Kids playing!



Monsters Inc - the Movie



Conference Photo from last Quarter



---

# *April Is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2010

**Presidential Proclamation - National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Every day, women, men, and children across America suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response.

Sexual violence is an affront to our national conscience, one which we cannot ignore. It disproportionately affects women - an estimated one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life. Too many men and boys are also affected.

These facts are deeply troubling, and yet, sexual violence affects Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Alarming rates of sexual violence occur among young women attending college, and frequently, alcohol or drugs are used to incapacitate the victim. Among people with disabilities, isolation may lead to repeated assaults and an inability to seek and locate help. Native American women are more than twice as likely to be sexually assaulted compared with the general population. As a Nation, we share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

We can lead this charge by confronting and changing insensitive attitudes wherever they persist. Survivors too often suffer in silence because they fear further injury, are unwilling to experience further humiliation, or lack faith in the criminal justice system. This feeling of isolation, often compounded with suicidal feelings, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, only exacerbate victims' sense of hopelessness. No one should face this trauma alone, and as families, friends, and mentors, we can empower victims to seek the assistance they need.

At the Federal, State, local, and tribal level, we must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during legal proceedings. Under Vice President Biden's leadership, the 2005 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act included the Sexual Assault Services Program, the first-ever funding stream dedicated solely to providing direct services to victims of sexual assault. To further combat sexual violence, my 2011 Budget doubles funding for this program. Through the Justice Department and the Centers for Disease Control, we are funding prevention and awareness campaigns as well as grants for campus services to address sexual assault on college campuses. The Justice Department has also increased funding and resources to combat violence against Native American women.

As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm this month our dedication to take action in our communities and stop abuse before it starts. Together, we can increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives.

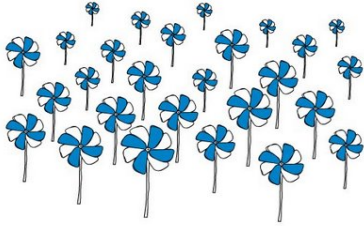
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to reach out to victims, learn more about this crime, and speak out against it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

---

## Message from D'Anna



### April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We are hosting a Child Abuse Awareness Breakfast on Tuesday morning, April 20, at our office. As our partners in protecting children, you are invited to join us ~ drop in any time between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to meet with staff and let us thank you for your part in protecting our children.

Throughout April, communities in Georgia and all over the Country 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 is the work of everyone, every day, and by joining together we can help prevent Child Abuse in Georgia!

We are displaying Pinwheels in our front lawn at the office so the public will continue to keep this issue in the forefront. In 2009, there were 1,653 reports of child abuse made to Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services, and of those reports, 233 were substantiated for child abuse maltreatment. 1067 referrals were assessed using Family Support Services providing resources to families in Cherokee County.

When March began, we had 155 children in Foster Care. During the month, we took custody of 20 children and received a case transfer from Fulton DFCS involving 2 children for a total of 22 children for the month. 12 of these children were boys and 10 were girls. 11 of these children were ages 0-5; 2 were from 6-12; and 9 were 13 and over. 13 of these children were white; 5 were black; and 4 were bi-racial. 13 of these children were placed in a Cherokee DFCS foster home; 3 were placed in a Cobb DFCS foster home; 1 was placed in a private agency foster home; 2 were placed with relatives, and 3 were placed in a group home. There were 4 sibling groups of 2 children and 1 sibling group of 3 children. 14 of these children came from CPS investigations; 3 came from the bench; none came from Family Preservation; and 3 were Permanency aftercare cases where the protective order was violated causing the children to re-enter care. 6 children were returned at the 72-hour hearing and 5 were returned at the 10-day hearing. 16 children exited care for the reasons of Reunification, Guardianship to Foster Parent and Emancipation. As March came to a close, we had 161 children in Foster Care. We are currently training a class of new foster parents whose class started in March.

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).

I 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.

*To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world*

*~Josephine Billings*

### Don't Forget about the CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS BREAKFAST

April 20, 2010

Drop in any time between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at  
Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services  
105 Lamar Haley Parkway  
Canton, GA 30114

D'Anna Liber  
Director  
770-720-3629  
[dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us)



---

## Julie's Corner

### Happy April!

I hope you all had a great Easter holiday with your families and have had a restful Spring Break!

Please remember that the foster parent appreciation banquet will be on Tuesday, May 18th at the Canton First United Methodist Church. I still need pictures of your family and the children that have come through your home. You can e-mail the pictures to me, drop off pictures for us to scan them and return to you, or you can drop off a cd of pictures.

If you would like Renaissance Festival tickets, please let me know ASAP. Please only request enough tickets for you and the children in your home.

The AFPAG Regional Conference will be held on 4/24 at the Georgia International Convention Center from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.. If you are not attending the local foster parent association training, this would also be another good way to obtain training hours! Go to [www.afpag.org](http://www.afpag.org) for more information.

Please remember that we are having to report the progress of foster home training on a monthly basis to the region. If you have completed training hours, please send the verification to your RD worker so we can accurately reflect your progress on completing the required training! We want Cherokee to be the lead in completing training hours!!!

Happy Spring!!

Julie M. Evans, SSCM  
Cherokee County Department  
of Family and Children Services  
770-720-3650 Office  
678-717-6596 Fax

## Up Coming Events



### April 15 Webinar on the Adoption Provisions of the Fostering Connections Act

Sponsored by North American Council on Adoptable Children  
 Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/800639049>

Class starts at 2pm - 3pm



Tasha Whitener, Founder and Executive Director

2500 Dallas Highway  
 Suite 202, #480  
 Marietta, GA 30064  
 Phone: 404.819.8624  
 Email: tasha@kids3.org

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS' CAMP (7---11 years old)

LIFE SKILLS CAMPS (12---14 years old)

JOB SKILLS CAMPS (15---16 years old)

SERVICE CAMPS (17---18 years old)

COMMUNITY EVENTS (all ages)

MENTORING (throughout)

Week of June 21-25, camp is free to foster kids



### Walk Me Home...To The Place I Belong May 15th, Heritage Park

If you are in town we would love for you to come and help us show the community how much we need their support!

We still need registered walkers. [www.walkhome.org](http://www.walkhome.org)

AMERICA'S ONLY NATIONWIDE WALK FOR FOSTER CARE



GA Center for Adoption is doing Movie Night  
 April 13th in Atlanta from 6pm—8pm.

To Register: Contact the GACRS at  
 1-877-A-PARENT or email at [info@gacrs.org](mailto:info@gacrs.org)

2 hour certificate awarded  
 Light refreshments served

\* Sorry no child care provided



## CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE

Please contact Jeff Blackwell at [jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com](mailto:jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com) or 770-652-9051 to register for an individual class. Foster parents should look for the Heart Saver CPR Course, using AHA curriculum. For those who need specialized training there are a 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.



## Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Association



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

Check website calendar for upcoming events & training.

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



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.

Check us out on **Facebook**, many of our foster parents are connecting via the net. Click link below or put "Cherokee County Foster" to find us.

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?sid=9337e82e1d11a302dc6636ebf8cd44e4&eid=75644102307&ref=search>

## 2010 Board Members

### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell

770-378-0759

[mblackwell@fosteroraadopt.org](mailto:mblackwell@fosteroraadopt.org)

### SECRETARY

Shannon Griffis

### TREASURER

Becky Borgia

## Other Associations or Support Foundations

### Foster Care Support Foundation

located at 115 Mansell Place, Roswell, Ga. 30076, 770-641-9591,

<http://www.fostercares.org>

Email: Rachel Ewald [rachel@fostercares.org](mailto:rachel@fostercares.org)

### Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton, [amy.blanton@embracega.org](mailto:amy.blanton@embracega.org)

or visit them on the web <http://www.embracega.org>

### AFPAG (State Foster Parent Association)

Feel free to contact them at: [contactafpag@bellsouth.net](mailto:contactafpag@bellsouth.net)

#### Executive Director

Sharon Carlson

404-918-1956

[sharonlc@juno.com](mailto:sharonlc@juno.com)

#### President

Tony G. Blash

478-335-9454

#### Executive Vice President

Michelle Mason

770-361-7776

[sponsorachild@yahoo.com](mailto:sponsorachild@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

Vala Peyton

404-428-2104

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