



## CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### From Our President, Andrew Earle

I would like to thank everyone for all the support you have showed Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association over the past three years.

October we had our business meeting and elected new officers. This next year will be another great year for the association and your help will be needed. This association can't be successful unless everyone pitches in. In the near future you will be getting updates on the changes and new ideas the board will be presenting. I urge you to participate and show your support by helping to get donations and supporting fund raisers.

I would like to congratulate **Marie Blackwell** as the Associations new President, she has been doing a great job the past two years and will continue to support the many foster parents as time goes by, if she can be of any assistance to you let her know. She has some great ideas and I feel she can take the association to further heights, **Jimmy Duncan** is the Vice President and he has the type of integrity that you need in a leader and can help us get things done at the state & local level, **Debbie Earle** is the Secretary serving a second term and **Mary Duncan** is the Treasurer.

We had created a link for all Cherokee County Foster & Adoptive parents to get county specific information but we found that the link was hard to remember so we changed it to be [www.fosteroradopt.org/cherokee.htm](http://www.fosteroradopt.org/cherokee.htm). We are always updating the DFCS organization chart with emails and phone numbers and any county specific forms will be there as well. If there is something you would like to see let Marie know. The calendar is being updated daily so you may want to bookmark it.

Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

**November 2008**

Issue 41

#### Inside this issue:

Letter from President	1
Julie's Corner	1
Message from D'Anna	2
Announcements & Featured Speaker	3
Events & News	4
Association Information	5

### Julie's Corner

It's the END of the year! How many families have completed their training hours? Our Director, D'Anna, said that she will now allow families to complete EIGHT (8) hours of training ONLINE!!! This is wonderful news! E-mail Amy Blanton at [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com) for an access code for FREE training through foster parent college!

Please remember that you must be current on CPR and First Aid! Jeff Blackwell is even willing to come to your home to complete training! On November 20th, another IMPACT class will graduate. We wish our new families good luck!

Elizabeth McCauley will be taking over Pat's position upon Elizabeth's return from Maternity leave. Please let Julie, Linda, or Tinika know if you need something before Elizabeth returns.

The Holidays are a very busy time and we want you to have a safe, and happy Thanksgiving! Thank you so much for your willingness to open your homes to our children!

Thanks,

Julie M. Evans, SSCM

Cherokee County Department

of Family and Children Services

---

## Message from D'Anna

As we enter the Holiday season, let me take a minute to thank all of you for all that you have done this year to love and support our foster children. We are so appreciative of your care, concern and, especially your flexibility in our partnership. Family gatherings, special traditions, delicious treats make this a wonderful time of year, especially for children. As we enter this time of year, there is an increase in the volume of mail during the season, please remember that we will work toward processing invoices and reimbursements within the same time frame, but it may take a little longer to reach you through the mail. To this end, we have added a Drop Box to the front of our parking lot in front of the building. This locked and secured box will enable you to drop invoices and other information to your case manager without coming into the building. We will check and distribute these contents three times daily to ensure prompt delivery to the identified person.

Another new initiative to enhance communication took place on November 1. We have implemented a letter to correspond to you regarding upcoming juvenile court hearings. You have the right to written and timely notice of court hearings, and we are implementing a method to ensure you have this information timely and in writing. Look for these letters in the upcoming mail.

We continue to grow as a foster parent population and have not had many homes close in the past months. We currently have 72 family foster homes. Our next Roundtable forum will be on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00pm at the Canton United Methodist Church.

### **I'm Thankful for You ~ *By Joanna Fuchs***

Thanksgiving is the appointed time  
for focusing on the good in our lives.

In each of our days,

we can find small blessings,  
but too often we overlook them,  
choosing instead to spend our time  
paying attention to problems.

We give our energy  
to those who cause us trouble  
instead of those who bring peace.

Starting now,

let's be on the lookout  
for the bits of pleasure in each hour,  
and appreciate the people who  
bring love and light to everyone  
who is blessed to know them.

You are one of those people.

On Thanksgiving,

I'm thankful for you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanks again for your valuable service to the children and families of Cherokee County.

D'Anna Liber, Director  
Cherokee County DFCS

## Announcements & Congratulations!



We have seen a lot of changes both across the county and state. We have a new directory in Cherokee County DFCS, we have new supervisors, and case workers. We have a New Juvenile court Judge, Judge Tony Baker. The assessment center next door to DFCS has opened. We are seeing changes in the state office and new faces. Mark Washington has been named as assistant commissioner at DHR responsible for both the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). However, the greatest change we have seen in Cherokee County is the new Foster and Adoptive Families.

As you may know this month is National Adoption Day so it would only be fitting to Congratulate those who were blessed. We had three families help five children find their forever homes. Please congratulate **Jared & Misty Hitch, Andrew & Debbie Earle & John & Beverly Petty.**

You don't need to have a lot of money and you don't have to travel far to adopt a child. You just need to be the kind of caring, responsible person who wants to give a child a home and a family. Every child deserves a home and we will continue to urge Georgians to step up, adopt and change a child's life. The number of adoptions in GA has been on a steady increase over the last few years. Finalized adoptions have climbed to over 1,240. Teenagers, children in sibling groups and children with disabilities are typically harder to place than others, there is a growing need for individuals and families to adopt these children who tend to get overlooked. Whether a child is 0 or 18 they never outgrow the need for a family.

---

## Featured Speaker for November

Our Speaker this month is Meredith Pitts with the Executive Director of Sylvan Learning Center in Cartersville. She is willing to donate some of her time to help foster children that may need help. Sylvan offers many programs to the foster parent community and often these programs can be funded through the county and/or state. Meredith will give an overview of how Sylvan can help your child at our upcoming meeting.

For those of you that need training hours you will receive 2 training hours for attending.



## Up Coming Events or Classes

### **Red Top Mountain Conference** - December 5th - 7th, 2008

**Registration** is being extended through the day of the Conference with no penalty. Cherokee County does not have any funds for reimbursements on this conference. The CPR Class is filling up so if you are in need of training don't wait, you can sign up for just this class if that is all you need. **Cherokee County** will only be doing reimbursements for the CPR & First Aid Classes.

Contact: Belinda Jenkins at [bjenkins@nwgfapa.org](mailto:bjenkins@nwgfapa.org) or call (770) 899-6920 or (404) 645-8523

---

### **AFPAG - Day Conference** - November 22nd from 9:00 am - 5:30pm

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 115 Pleasant Grove Road, Ellijay, GA 30540. Lunch will be provided. The cost for the conference is \$25 per person. Email your information to AFPAG Secretary, Vala Peyton, at [vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net) or call 404-428-2104.



---

### **CASA for Children & Bascomb United Methodist Church** - Is inviting all foster parents to bring their children on December 6th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Enjoy lunch, crafts, small gifts and a special visit from Santa!

---

### **Foster Cares** has clothes for any foster parents that hasn't already made an appointment to see her. Call Rachel to make an appointment at 770-641-9591.

---

### **Healthsprout Chiropractic and Wellness Center**

is doing a Holiday Open House & Food Drive on November 20th from 9AM-1PM & 1PM-7PM . Located at: 2960 Marietta Highway #110, Canton, GA 30114.

**Donate:** 3 non-perishable foods or \$5.00 for MUST Ministries and Receive Free of Charge a Chiropractic Exam, Neuroscan & X-Rays (If Necessary), Chair Massage, healthy refreshments & Door Prizes. Contact: **Ernest Volaric**

---

## **CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE**

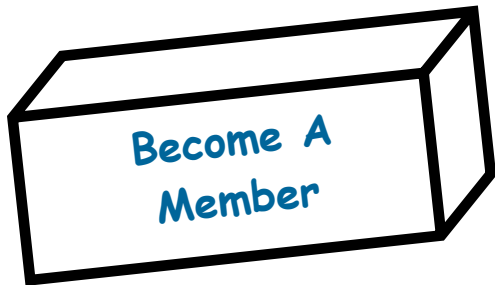
Please contact **Jeff Blackwell** at [jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com](mailto:jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com) or 770-652-9051 to register for either an individual class or group training. Foster parent should look for the Heart Saver CPR Course, he uses the AHA curriculum. For those who need specialized 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 3 training hours for this 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.



Our meetings are being held on the 4th Tuesday at 7pm every month at Hickory Flat United Methodist Church, 4056 East Cherokee Dr. Canton 30115. Childcare will be provided.

Directions: 575N - Take exit 16 and turn right onto Hwy 140. Take Hwy 140 to East Cherokee Road (Publix shopping Center is on the left). Take a left onto East Cherokee. The church will be on the right. We will meet in the trailers to the right of the parking lot. Look for signs.

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.

Phone: 770-378-0759

E-mail: [mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org](mailto:mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org)

## Board Members

### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell

[MBLACKWELL@FOSTERORADOPT.ORG](mailto:MBLACKWELL@FOSTERORADOPT.ORG)

770-378-0759

### 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.fostercares.org](http://www.fostercares.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).