



# CHEROKEECOUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

## From The President

Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent Association

November 2009  
Issue 53

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This month we are doing the "Teddy Bears for Foster Care" fundraiser drive at the **Marshmallows In The Closet**. The owner of the boutique will be donating funds to DFCS and to our association based on sales from that day. They are offering 10% to 50% discount on goods. We will also be doing a bake sale. We welcome anyone who would like to come out and support us.

The year is wrapping up quickly and training events are coming to an end. Do you have your training hours? Hopefully those who needed water safety training took advantage of the class offered by the YMCA this past month.

I would like to thank the dads that participated in the *Nurturing Fathers Workshop*, hopefully you feel better equip in dealing with the ever changing issues in your home.

The **Secret Santa** program is well on its way, remember if you get children in before Christmas that you contact your case manager and Ann Feczko, go to their website to download the wish list. <http://www.cherokeesanta.org>.

We have a local dance studio that would like to offer a one year scholarship to attend any type of dance class that they offer. To qualify for this scholarship the child must attend **Avery Elementary School**. The decision as to who is awarded the scholarship will be at the discretion of the studio. If you have a child interested in attending a dance class male or female that fit this criteria please email me with the following information:

Childs name, age, sex,  
How long they have been in care  
What type of dance class they prefer (give two choices), if they don't know that's ok  
We would also like to here from the child, in there own words in a few short sentences tell us why they would like to dance.  
We will need your name, phone # & email address.

**The deadline is November 30th.** The lucky child will be picked by the studio staff and they will contact you.

Last month we elected a new board for 2010. Shannon Griffis—Secretary, Becky Borgia—Treasurer & Marie Blackwell—President.

Bring a covered dish to this months meeting to share with everyone. It doesn't have to be fancy. We will have pizza for the kids and drinks will be provided.

### Featured Speaker for November 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm - 9pm

This month our training is on **Sexual Abuse**. The program training is called "**Darkness to Light** - Confronting Child Sexual Abuse with Courage. The goal is to educate adults on what steps to take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. You will learn the 7 Steps to Protecting our Children. In order for foster families to feel more comfortable dealing with children who have been abused you first have to understand abuse. Hopefully

this will make you feel more equipped to handle these types of situations. **Space is limited to 6 people** and will be on a first come first serve basis, so I recommend that you RSVP for this class to Marie as soon as possible. **We ask that you be on time as the class will start at 6:30 pm.** Attendees will receive two (2.5) training hours for attending.

### Featured Speaker for November 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 9pm

Unsure at this time what the topic will be. I will have to let you know next week.

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# *November Is National Adoption Awareness Month*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

November 2, 2009

## NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH, 2009

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**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
A PROCLAMATION**

All children deserve a safe, loving family to protect and care for them. In America, thousands of young people are waiting for that opportunity. During National Adoption Month, we honor those families that have strengthened America through adoption, and we recommit to reducing the number of children awaiting adoption into loving families.

America is a country rich in resources and filled with countless caring men and women who hope to adopt. These individuals come from all walks of life, united in their commitment to love a child who is in need of the protective arms of a parent. We must do more to ensure that adoption is a viable option for them. By continually opening up the doors to adoption, and supporting full equality in adoption laws for all American families, we allow more children to find the permanent homes they yearn for and deserve.

This month, we also focus on children in foster care. These children are not in the system by their own choosing, but are forced into it by unfortunate or tragic circumstances. These young people have specific needs and require unique support. Federal, State, and local governments, communities, and individuals all have a role to play in ensuring that foster children have the resources and encouragement they need to realize their hopes and dreams.

The course of our future will depend on what we do to help the next generation of Americans succeed. This month, we celebrate those families brought together by adoption and renew our commitments to children in the foster care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as National Adoption Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by reaching out to support and honor adoptive families, as well as to participate actively in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

**BARACK OBAMA**

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## Message from D'Anna

A good exercise of the Heart is to bend down and help another up. ~Anonymous

As we approach the Holiday Season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I am reminded how thankful I am for your love, care and support to our foster children. May this season encourage you to be thankful for all the blessings that you have. Thanksgiving is a special time to stop and be thankful for all that we have.

Remember this month we will experience a State Holiday on Wednesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day, a State Furlough Day on Wednesday, November 25 with State Holidays for Thanksgiving following, November 26 and 27. Our offices will be closed on all of these days. Please remember that during closures, our On-Call system is in operation and we will still be available to respond to any complaints of child abuse or neglect. To reach our on-call staff member, please contact Non-Emergency 911 at 678-493-4080.

We took custody of 10 children in October; 8 boys and 2 girls. 9 of these children were white and 1 was black. 3 were ages from 0-5; 2 were from 6-12; and 5 were 13 years and over. 6 of these children were placed in Cherokee DFCS foster homes; 1 was placed in a Cobb DFCS foster home; 1 was placed with a relative; 1 was in RYDC; and 1 was on runaway. There were 2 sibling groups of 2 children. There was 1 re-entry. 8 of these children came from CPS Investigations; 1 was from the bench; and 1 was from Family Preservation. 2 children were returned at the 72-hour hearing and none were returned at the 10-day hearing.

12 children left foster care in October for some of the following reasons: adoption, guardianship to relative, guardianship to foster parent, guardianship to a relative, emancipation and reunification to the birth family. We currently have 77 family foster homes.

We will not have a new Impact class until January 2010 as we transition into Partnership Parenting. We have not received any further State budgetary updates; however, we have been able to fill two Child Protective Service vacancies under a Critical Hire and two new staff began November 1 in Child Protective Services, so that was good news for us. Please continue to let me know your issues and concerns. You can email me with any suggestions you may have for our county services.

**"Be thankful for each new challenge,  
because it will build your strength and character."**

**Author Unknown**

Thank you again for your valuable service to the children and families.

Thanks,

D'Anna Liber (Director)  
770-720-3629  
[dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us)

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## Announcements & Congratulations!



We had two families finalize their adoption this month. Please join us in congratulating them.

Congratulations to Michael & Nicole Durden adopted Michael on 11/02 and Curt & Cindy Rawlings on there adoption of Jaden & John adopted 11/09 we congratulate you and your new family and for your commitment in being a forever family to the children in your home!

## Up Coming Events



**Planned Adoption Gatherings and Video Conferences - Nov 14th** from 9:30am—12:30pm

The adoption gathering will be held at the Jim Huie Recreation Center, 9045 Tara Blvd, Jonesboro, GA 30236

Case Managers from throughout the state representing waiting children through displays and video presentations will be present. Contact your RD Case Manager if you are interested in attending this event.



### Local Yard Sale - Stephanie Bramblett

needs to make room she has lots of clothes, from 3 to 24 months boys clothes. Most clothes are \$1 and some are brand names. She also has lots of toys. From Friday—Sunday this weekend.

2340 Mills Wood Run, Canton, GA 30114. If you have any questions her # (404) 642-4164.



### Cagle's Corn Maize - Hickory Flat

The 2009 MAiZE at Cagle's Corn MAiZE Hickory Flat is said to be the most challenging yet! This is the last weekend.

- Friday Nights  
MAiZE (5-11pm) — \$10  
Hayrides to Bonfire (6-10pm) — \$7

- Saturdays August thru November  
MAiZE (10am-11pm) — \$10  
Farm Tours (10am-4pm) — \$7  
Hayrides to Bonfire (6-10pm) — \$7

- Sundays August thru November  
MAiZE (10am-6pm) — \$10  
Farm Tours (10am-4pm) — \$7

## CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE

Please contact Jeff Blackwell at [jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com](mailto:jblackwell@firstactioncpr.com) or 770-652-9051 to register for an individual class. Foster parents should look for the Heart Saver CPR Course, using AHA curriculum. For those who need specialized training there are 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 November 19th at the First Baptist Church of Woodstock. First class starts at 6:30 - 9pm, the other class starts at 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 and other events.



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>

## 2009 Board Members

### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell  
770-378-0759

[mblackwell@fosteroraadopt.org](mailto:mblackwell@fosteroraadopt.org)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jimmy Duncan

### SECRETARY

Debbie Earle

### TREASURER

Mary Duncan

## 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](mailto:rachel@fostercares.org)

### Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton @ [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com).  
or visit them on the web <http://www.embracecherokee.com>.

### AFPAG (State Foster Parent Association)

Feel free to contact them at: [contactafpag@bellsouth.net](mailto:contactafpag@bellsouth.net)

#### Executive Director

Sharon Carlson  
404-918-1956  
[sharonlc@juno.com](mailto:sharonlc@juno.com)

#### President

Tony G. Blash  
478-335-9454

#### Executive Vice President

Michelle Mason  
770-361-7776  
[sponsorachild@yahoo.com](mailto:sponsorachild@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

Vala Peyton  
404-428-2104  
[vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net)