



CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

From The President

Again, thanks to all the foster parents that attended last months meeting. It was great to see such a good turnout. Membership dues for the 2009 year is \$10 per person and \$2 per meeting for non-members.

Our meetings are on the (3rd) Third Thursday of each month from 7pm - 9pm. We are still looking for volunteers to help watch the children during our meetings if any DFCS or CASA workers, adoptive parents that are not actively fostering but would still like to help us, let me know. We would appreciate your help. The [map and directions](#) are posted on our web site in the calendar area. We will be meeting in room 240 in building-A upper level.

Our support group is not here just to provide you with training we are here to share information, stress control, experience, teen support, respite, exchange clothes and much more. Our goal this year is to change everyone's mind set so that we make this association something of value to everyone. We are going to do our best to make sure everyone has fun and has the opportunity to socialize.

On our April 16th meeting we will be having training on Sexual Abuse. The organization that will be doing the training is "**Darkness to Light—Confronting Child Sexual Abuse with Courage**". They are a non-profit organization and it's mission is to diminish the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse, so that more children will grow up healthy and whole. Their goal is to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. You will learn the 7 Steps to Protecting our Children. This class is being sponsored by Embrace. Everyone will be given a workbook to use during the class and there will be class discussion. This is a sensitive topic and no one will be made to discuss any personal experiences unless you want to. The statistics tell us that may of us either know of or have a family member that has been abused. The class size is limited so RSVP as soon as possible to Marie Blackwell at mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org.

Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

March 2009

Issue 45

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Featured for March

We are trying something new this month called "**Fostering - Parent to Parent**". This will be a group discussion of Cherokee Foster Parents and we would like to see as many that can attend so that we can make this a lively discussion.

We created a list of topics to get things started although I am sure many of you have questions that you would love to ask another parent. This is a great opportunity to join in and ask any question you like to other parents. Have you ever wondered how someone else deals with the heart break when you find out that you will not be able to adopt a child that seemed to be an open a shut case? Would you like to know how another family starts to transition a child so that they can handle it when its time for the child to go home? Are you interested in accepting sibling groups what can you expect, another family can answer these questions and more.

We feel that many of you will enjoy the class and will want to do it again. Attendees will receive two (2) training hours for attending.

Julie's Corner

Thanks to all of you who attended the Roundtable on the 3rd! It was a great turn out and it was so exciting to meet Mr. Washington! I hope to see even more of you at the next Roundtable meeting!

I hope that Marie has some information in this newsletter about the "Darkness to Light" Training that the Foster Parent Association will be hosting on April 16th. It sounds like a wonderful training opportunity. Many families have stated that they would feel more comfortable parenting a child with sexual abuse issues if they had more training, and hopefully this will give you the tools to feel more comfortable and prepared!

I know that we have e-mailed you guys information about changes in the Resource Development unit, but I just wanted to review them with you again. Jennifer Leikam is now the new RD/Adoptions supervisor. RD staff consists of Linda Nwaneri, Lou Shewmake, and me. I had to transfer quite a few cases because I had the largest caseload in the unit and the transfers were made to ensure an even distribution of cases. To those of you who were transferred, it has been a pleasure working with you, and I appreciated the opportunity to get to know your family. Thanks for allowing me in your homes!

A new IMPACT class will begin 3/19/09! This will be a full class and many of the families are coming through for specific children, so they are excited to get started.

On April 25th from 4:30-6:00, Region 17 (Cherokee, Cobb, and Douglas) will host a region wide recruitment event at the Dazzles skating rink in Douglasville. All Cherokee Co. foster and adoptive families are invited, and we would love for you to bring a friend that is interested in learning more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent. You will be receiving an invitation to this event in the mail very soon!

May 9th is the Jonesboro Adoption Video Conference for families interested in adoption. The video conference is a good way to meet some of the children free for adoption and you can also talk to the case managers of the children. The brochures for this conference have not been sent to us yet, but if you would like to receive an informational brochure when they become available, please let me know!

SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 12TH!!!! Schedule permitting, we will host the Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner on the 12th at 6:30 p.m. More details to come!

Congratulations to Clark and Lisa Snodgrass who finalized the adoption of Christian Gonzalez today!!

Thank you for the love and time you give to our children!

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

Message from D'Anna

It seems like spring might really be around the corner with warmer days and time to thaw from recent cold and icy days. I hope you and your families have had a good start to the year thus far! We had a great turnout at the recent Roundtable held March 3 with special guest, Asst. DHR Commissioner Mark Washington. Hopefully, you got some answers to your issues and concerns.

As mentioned at the Roundtable last week, we took custody of 18 children (6 males and 12 females) in February, 6 of these children were directly from the bench. In other words, we did not seek custody of these children, but were given custody directly the Judge under Shelter Care orders, primarily older youth with some delinquency issues. 13 of these children came from CPS Investigations and 5 came from Family Preservation. 8 of these children were 13 years or older. 6 of these children were between the ages of 6 and 12, and 4 of these children were from 0-5. The racial breakdown was as follows: (10) white, (4) black, (2) Hispanic, and (2) bi-racial. There were 5 sibling groups of 2 children. 11 of these children were placed in Cherokee foster homes. 4 were placed in a group home (one out of county). 2 children were placed with relatives, and one child was placed in a hospital. 2 of these children went home at the 72-hour hearing. These are the only children in this February group who have left custody so far.

Just last week, we took in six children, due to a sibling group of 4 children. There were 5 males and 1 female. The sibling group of 4 children ranged in age from 7, 5, 4, and 1 years old. The ages of other 2 children were 19 months and 16 months. The large sibling group was placed in a Cherokee FH and placed together. This is a great partnership! The other two children were placed with relatives.

We have grown from 70 family foster homes in January 2008 to 84 homes at the end of February. We are focusing our efforts more on targeted recruitment of older children and homes willing to take sibling groups.

We had 2 homes close in February - one home moved out of state, and one home closed because they wanted a specific child who was no longer in custody.

We have begun to place children from Cobb County when Cobb has no available family foster homes as a resource within our region. Cobb and Douglas Counties are also adopting a similar strategy to use family foster homes as opposed to private agency or group homes as resources.

We approved 7 new homes in February and are beginning to offer "office tours" to help newly approved foster parents understand the flow of the office more.

We learned at the Roundtable that there had been a positive adjustment to Child Care for Foster Parents. I have been trying to get more clarification on this as I was unaware of this change. Since last week, I learned that the policy that limited the reimbursement of childcare providers up to the maximum DFCS weekly rate was changed for Supplemental Supervision and Children in DFCS Custody cases effective January 2, 2009 with the release of CAPS Manual Transmittal 2008-02 (which we are not in receipt of). We are still waiting on the hard copy of the actual Manual 2008-02 from the State Caps unit, which should be forthcoming; it was to be "in the field" by 2/26/09.

For example, if a provider charges a foster parent or person caring for a child in DFCS custody \$199 per week (provider's published rate) but the DFCS maximum rate is \$139 per week, the provider's published rate of \$199 per week can be paid, resulting in no additional out of pocket expense. The Regional CAPS Field Program Specialist must forward requests that exceed \$199 per week to the State CAPS Unit for approval.

There is no requirement for CAPS Staff to conduct a desk review to change existing certificates. Certificates should be changed when the case is touched, upon request, at recertification, but no later than June 30, 2009.

Hopefully this answers your questions regarding this policy change. As we get more information, I will certainly share it as I know this was anticipated and welcome news.

Thank you for all of your love, support and time to our children.

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

Announcements & Congratulations!



This month we had one family adopt a child and he found his forever family. Please help us congratulate Clark and Lisa Snodgrass and their new son Christian Gonzalez.

Up Coming Events or Classes

CPR & Basic First Aid Class Scheduled for March 21st

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 1pm - 5pm. 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.



March 14th - The GA Center for Resources and Support will host a video and discussion on **1-2-3 Magic: Managing Difficult Behavior in Children 2-12."** This presentation features Thomas, W. Phelan, Ph.D.

Time: 9:30am-12noon

Location: Quality Care for Children, 913 N. Tennessee Street in Cartersville, GA. To RSVP, contact Daphne Parker, Resource Advisor at 404-550-8422 or email dparker1105@gmail.com



Recruitment Event on April 25th at Dazzles Rollerrink 3844 Longview Dr, Douglasville, GA. Event starts at 4:30pm - 6pm. Look for your invitation in the mail and bring a friend.

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 racedwald@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.
