



CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

From The President

Our "Give Me A Break" program was another success and everyone had a great time. Our next event will be on September 25th at the Woodstock Rec Center in so Save The Date!

Our next conference is scheduled for August 14th at the Antioch Christian Church, we will be doing classes on sexual abuse and we will be reviewing the "Foster Parent Bill of Rights".

Don't forget to register with Give A Kid A Chance they are doing a back to school program where the kids can get a back pack and supplies. Please note that the program is for K-12. You should receive a postcard by the 10th of July. If you don't receive one by then, you should call Teresa Abernathy with GAKAC. She can also answer any questions you may have 770-337-4228.

Our Great Volunteers



Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Association

July 2010

Inside this issue:

Letter from President	1
Featured Event for July	1
Message from D'Anna	2
Julie's Corner	3
Association Information	4

Featured Event for July

Dinner & A Movie - Saturday July 17th at the **Antioch Christian Church Fellowship Hall**. We are looking for movie ideas that will interest the whole family.

This event is for the whole family; we will have tables and chairs but if you prefer to bring your own lounge chair or blanket feel free to do so. Since we haven't been able to do a potluck this year here is your chance to show off your cooking. The association will provide the drinks, paper goods and of course the popcorn. Let me know what you will bring so we all don't bring the same type of food but bring enough to feed your size family.

The evening will start at 5pm and the movie should start at 7pm, bring the kids in their pajamas if you like. If you haven't been to this facility for our conference it is spacious and has a full kitchen. We would love to see you there. This is a great opportunity to meet new foster parents and make new friends.

Location: Antioch Christian Church, 3595 Sugar Pike Rd. Canton, GA 30115 (Hickory Flat Area)

Date: Saturday July 17th

Time: 5pm - 9pm

RSVP to Marie mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org

Message from D'Anna



I hope July finds you with time to "pause" and catch up with family, friends and time for outdoor activities! July is a great time to celebrate our freedom and honor those who have helped make our country free and who continue to fight for freedom everyday.

We took custody of 8 children in June; 6 girls and 2 boys. 4 of these children were from 0-5; 0 were from 6-12; and 4 were 13 and over. 4 of these children were white; 1 was black; and 3 were Hispanic. 6 of these children were placed in a Cherokee DFCS foster homes and 2 were placed in a Cobb DFCS foster home. There were 2 sibling groups of two. 6 of these children came from CPS Investigations; 1 came from Family Preservation; 1 child came from the Juvenile Court Shelter Hearing. 5 of these children were returned at the 72-hour hearing and no child was returned at the 10-day hearing.

In June, we had a large number (19) of children exit care for reasons of reunification (12 children), guardianship to relative (4 children) custody to a relative (1 child), 2 children were emancipated, and we suffered 1 child death of a medically fragile child in our care.

We currently have 150 children in foster care. This is the lowest number of children in care that we have experienced in several years!

There were no finalized adoptions in June, but we have plans for 2 finalizations in August!

We have 77 approved family foster homes in Cherokee County. We had 3 homes close in June and 5 new homes approved to open. Our most recent Impact class graduated June 24 - be sure to try and meet and support our new families as they gain full approval status.

I heard very positive feedback from our recent events, "Give Me a Break", held on Saturday, June 12 and the Fishing Derby held on Saturday, June 19. Thank You to Marie Blackwell with the Association and Amy Blanton with Embrace, for the coordination and success of both of these events!

I would like to plan another Roundtable event or setting where your input can be gained as well as interaction with each other and our staff. Please let me know your thoughts on how we can accomplish this given everyone's schedules. I feel the time spent together is valuable and we all can learn from each other in these type settings. Please let me know any other suggestions, issues or 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.

When you have a strong family life, you receive the message that you are loved, cared for and important. The positive intake of love, affection, and respect gives you the inner resources to deal with life more successfully. ~ Nick Stinnet

I hope you enjoy a most wonderful summer! Take the time to watch the sun rise and set and the stillness of the beginning and ending of a day. Thank you for providing children with a strong sense of family and love. You are changing the lives of children and changing the world by your compassion to serve others.

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

Julie's Corner

Can you believe we are over halfway through the year 2010? Now that my daughter is getting ready to start Kindergarten this year, I realize how busy you all have been through the years trying to get your children ready to start back to school! Good luck!

I have some exciting news that I wanted to share with you all! A new adoptions worker, Brianna Griego, has been added to the unit. Brianna is filling Susan Giersberg's vacant position. Brianna comes to us with her Master's degree through the IV-E program and is very excited about being an adoptions worker. She is currently in training and we hope to obtain provisional certification to allow her to carry a small caseload. We are also going to be allowed to fill the RD position I made vacant when I was promoted! We are going to hold interviews soon and I hope to have the new worker in place by August 2nd! We have a lot of good applicants for this position, and I feel confident that we will have a great addition to the RD team! I will be in "new supervisor" training for much of the remainder of July and also in August. I also wanted to pass along new phone numbers since our unit has moved around a bit. My new office number is 770-720-3674. Linda Nwaneri's new office number is 770-720-3650 and Brianna Greigo's new office number is 77-720-3641. Please make a note of these changes so you can be ensured to reach the correct person. I have sent out a new organizational chart to Marie and Amy to post on their web-sites.

I wanted you to see the following break down of our families training hours as of June. This is a portion of the report we send to the State:

55% of families have completed 0-24% of training hours
10% of our families have completed 25-49% of their training hours
12% have completed 50-74% of their hours
9% have completed 75-99% of their hours
14% of families have completed 100% ALL of their training hours

I want to have better numbers to report to our State Office about your progress on training hours. I also want you all to get this annual requirement out of the way so you can focus on other things! Remember, you can do 8 hours online and you MUST remain current on CPR/First Aid! If you have a pool, you must complete Basic Water Rescue. This course is offered through the Canton YMCA for your convenience. Your training allows you to stay current on issues that will assist you in parenting our children!

Thank you for the love, guidance and support you give to the children placed in your home on a daily basis!!

Julie M. Evans
Social Services Supervisor
RD/Adoptions Unit
Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services
770-720-3674 Office
678-717-6573 Fax

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



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

SECRETARY

Shannon Griffis

TREASURER

Debbie Earle

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

Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton, 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

Executive Director

Sharon Carlson

404-918-1956

sharonlc@juno.com

President

Tony G. Blash

478-335-9454

Executive Vice President

Michelle Mason

770-361-7776

sponsorachild@yahoo.com

Secretary

Vala Peyton

404-428-2104

vala@bellsouth.net