



CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER and ADOPTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION of GA INC

Letter From the Executive Director

Cherokee County Foster
Adoptive & Parents
Association of GA Inc

November 2011

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Our the last roundtable meeting we announced that we are now listed as a Corporation and that the name of our corporation now has added to the end of the name "of GA Inc.". Our new Vice-President Rick Fueston has been the leader in helping us get this much needed task completed. Our next step will be to become a 501c3 Non-Profit of our own. We are currently using the state Adoptive & Foster Parent Associations 501c3 number so that we can get funding to be on our own.

We are also able to take Credit Card donations now using a secure site through PayPal. The link is on the homepage of our website. This past month we have received two donations so we are really excited.

A couple of Sunday's ago we were invited to Mt Zion Baptist Church for their Orphan Sunday services to talk about foster care and adoption to their members after the services. It was a great experience for us to get our name out there and to let others know what we do. We had some families respond with questions or stories and hopefully we were able to recruit more wonderful families. We created a list of ways to help and gave it out at the church.

One of the things we are really putting emphases on is "you don't have to be a foster parent to make a difference". There are many ways to give of yourself, volunteer time, help with a project, if you own a business can you give in-kind services? Can you sponsor an event or a child?

We are always looking for ways to help our children live full lives that many of us take for granted. With county & state budget cuts these children may not be able to do some of these things we might take for granted like going to the Zoo or circus, participate in community activities such as sports or dance classes or get their hair done, or can you sponsor a child for their birthday?

Without community partners and individual supporters we can't offer these types of resources to these children. Our goal for next year is to expand our efforts so that we can find community support. This initiative starts with us, ask your employer, your church or your school if they would like to help make a difference in the life of a child. They can chose how they want to help, we can use one time sponsors and/or ongoing support.

We will also be expanding our reach to include Kinship or Relative Care, Guardianship and Adoptive Families who have taken on the added responsibility of caring for these special needs children. Most of these types of families need our help as well and we want to offer them the chance to come and take advantage of our resources.

Our final conference for the year took place November 12th, we had several new families join us. We want to welcome those families that came from Faithbridge and hope that they continue to come and spread the word about what we do to support **ALL** Foster & Adoptive parents. It doesn't matter what agency a family is with we all do the same thing, have the same type experiences and need the same type of support. We hope to see more of you at our next conference next year.

We want to thank the many volunteers that came out to support our efforts this year. Kennesaw State and the many community volunteers that have put aside a few hours on their Saturday to come out and play with the kids has been greatly appreciated. We have several volunteers that come on a regular basis and we want to thank them as well. If you or anyone you know would like to make a donation please go to our home page at www.fosteroradopt.org and look for the donation link. Any amount is appreciated.

Fun Adventure Rock Climbing Sponsored by KSU Students



We would like to thank Cutler Knupp and his Service Learning Project team members from KSU Mr. Case McDaniel, Alex Edwards & "G" and one other team member for giving these kids a lesson in communication and leadership along with having the kids try a new and exciting form of exercise!

One child that attended was surprised, it was their birthday, and everyone had a BLAST!



Message from D'Anna

In a continued effort to keep you informed on the work we are responsible for in Cherokee, I am sending a summary of our monthly activities in regard to Child Protective Services and Permanency. I hope you find this information helpful as you see how we make decisions on how urgent our response is in Child Protective Services, how many Family Preservation Families we are serving, how many children come into care and how many children exit care on a monthly basis.

Child Protective Services:

73 Investigations were received in October, of these 37 were assigned a 24 hour response time and 36 were assigned a 5 day response. In addition, we assessed 40 Family Support Families through Diversion. Last month, we had 5 CPS Investigators to investigate and assess these reported concerns.

At the end of October, we had 85 open Family Preservation cases where we are working with children in the home within the family unit. We had 5 Family Preservation staff who have responsibility for these families and 1 staff on medical leave.

Permanency:

We had 7 children come into Foster Care and had 13 children leave foster care in October. Of the children entering care in October, 5 were male and 2 were female. We placed 3 of these children in Cherokee County Foster Homes, 1 in a group home, 1 with an out of state relatives, and 1 with an out of state family friend. We had several sibling groups to place which makes our work more challenging. We had 1 group of 2 children and 1 group of 3 children. The trend, if any, in October, seemed to be a higher number of parents who are having unresolved substance abuse issues, making them unable to care for their children. We also received custody of a youth from Guatemala without family in the USA, making him without a legal guardian. At the end of October, we had 182 children in care. The reasons children exited foster care in October were through guardianship to a relative, adoption and reunification to family members.

In October we **finalized 4 adoptions**, making a total of 18 finalized adoptions in 2011!

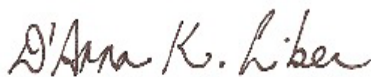
We currently have 63 foster homes. 2 new homes were opened and 3 homes were closed. We have 18 outstanding families that we are currently doing studies on awaiting approval.

The permanency work was done by a committed and dedicated, but reduced staff based on vacancies and an inability to hire. We had 7 permanency workers, 2 adoption workers and 2 Resource Development workers.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like further information on any of these areas.

Thanks,



D'Anna Liber, Director
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Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parents Association of GA Inc



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>

2011 Board Members

President

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

Vice President

Rick Fueston

Secretary/Treasurer

Debbie Earle

If you are interested in sitting on our board let us know, we can always use the help!!

Our address has changed:

162 Morris Rd
Canton, GA 30114

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

AFPAG (State Foster Parent Association)

Feel free to contact them at: contactafpag@bellsouth.net