



## CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### From Our President, Andrew Earle

Hello, I hope everyone had a great Month. October will be our business meeting and elections for the Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. There will be no training hours for this meeting. All positions are open for nomination and will be voted on during the meeting.

This will be an important meeting for all our members to attend. I have enjoyed working as the Association President for the last three years. It has been both rewarding and a challenge. I appreciate the support shown by our members, Foster and Adoptive Parents and the county over the past years.

Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association is not just an opportunity to secure the required training hours but is an opportunity to be heard as a collective group that will strive to meet the expectations and needs of our Foster and Adoptive Parents and the Foster Children in our county and across the state.

I am looking forward to seeing new ideas that will focus on the concerns of our Foster Parents. This can not be done by just one or two but will take everyone. Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association is a benefit to the community and the state we have been noticed in leading the way for others.

Please make every effort to be there Tuesday 10/28/08 at Hickory Flat united Methodist Church. Thank you for a great 2008 and I am excited about 2009.

Don't forget that we have a link for County specific information for DFCS available to Cherokee Foster Parents on our website. The link is [www.fosteroradopt.org/cherokee.htm](http://www.fosteroradopt.org/cherokee.htm).

Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

October 2008

Issue 40

#### Inside this issue:

Letter from President	1
Farewell from Pat	1
Julie's Corner	2
Upcoming Events	2
Association Information	4

### Farewell From Pat Gayle

For over thirty years I have worked for the Department of Family and Children Services and twenty plus years with Cherokee County specifically. November 20, 2008 will be my actual last day of work. I wanted to just let you all know how much I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. Foster parents to me are very special people. You are kind hearted, loving and caring people. I could not have done my job without your help and the children who have been abused and neglected would never have known what it is like to be a part of a loving family without you opening your home and heart.

Please know that you all will be missed. I will cherish the memories of my time teaching MAPP and then Impact. Each class of people was unique. Some of you wanted to give back to society because someone helped or befriended you. Some feel that it is a calling by God to action on behalf of the children. Others just wanted children in their lives. Whatever the reason I am thankful. The world is a richer place because of you.

I am thrilled that we were a pilot county for Embrace. I have always wanted to give foster parents more support. Soon this program that we helped to develop will be in every county in Georgia. That is an accomplishment to be proud of. Our foster parent liaison, Amy Blanton continues to do an excellent job. Her community outreach has increased the people in the county's knowledge of foster parents and the children that you serve.

Finally, I leave you with a wonderful new Director in D'Anna Liber. She is a positive and caring individual. She knows policy and will continue to be supportive of foster parents. Just remember in the words of my professional organization "Together a Difference".

Patricia B. Gayle

## Julie Evan's Corner

Elizabeth McCauley had her baby her name is Caroline Anne McCauley was born 10/16/08 at 12:34 pm. She was 8 lbs and 19  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Mom and baby are doing great!

I want to remind everyone about the Trick or Treating that will be going on at the DFCS office on 10/31/08. Foster children and foster families are invited to attend and visit us in their costumes! The fun begins at 3:00!

Linda Nwaneri is currently in IMPACT "train the trainer" course. After Linda completes the course, she will be certified to teach the IMPACT classes. Congratulations and good luck Linda!

Please keep the Secret Santa deadlines in mind! Our Secret Santa Volunteers are so great and they want to make sure all of the children in care have a fabulous Christmas and they need your help. If you need additional information or more forms for Secret Santa go to [www.cherokeesanta.org](http://www.cherokeesanta.org).

November is National Adoptions Month!!! We will have a reception and recognition ceremony for our adoptive families and the families in the process of adopting on November 10th at the Woodstock First Baptist Church. This year, the adoptions unit has finalized a lot of adoptions and we want to take the chance to celebrate you, and the children you've added to your families. A photographer will be there to take family portraits, so wear your favorite outfit! Stay tuned for more information!!!

It's the end of October...how many of you have completed your training hours? PLEASE remember that CPR and First Aid is REQUIRED for all foster and adoptive families!

A Roundtable discussion will be held on 11/18/08 from 7-9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Canton (where the FP Appreciation Dinner was held). Dinner and Babysitting will be provided. Please RSVP to Amy Blanton at [info@embracecherokee.com](mailto:info@embracecherokee.com) or call her at 770-356-5102 so she can make sure there is enough food. You can also send Amy any questions/comments that you would like to be addressed at the Roundtable. The Roundtable counts for 2 hours of supplemental training and it is a great way for you to meet other foster families, our Liaison, and the staff of Cherokee DFCS. I encourage all foster parents to attend, even if you are caught up on your training hours!

There will be a legal training held at our office on Wednesday, November 12th, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Conference room. Please RSVP to Julie at [jevans@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jevans@dhr.state.ga.us) or 770-720-3650.

The YMCA is conducting a water safety course December 13th from 1-6 p.m. You have to pay before you are registered for the class! Water Safety is required for families with a pool or body of water on their property. It's also a good idea for families that boat a lot!

Pat's last day will be November 20th. I know I will miss her dearly! Be sure to contact her before then to wish her well in her new journey in retirement!!

Thanks,

Julie M. Evans, SSCM  
Cherokee County Department  
of Family and Children Services

## Up Coming Events or Classes

### *Legal 3 Training - (A more in depth look at sexual and physical abuse)*

Nov 12th at 9 am at the Cherokee DFCS office conference room. **RSVP to Julie Evans at [jevans@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jevans@dhr.state.ga.us)** by November 5th.

---

### *National Adoption Day! November 5th*

Sponsored By:



### *GA Center for Resources and Support - Annual Fall Statewide Conference*

*November 15th at 8:30am—3:30pm POSITIVE PARENTING: Get Involved! Get Connected! Get Powerful!*

This dynamic day-long conference will focus on Sibling Groups. There will be workshops in the morning and a panel discussion with single/married adoptive and foster families in the afternoon. Breakfast/Lunch Provided.  
<http://www.gacrs.org>

---

### *Roundtable with D'Anna on November 18th at 7pm*

At the Canton First Methodist Church 930 Lower Scott Mill Rd, Canton. RSVP by Nov 7th to Amy Blanton. Childcare and dinner.

---

Anyone needing winter clothes can call Rachel with [fostercares.org](http://fostercares.org) and make an appointment. Her # is 770-641-9591 or Sharon 404-729-3374

---

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

It's time to [Register](#) for the upcoming Conference. Space is filling up fast.

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

**State has approved training hours to be rolled over to 2009 if your 2008 hours have been met.**



## **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).

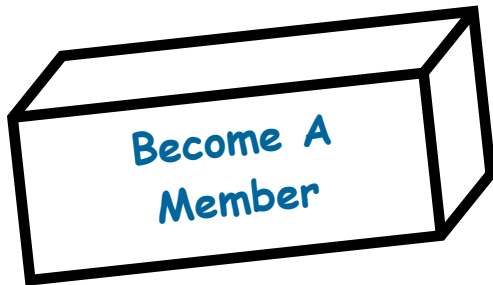


CPR & First Aid Classes are reimbursable with an ORIGINAL receipt. Certification is good for 2 years. You will receive 3 training hours for this class.

---

# Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent Assoc.

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



888 Stover Drive  
Canton, GA 30115

Phone: 678-656-6634  
E-mail: Andrew-earle@comcast.net

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.

## Board Members

### PRESIDENT

ANDREW EARLE

770-345-0721

[ANDREW-EARLE@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ANDREW-EARLE@COMCAST.NET)

### VICE PRESIDENT

CRAIG BLOCK

[VOLLEYBLOCK@AOL.COM](mailto:VOLLEYBLOCK@AOL.COM)

### SECRETARY

DEBBIE EARLE

[DEBORA.EARLE@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DEBORA.EARLE@COMCAST.NET)

### TREASURER/MARKETING DIRECTOR

MARIE BLACKWELL

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

## 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).