



CHEROKEECOUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

From The President

**Cherokee County Foster
Adoptive & Parent Association**

By now everyone knows that the [Walk Me Home](#) fundraiser had to be cancelled due to flooding. We will be working in the next few weeks to lock in a new date for the spring. Mean while, this extra time will give all of us an opportunity to continue soliciting donations for the Walk. Any amount will be accepted. If you have someone that only wants to donate to the local association they can do that to by check. If they only want to donate to us they would write the check out to the CCFAPA and mail it to: 705 Ash Ridge Rd, Waleska, GA 30183.

I would like to thank all of our teams, individuals and sponsors who have already given or where willing to give of there time to support us. T-Shirts will be available at the actual walk. Once the date is set we will communicate that with everyone and post it on the website. The funds raised for this event will benefit Cherokee's foster families regardless if you are a member of the association or not. We encourage all to participate. If you know of any local businesses who would like to donate services instead of money let me know.

During our campaign for Walk Me Home, I was approached by a local citizen who wanted to help but could not donate funds. She has a horse ranch and was willing to donate 2 hours a month to one foster child that is at least 2 years old and that can handle being around animals and that can pay attention enough to learn about horses, how to take care of them and ride. They will be required to wear long pants and boots if they have them if not then sneakers will be fine. No open toed shoes.

I will be choosing a name once a month via lottery for any child that would be interested in coming. It will be on the second Saturday of each month from 10am—12. Once your name is chosen if for some reason you can't make it let me know as soon as possible so that we can try to get another child in. If you are interested in having your child come send me there name and age and we will add them to the list. As you get new children feel free to add there names to the list and if one leaves let me know as well so that we can take there name off.

We have several classes coming up this month for your convenience, if you intend on coming I will need you to RSVP so that the class does not get canceled. Our speakers come from various locations in GA and require a certain number in attendance for it to be worth there while to come. Also, there is a fee charged for use of other facilities. Let's be considerate of others and just let us know if you are coming.

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.

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October 2009
Issue 52

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Featured Speakers for October 15th 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**" and Michelle Mason will be our instructor. Her 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. We welcome all to attend if you haven't already. Please

let us know if you'll be attending so that we have enough course materials for everyone. RSVP 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 October 15th 7pm - 9pm

This class will be on Nurturing Parenting - Ages & Stages and will be taught by a member of the Family Nurturing Center of Georgia. The class will be interactive and open for discussion. Feel free to ask questions and exchange advice on what's worked with you in the past with the different children you may have had in your home.

October Is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2009

September 30, 2009

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Domestic violence touches the lives of Americans of all ages, leaving a devastating impact on women, men, and children of every background and circumstance. A family's home becomes a place of fear, hopelessness, and desperation when a woman is battered by her partner, a child witnesses the abuse of a loved one, or a senior is victimized by family members. Since the 1994 passage of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, championed by then Senator Joe Biden, our Nation has strengthened its response to this crime and increased services for victims. Still, far too many women and families in this country and around the world are affected by domestic violence. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to ending violence within our homes, our communities, and our country.

To effectively respond to domestic violence, we must provide assistance and support that meets the immediate needs of victims. Facing social isolation, victims can find it difficult to protect themselves and their children. They require safe shelter and housing, medical care, access to justice, culturally specific services, and economic opportunity. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act supports emergency shelters, crisis intervention programs, and community education about domestic violence.

In the best of economic times, victims worry about finding a job and housing, and providing for their children; these problems only intensify during periods of financial stress. That is why the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$325 million for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This funding will supplement the Federal VAWA and VOCA dollars that flow to communities every year, and enable States, local governments, tribes, and victim service providers to retain and hire personnel that can serve victims and hold offenders accountable. These funds will also bring relief to victims seeking a safe place to live for themselves and their children.

Victims of violence often suffer in silence, not knowing where to turn, with little or no guidance and support. Sadly, this tragedy does not just affect adults. Even when children are not directly injured by violence, exposure to violence in the home can contribute to behavioral, social, and emotional problems. High school students who report having experienced physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, and may carry patterns of abuse into future relationships. Our efforts to address domestic violence must include these young victims.

During this month, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle of violence. By providing young people with education about healthy relationships, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that domestic violence can be prevented. We must build the capacity of our Nation's victim service providers to reach and serve those in need. We urge community leaders to raise awareness and bring attention to this quiet crisis. And across America, we encourage victims and their families to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Together, we must ensure that, in America, no victim of domestic violence ever struggles alone.

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 October 2009, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I ask all Americans to do their part to end domestic violence in this country by supporting their communities' efforts to assist victims in finding the help and healing they need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first 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

Cont... October Is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities was conducted at the local, state and national levels.

In October 1987, the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held. In conjunction, that same year the first national toll-free hotline was started in the country. In 1989, the first National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative legislation was passed by the United States Congress. Such legislation has passed every year since.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), in conjunction with Ms. Magazine, started the Remember My Name project in 1994 to create a national registry of names of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. Since then, NCADV has continued to collect information on incidents of people who have been killed by an intimate partner and produces a poster each year for Domestic Violence Awareness Month listing the names of those submitted to the project. To date, over 7,753 people* have been memorialized through the project. Names continue to be added daily.

This October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we ask you to take a moment to remember those we have lost to this senseless crime.

If you would like to submit a name to the [Remember My Name memorial project](#), please click here.

Battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person with whom an intimate relationship is or has been shared through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes that they are entitled to control another.

Children witnessing domestic violence and living in an environment where violence occurs may experience some of the same trauma as abused children. Not all children are affected by domestic violence in the same way. Children may become fearful, inhibited, aggressive, antisocial, withdrawn, anxious, depressed, angry, confused; suffer from disturbed sleep, problems with eating, difficulties at school and challenges in making friends. Children often feel caught in the middle between their parents and find it difficult to talk to either of them. Adolescents may act out or exhibit risk-taking behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, running away, sexual promiscuity and criminal behavior. Young men may try to protect their mothers, or they may become abusive to their mothers themselves. Children may be injured if they try to intervene in the violence in their homes.

Teen dating violence may be one of the major sources of violence in teen life. Even in the best of circumstances, the passage from childhood to adulthood is often one of awkwardness and unease. When that passage is marked with danger and violence that explodes in relationships, then the journey into adulthood becomes even more overwhelmingly complex. Given that social, cultural, religious and family messages about intimacy and relationships between teens can be confusing, misleading, nonexistent or even unhealthy, many teens find themselves unsure of what to expect and how to behave in dating or intimate relationships. Fear, misconceptions, lack of services, low self-esteem, control by the abuser, peer pressure and concern about family response all combine to keep battered teens trapped in silence and secrecy.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). Operated by the Texas Council on Family Violence.

One innovative approach is the use of "family crisis centers," or "victim advocates" to act as the woman's link to the various sectors.

Support can come in various forms:

<p>Crisis Intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crisis intervention services • crisis hot lines • shelters or other emergency residential facilities • medical services • transportation networks • laws that allow either victims or perpetrators to be removed from the home 	<p>Emotional Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-help support groups • assertiveness training • self-esteem and confidence-building sessions • parenting skills courses 	<p>Advocacy & Legal Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to and custody of children • property matters • financial support • restraining orders • public assistance benefits • help with immigration status 	<p>Other Supportive Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing and safe accommodations • child care • access to community services
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Message from D'Anna

FROM NOW ON IN AMERICA, ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVICE TO OTHERS. ~ George Bush, June 1989

How appropriate this is as we serve those who have lost everything to the recent flood. You may or may not know that Cherokee DFCS was a part of the Disaster Recovery Effort that is in place in our county in response to the recent flood emergency. It reminds us that we must adapt to the changes that happen to us and move forward quickly. With a 20% reduction in our State budget, the ability to serve our community is more challenged now more than ever due to the dark economical times we are in. With this in mind, we continue to work toward finding forever families for our children sooner.

There are no new updates regarding the State Budget since last month. We continue under a watchful eye to monitor all direct services to families including Wrap-Around services as direct service funding has been decreased.

As you know, All DHS offices will be closed tomorrow Friday, October 9 due to the agency-wide furlough. All DFCS offices will also be closed on Monday, October 12 in observation of the Columbus Day Holiday. Business operations will resume on Tuesday, October 13. As we accomplished last month, 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.

There were 3 finalized adoptions in September! Since January, there have been 29 finalized adoptions in Cherokee County. 1 of these 3 children in September was adopted by our Cherokee Foster Family, Judy & Craig Reardon, Congratulations!

We took custody of 16 children in September; there were 8 boys and 8 girls that came into foster care. 12 of these children were ages 0-5; 3 children were ages 6-12; and 1 was 13 years and over. 11 children were white; 2 were black; 2 were Hispanic; and 1 was bi-racial. 12 of these children were placed in Cherokee DFCS foster homes; 2 were placed with relatives; 1 was placed in a private agency foster home; and 1 was placed in a group home. There were 2 sibling groups of 2 children and 1 sibling group of three children. 2 children were returned at the 10-day hearing; none were returned at the 72-hour hearing.

Of the 212 children in our legal custody in September, 24 children left our care for some of the following reasons: reunification to birth family, custody to relative, guardianship to foster parent, permanent custody to relative, and adoption.

We added 1 new foster home in September and we did we have any foster home closures. We currently have 77 foster homes in Cherokee County.

You may have heard that a new statewide campaign to raise awareness of the needs of foster children will begin next week. The Raise Me Up Campaign will begin in October led by Governor Perdue. This campaign is targeted to run 60 days in an effort to gain more community support for foster children. Not necessarily becoming foster parents, but in supporting foster children's growth and emotional development. The Media Ads will be on TV and in local papers to highlight the need for community support.

The theme of this campaign is:

*You don't have to raise foster children to raise them up
You just have to raise your hand and say you'll help*

I wanted to alert you to this campaign as it will be rolling out to the community soon. *For more information about the Raise Me Up campaign, visit: www.raisemeup.org* Margaret Dawe is our Point of Contact regarding this campaign and information related to Cherokee County.

I was contacted by our local Health Department recently and they wanted me to emphasize the importance of the PPD reading that is done within 48 hours of the child's physical. It is imperative that the child return to the Health Department for this reading. Please talk with your RD worker about this if you are unable to provide transportation to and from the Health Department in taking a child in your home to for this physical. Foster Children are considered a High Risk population by the Health Department and they want to ensure that they are meeting the medical needs of our children.

Please continue to let me know your issues and concerns. You can email me with any suggestions you may have for our county services.

Continue...

Message from D'Anna

The future is bright in Georgia because of the light that shines in your homes for the love and care you provide to our children. Thank you again for your valuable service to the children and families.

We will be hosting this years trick-or-treating at the office on October 30 and the fun begins at 3-5pm., children and families are invited to attend and feel free to wear your costumes.

Thanks,

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

Julie's Corner

I hope many of you attended the roundtable on the 8th and found it informational and beneficial to you in your role as foster and adoptive parents!

Only 3 more months to complete training hours!!! Please remember you can do 8 hours online, current CPR is required, and water safety course if you have a pool!

Congratulations to the Reardon family for their adoption of Makeighla!

I hope to see you at the office trick-or-treating on 10/30!!

Thank you for everything you do for our children!!!

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

Announcements & Congratulations!



We had three families finalize their adoption this month. Please join us in congratulating them. Congratulations to these families for their commitment in being a forever family to the children in their home!

At our last meeting nominations were accepted by members who are interested in being board members. Those who were nominated will be officially elected into office at our next meeting.

Up Coming Events



Planned Adoption Gatherings and Video Conferences - Oct 17th from 9:30am—12:30pm

The adoption gathering will be held at the Cherokee Retreat Center, 370 Wilderness Camp Rd. SE, White, GA, 30184,

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



Foster Parent Training - *Nurturing Relationships Workshop* on Oct 24th from 1:30 - 3:30pm

Class will be held at R. T. Jones Library, 116 Brown Industrial Parkway, Canton, GA 30114. RSVP to Marie at mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org



Beyond Consequences LIVE!

Check for a FREE training in your area!
This full day event will change your relationship with your child forever.

Beyond Consequences, Oct 29th from 8:30 - 4:00pm

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, 955 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, GA 30068

FREE...all you need is a copy of her book, *Beyond Consequences, Logic & Control*, the book is your ticket in. Go online to register.



Foster Parent Training - *Nurturing Fathers Workshop* (For Dads Only) on Nov 7th from 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Class will be held at the Woodstock Library, 7735 Main Street, Woodstock, GA 30188. RSVP to Marie at mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org



Come for fun & treats to the DFCS office on Oct 30th from 3pm - 5pm
Families and children are welcome to come in Costumes.



Water Safety Class at the G.Cecil Pruett Community Center Family YMCA on Nov 8th
Class starts at 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Contact Peggy Head Donaldson peggyd@ymcaatlanta.org, PCY Aquatic/Wellness Director, 770-345-9622. All students will need to bring a suit, towel and a change of cloths. The class is \$45.00 for members and \$55.00 for non-members. They can register at the Canton Family YMCA. She needs at least 4 students in order to have a class.

CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES AVAILABLE

Please contact Jeff Blackwell at 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.

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 October 15th 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>

Board Members

PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell
770-378-0759

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

Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton @ 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

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404-918-1956
sharonlc@juno.com

President

Tony G. Blash
478-335-9454

Executive Vice President

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Secretary

Vala Peyton
404-428-2104
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