



CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

From The President

We have a place to meet this month. Thanks to the First Baptist Church of Woodstock they have graciously allowed us to use their facilities. We would love to see everyone there and there is no better way to show our appreciation for the use of the space than to have a good turnout. We will have a separate room to use for the children, we ask that you bring something for them to do as they will not be in a nursery setting. As a collaborative effort we are asking that those who can bring a light refreshment please do so.

If any parents would like to volunteer to help with the children let me know. The [map and directions](#) are posted on our web site in the calendar area. We will be using room 240 and 241A/B in building-A upper level. We will have two rooms for the children one for the older kids and one for the younger. They are providing a TV/DVD player so if there is something you think others would like to see and it is appropriate please bring feel free to bring it. If there are any foster parents that attend this church Mr. Charles Mingonet asked that you call or charles.mingonet@navy.mil him, as he would like to hear from any members who are foster parents. His number is (678) 655-6411.

Membership dues for the 2009 year is \$10 per person. Those interested in obtaining training hours only will be charged a \$2 fee per meeting prior to start of meeting starting in February. Everyone that becomes a member will receive a gift.

We really want to see all foster families involved in some way with our association. Those planning to attend can RSVP to mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org or by calling 770-378-0759. Our training is an interactive session with speakers and foster parents. Please feel free to ask questions.

Cherokee County Foster
Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

January 2008

Issue 43

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Julie's Corner

Elizabeth McCauley will join the RD team on January 15th! Elizabeth will be taking the bulk of Pat's caseload and some of Linda's cases.

I'm sure you are aware of the redistribution of cases that is taking place in the Resource Development unit. Tinika is trying to ensure everyone's caseloads are more evenly distributed. The changes will take effect 2/1/09.

A new IMPACT class will begin on 1/29/09! We look forward to beginning our 2009 series of classes!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you are working on "getting back in the swing of things". We all look forward to working with all of you in a productive 2009!

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

Message from D'Anna

Welcome to 2009!

We are at the beginning of a New Year and I'm very excited by new goals, challenges that await us and our partnership in the coming year. Our agency theme this year is: "[Cherokee Will Shine On Time in 2009](#)". Our goals surround permanency for children and focusing on reducing the median number of days children are in foster care. In an article written December 17, 2008, our Commissioner, B.J. Walker stated: As part of an effort to help Georgia's foster children make a "lifelong connection," the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Family and Children Services (DHR DFCS) is partnering with a nationally-renowned private foundation that specializes in helping child welfare agencies find permanent homes for more children. Our new Division Director, Mark Washington, is also quoted in the article stating: "Different solutions work for different children," Washington said. "But our goal is a lifelong connection for every child." With that being stated, we will focus more heavily focus our efforts as we work toward a new goal "No Child will be without a permanent home in GA"

Other agency goals are more timely reimbursements for per diem and other payments, improved customer service, continued retention of staff and implementation of an agency website.

We're going to inaugurate the first African American President in the history of our country. This is a testament to how what was once thought of as impossible is now possible. For me a New Year brings new inspiration, new life and new vigor. I want to face the challenges of this year and thrive personally, professionally and as an agency stronger connected to this community.

As they say, to build a house, first we need good bricks. If the formative units are great, the structure has no options but to turn out the way we want it to be. This year we must all contribute to make this agency better. As a community, we must all contribute to make this county a better place for us to live in. I think that should be a shared New Year resolution. If we make our little effort count, I'm sure we'll be covering a lot of ground within the agency and the community.

As we begin the New Year, I would like your input on the following areas as we strive toward improvement in our support of you.

- What is it that is working for you as a means of our support toward you and what would you like to see more of?
- What is not working which demonstrates a lack of support toward you?
- What data matters to you in your relationship to us? Would you like to receive more statistical information on a monthly basis? (i.e. # of children in care, age range, # of approved foster homes each month)

Each month, I'll be sharing the number of children we took legal custody of, so you will be more familiar with the current population we are serving. We took custody of 9 children in December; 6 boys, 3 girls; all white; 2 sibling groups of 2; 2 children from 0-5, 3 children from 6-12, and 4 children 13 and over. We placed 2 of these children with relatives. Also 3 of these children went home at the 72-hour hearing and 2 went home at the 10-day hearing---an unusually high number.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today." - Stacia Tauscher.

Thanks again for your valuable service to the children and families of Cherokee County. I hope 2009 Blesses you and your family and you have a very Happy New Year! Please let me know your thoughts on this by phone call or email.

D'Anna Liber, Director
770-720-3629
dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us

Announcements & Congratulations!



What a great way to start a new year, this month we had two families adopt two children and they found their forever families. Please help us congratulate **Craig and Katherine Block** and **Peter and Kathy Mateer**.

Featured Speaker for January

Our Speaker this month is *Gwynne Maffett*, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council. She will be speaking on the topic of "**Effective Parenting—Today!**"

Gwynne is also a Parents HELP Mentor, she is a graduate of Kennesaw State University, has been with the Council for more than four years. Ms. Maffett leads classes that focus on life skills training, anger management, budgeting, coping with stress, and domestic violence issues and many more topics.

The Child Advocacy Council of Cherokee County educates parents with parenting information and support designed to assist them in the difficult job of parenting. These skills, tools and support efforts are invaluable because, as we all know, kids don't come with instruction manuals!

Confident parents create happier families. Happier families create more confident children. This leads to stronger families and a brighter future for everyone in Cherokee County.

Why not start the year out right by getting your required training hours early. Those who attend will receive two (2) training hours for attending.

Again, we will have a (2) separate rooms to use for the children, we ask that you bring something for them to do as they will not be in a nursery setting. As a collaborative effort we are asking that those who can bring a light refreshment please do so.



Up Coming Events or Classes



AFPAG has announced its [2009 annual conference](#) on Jekyll Island, Feb. 26, 27, 28 and March 1 up can download the booklet on our website under the Calendar area. You can registration on their web site or through the mail. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vala Peyton, AFPAG Secretary at vala@bellsouth.net or 404-428-2104.

CPR & Basic First Aid Class Scheduled for February 1st

The class is being held at the R.T. Jones Memorial Library in Canton, 116 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Canton across from Hasty Elementary. The class starts at 2pm - 6pm. The cost is \$55 per person. Upon completion of training you will receive 4 training hours. To register send your name and address to Jeff Blackwell at jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com.



Prom-A-Palooza on February 15th from 2pm - 6pm (By Appointment Only) Register by February 10th. The 2009 Prom-a-palooza will take place from 2 to 6pm. Reservations needed/security will be in place. Call Rachel for registration at 770-641-9591 www.fostercare.org or email: rachel@fostercare.org. Send registration form to fax: 770-641-3084. Click to get [Brochure](#) and [Registration form](#).



Me & Mommy Georgia Aquarium Tickets for only \$20 - Have been extended through March 31st. Ticket includes Aquarium admission for one adult, free admission for children 5 and under and free parking (\$10 value). This offer is valid Monday-Friday and can only be purchased online at www.georgiaaquarium.org/visitus/meandmommy.aspx

CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE

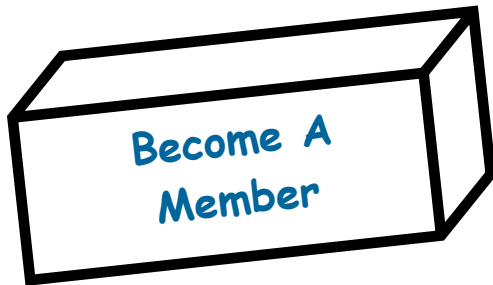
Please contact Jeff Blackwell at jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com or 770-652-9051 to register for either an individual class or group training. Foster parent should look for the Heart Saver CPR Course, he uses the AHA curriculum. For those who need specialized training he offers a wide variety of classes,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



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 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 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

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 racewald@hotmail.com or visit www.fostercare.org.



Contact Laveda Moore Doxey or Beverly Miles at 404-929-0401 or visit www.familiesfirst.org.

Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton @ info@embracecherokee.com. or visit them on the web www.embracecherokee.com.