



# CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

## From The President

Our condolences go out to Kevin and his family on the passing of his wife Wendy Snodgrass. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this sad time.

Last week we meet with the AFPAG (the state Foster Parent Association) members to discuss our involvement in the Walk Me Home signature fund raiser. We will be in a partnership with National Foster Parent Association & the state AFPAG. Walk Me Home is the signature fund-raising and awareness event for foster care in America. We know not everyone can be a foster parent, but Walk Me Home is a great way to support the over 513,000 children in foster care. This year thousands and thousands of walkers will participate in Walk Me Home events across the country, raising funds to support the life changing programs and activities of foster care associations throughout the United States. **Walk Me Home is a 5K (3.1 mile) walk that almost everyone can do.** The country singer Jaime Fox has recorded the signature song for this benefit. Check it out on youtube, copy this link to go directly to the video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4qnZxfkG38>.

AFPAG will be organizing the event and helping us get the word out. For this to be a success we will be responsible for getting corporate sponsors. A date is pending and will be announced soon. We need as many as can to help us find corporate sponsors. Once a date and location is set things should move quickly. There will be media coverage through radio and newspapers. The more we do as an association the more advantages and funds we will incur. This could be a great way for us to achieve some of our goals as an association and to put some programs into motion. This will also help us get exposure locally. Let me know if you would like to be on our fundraising committee.

Next month we will have Ms Gwynne Maffett with the Cherokee child advocates office teaching us on the topic of "INTERNET SAFETY 101: Empowering Parents". The format for this class will be similar to the Darkness To Light class. This topic is for all parents even if you don't have a computer. Learn how to initiate a conversation with your child about internet safety. Computers are every where at school, the library at your neighbors house and don't forget about text messaging. Learn how to keep your children safe from predators. Our July meeting will be from 6:30 - 9:00pm. All are welcome to come.

Bring a covered dish to share with everyone. It doesn't have to be fancy. We will have pizza for the kids. You will get 2 training hours. You can now find us on [FaceBook](#) come join the group. This is a great place to talk to each other and ask questions. Look for us under groups key word "Cherokee County Foster" or check out the back page of the newsletter for the link to the group.

A small group of foster parents had an opportunity to go camping a few weeks ago, everyone had a good time and we want to do it again. We will be planning another camping trip for this fall. We would love for more families to join us. We will let you know more later on a date and the location of the camp ground.

This is a Medicaid website <https://www.ghp.georgia.gov> that you can search for doctors that take Medicaid in the area and search by specialty. The link will be on the website under Related Links in the Community area.

### Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent

June 2009  
Issue 48

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## Featured Speaker for June 18th Meeting, 7pm - 9pm

Our speaker this month will be Courtney Goodwin she is an attorney at Ballinger & Associates and a Cherokee Foster Parent. She will be discussing adoptions through DFCS and the role of the Guardian Ad Litem, the legal process of adopting and what the tax benefits are on adoptions and for foster parents.

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## *June Is National Safety Month*



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Safety Council's National Safety Month. You can be apart of this by to participating in making sure your family has a safety plan and following safety rules.

You can't predict when you and your family will be faced with an emergency. However, you do know that every second counts when it comes to emergency response. So be prepared for your first - or next - emergency and make every second count for your family's safety.

### **Traffic Safety Starts at Home**

It only takes a few extra seconds to play it safe when you back up - and those seconds can make the difference between life and death. While hard to imagine, every year more than 100 children die and thousands more are injured by being backed over, sometimes in their own driveways. Before driving, the National Safety Council urges parents and other drivers to walk completely around their cars to ensure the safety of children and pets.

### **Written Family Evacuation Plan**

Preparation and practice for all emergencies is vital for all families. Know the fastest way out of your home and how not to become trapped. Your home should include two exits from each room. Practice an evacuation plan with your family before a real emergency hits.

### **Family Disaster Kit**

When disaster occurs, grab your kit to take with you. Such a kit would include such essential supplies as nonperishable food, water, cash, flashlights, tools, a battery-operated NOAA all-hazard alert radio, and a first-aid kit. To save time when evacuating, you can store this kit in a car or in an unattached garage.

### **Posted Emergency Phone Numbers**

Your posted list should include the local police and fire departments and your physician. Also include the numbers of friends or relatives as well as your local poison control number. The American Association of Poison Control Centers has established a nationwide number for people to use to reach their local poison control center. It's 800-222-1222. Post your list by every phone in the house.

### **Water Safety**

Drowning claims lives every year. Although all age groups are represented, children four years old and younger have the highest death rate due to drowning, representing more than 25 percent. Most drowning and near-drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub.

- Never leave a child alone near water
- Enroll children older than age three in swimming lessons. But keep in mind that lessons don't make your child "drown-proof."
- Always follow posted safety precautions when visiting water parks.
- If you're visiting a public pool, keep an eye on your kids. Lifeguards aren't babysitters.
- Teach your children these four key swimming rules:
  - Always swim with a buddy.
  - Don't dive instead jump feet first
  - Don't push or jump on others.
  - Be prepared for an emergency.
- Always use approved personal flotation devices (life jackets).
- Don't underestimate the power of water. Even rivers and lakes can have undertows.
- Always have a first-aid kit and emergency phone contacts handy. Parents should be trained in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and water safety.

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## Message from D'Anna

### School's out for the Summer!

I hope June finds you with plans for outdoor activities and time to soak up nature and rest from busy school, testing and homework schedules! June is also a time when we set aside 1 day to focus on our Flag and what it means and should mean to our family and our country ~ I hope you will reflect on its significance this Sunday, June 14 on Flag Day. If you are looking for activities to get your child interested in the American Flag, visit this website for a listing of activities: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/flag-day>.

In May, we have mourned the loss of one of our wonderful foster parents, Wendy Snodgrass. As I listened to the words spoken about her life, almost every word focused on her love of her husband, Kevin, and her birth and foster children. I found it amazing that someone has that much love and was able to give so much more to others and devotion to her family. What a lesson for all of us. She will be missed.

In May, we took custody of 19 children; 6 girls and 13 boys. 7 of these children were ages 0-5; 6 were ages 6-12; and 6 were 13 and over. 13 were white; 3 were black; and 3 were Hispanic. There were no re-entries of children coming back into foster care. 13 of these children were placed in Cherokee DFCS foster homes; 1 was placed in a group home; 4 were placed with relatives; and 1 was in RYDC. There were 5 sibling groups of 2 children and 1 sibling group of three children. 16 children came from CPS; specifically 11 from investigation petitioning the court and we gained custody of 5 children directly from the bench by the Judge. 3 children came from Family Preservation active cases. 2 children were returned to parents or relatives at the 72-hour hearing and 3 children were returned at the 10-day hearing. There was 1 case dismissal.

We currently have 82 approved family foster homes in Cherokee County. We had 1 home close in May for the following reasons: Family was opened for a specific child and the family decided they could not meet the special needs of the child.

We approved 1 new home in May, congratulations to full approval status to:  
Drew & Cheryl Marley (Relative Foster Home)



Don't forget about going to Dixie Speedway on Saturday, June 13. Thanks to Amy's work with Embrace, Dixie Speedway is giving foster families and DFCS staff another free night of fun! The date is this Saturday, June 13. The kid's zone starts at 5:00pm and races at 7:00pm. RSVP is to Amy Blanton at [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com).

I want to thank and celebrate all of the fathers this month. You are providing such a positive and influential role in the lives of the children you care for. Happy Father's Day!

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 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)

## Up Coming Events



**American Girl Tea Party**, Saturday, June 13, 2009, 2:00 pm at the Rock Barn in Canton (658 Marietta Highway). Tickets \$15 (purchase your tickets at <http://www.rockbarn.org>).

Girls, Moms, Grandmothers, Aunts and Friends are all invited, and dolls are welcome too! Come for an afternoon of wonderful refreshments and all things "American Girl" including a raffle for an American Girl doll.



**Dixie Speedway - June 13th** The kids zone starts at 5:00pm and races at 7:00pm RSVP is to Amy Blanton at [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com).



**June 22-26 "Royal Family Kids Camp"** Cherokee County Foster Children age 7 - 11 are eligible to attend for free. Call your case manager to reserve a spot.

**adoption**  
videoconference  
and gathering

The next adoption gathering and videoconference is scheduled to be hosted in the gym at Macon State College on Saturday, August 22. Contact your case manager for details or the calendar.



**Relationship Enhancement for Adoptive Parents - "To Serenity & Back"**

In Atlanta, GA at the Comfort Suites on June 27-28, 2009. For more information or to register, please call 770-274-3007. Earn 12 training hours at the completion of the weekend. Sponsored by Bethany Christian Services <http://www.bethany.org>. This is available to Adoptive Families.

## 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.



# Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Association



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

Meetings are on the Third Thursday of each month. This month we are meeting on June 18th at the First Baptist Church of Woodstock. The meetings are from 7pm - 9pm. We meet in Bldg "A" room 250/240 on the second floor. Bring a covered dish for Potluck, drinks will be provided. We will have pizza for the kids. Check website calendar for map and directions.

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.

You can RSVP here for upcoming meetings & make a note of what your bringing so others can see. Click link below.

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



## Board Members

### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell  
770-378-0759  
mblackwell@fosteroraadopt.org

### 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](mailto:racewald@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).

## **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).