

Fostering Hope

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition



WINTER 2009



Proud member of

United Way
of Greater St. Louis



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Old Bags™ Party—Tuesday, April 28th



Are you crazy about beautiful and stylish designer handbags? Would you like to own a Prada, Coach, Fendi, Louis Vuitton, Cole Haan, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Gucci—but not pay the designer price? Then don't miss this spring's hottest party - Old Bags™!

www.foster-adopt.org/oldbags Old Bags™ is a great girls night out with a fabulous silent auction of hundreds of gorgeous new and like-new designer bags. Join us at The Living World in the St. Louis Zoo on **Tuesday, April 28th** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Grab your girlfriends . . . Get a gorgeous handbag . . . Help find homes for foster children!

Make your reservation online today at www.foster-adopt.org/oldbags. Don't wait—this party sold out last year!

For more information, contact Debbie Genung at debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org or at 800.FOSTER.3 (314-367-8373) or visit www.foster-adopt.org/oldbags. Hope to see you on April 28th!

Aunt Thankful for Extreme Recruitment

FACC's Extreme Recruitment program uses a tool called Family Finding to locate long-lost relatives of children who have been in care for a long time. Our hope is that there might be a family member who will become part of the child's life again, providing love and support if not a permanent home. Here is a letter one of our kids just received from his aunt.

Dear Devonte,

My name is Shirley and I am your great aunt. I've been looking for you and I've never forgotten you. Me and my husband Kenny used to baby sit you all the time. I don't know if you remember but we used to call you Vony-Von. You were such a good baby. We used to take you and your brothers to the park all the time.

The last time I saw you was on a Christmas and I gave you a toy truck. There is so much I want to say to you but for now just know I love you. I was so excited when they found me and I am looking forward to visiting you no matter how long it takes.

*Love you always,
Aunt Shirley*



314-FOSTER-3 or 1-800-FOSTER-3
www.foster-adopt.org



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- The **Deaconess Foundation** for five wonderful years as a Deaconess Impact Partner!
- **Signature Healthcare Foundation** for a grant to help our foster/adoptive parents access appropriate healthcare for their children.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Birthday Buddy:

Make a foster child's birthday dreams come true by becoming his/her Birthday Buddy. Generous participants donate some or all of their birthday gifts to a foster child with an upcoming birthday. Scout troops, school classrooms, and church groups make wonderful Birthday Buddies.

Girl Power Trivia:

Girl Power Trivia is a community service project for elementary school girls and a fun social gathering rolled into one – and FACC has already completed most of the prep work!

FACC will provide trivia questions, Power Point presentation, music clips, answer sheets, and more. In return, we ask that you collect scrapbook album donations for foster children at the event.

Donate a Scrapbook:

We are helping our foster children create Lifebooks (scrapbooks). Lifebooks help ensure that foster children's pictures and childhood memories are not lost or forgotten as they transition from home to home. We are seeking donations of scrapbook supplies (especially stickers) and scrapbook albums (size 6x6, 7x7, and 8x8) for this event. We are also looking for scrapbookers who would help the foster kids create their Lifebooks.

As you can see, **WE NEED YOU!**

If you can help, please contact Shelley at 314.367.8373 or at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org

Letter from the FACC President

Dear Friends of FACC,

THANK YOU to everyone who granted Little Wishes for our kids during the holidays. They received dolls, books, dinosaurs, globes, bicycles, games, digital cameras, and more. Your generosity makes the Little Wishes holiday program possible. Our small staff couldn't offer this program without our dedicated **volunteers** who spent hours in our office ordering the gifts online to be sent directly to the children. Sincerest thanks to all our volunteers for the invaluable gift of time. You are the best! And of course, special thanks to **KSDK NewsChannel 5** for their exceptional commitment to our children. What a terrific community partner.



As 2008 came to an end, staff and board completed a new five-year strategic plan that sets an exciting and challenging course filled with promise—for our programs and for our children in foster care, many of whom wait for a forever family. Please check it out on FACC's website at www.foster-adopt.org—click on About Us.

Extreme Recruitment, the innovative new program FACC launched in March 2008, is highly successful! In just eight months, 35 of 42 children were matched with families. This is especially exciting because FACC staff works with the hardest to place kids, teens and sibling groups, and children with emotional, physical, or educational concerns. Our goal in the next five years is to find permanent homes for the 500 children waiting to be adopted. When Extreme Recruitment is put into action as soon as a child becomes available for adoption, the time spent in foster care will be dramatically shortened.

The Board of Directors and the staff have set ambitious goals for 2009 and beyond. Please join us in our important work to find homes for children. There are so many ways for you to help. Thank you for sharing our vision

For every child . . . A place to call home.

All the best,

Jeff Haller, Board President

A Clarinet for Anthony

One of the children in our Wendy's Wonderful Kids program is **11-year old Anthony** who has been in foster care since he was just three-years old. Anthony is quiet and shy, but becomes more engaging when he gets to know you. He is smart and articulate, and is very proud of doing well in school. He hasn't had much joy in his life, until he discovered the clarinet. He loves it! His elementary band teacher says Anthony has a real aptitude for music, and is doing quite well.



However, the problem was getting the clarinet (provided by the school) to and from school. His foster dad loves music and plays other instruments with him at home. Staff spread the word that we needed a clarinet for Anthony. **Susan Harvey**, a volunteer on our Old Bags™ committee, made it her mission to find a clarinet! Thanks to **Sandy Griggs** and **School Music USA**, Anthony now has his own clarinet to practice with any time he wants. This has really boosted his self-esteem.

Thank you Susan, Sandy, and School Music USA—WHAT A GIFT!

A BIG Thank you to our Volunteers!

So many individuals have volunteered their time and labor to Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition. We are very grateful for their support!

Little Wishes:

Many thanks to those who helped process Little Wishes in our office in December – **Deanna Bock, Carolyn Buselmeier, Ann Colletti, Carrie and Seth Crompton, Sabrina Donegan, John Fairrow, Kelly Floyd, Dacia Gerken, Lynne Glickert, Linda Hardy, Nicki Hill, Kim Hocher, Bethena Hunt, Colleen Hogan, Amy Hughes, Angela Lawson, Sandy Marsh, Kevin Oesch, Anna Rhodes, Courtney Rorie, Curtis Sittenfeld, Brittany Stillwell, Ann White, Tracy Walsh, Jessica Winter, Cecile Young.**

A special thank you to **Thomson Reuters** who donated \$1,500 to our Little Wishes program, and to the Thomson Reuters employees who volunteered in our office granting Little Wishes. We are very grateful to **Sara Dirnberger** who organized the Thomson Reuters volunteers.

A big thank you as well to **Quik Cash employees** for their donations to the KidStore and our Little Wishes program. Thanks to **Teresa Jones, Andrea McCarty, and Jacki Spaval** at Quik Cash for organizing the drive and for spending a day granting Little Wishes in our office. We truly appreciate the many volunteers who helped at our Little Wishes Shopping Extravaganza at the Kirkwood Wal-Mart, including our captains **Jane Charbonneau, Betty Kupke, and Anna Rhodes.**

Training Extravaganza:

Many thanks to the volunteer group from **U.S. Bank** who assembled our ornaments and brainstormed children's activities for future Training Extravaganza events. Thanks to the volunteers who made financial education presentations to the kids at our last Training Extravaganza – **Cynthia Crim, Brad Henderson, Laverne Howard, Aimee McDaniel, Kelly Miriani, Laura Ng and Julia Otto.** We are also grateful to **April Forrester** and her co-workers at **Festo Corporation** who organized a fall festival for our kiddos.

KidStore:

We are thrilled to have found **David Muich** who has become a big asset to our KidStore. We are so thankful for the support from **Two Rivers Church, Delta Sigma Theta** and the other individuals and groups who conducted clothing and winter coat drives. We are also very appreciative of **Carey Hudnut** and the girls in her jewelry club who continue to donate beautiful beaded jewelry for girls in foster care.

Foster Families:

A warm thank you to **KAI Design & Build, Allstates World Cargo** and **Tim Kraft** for helping to get furnishings to foster families.

Girl Power Trivia:

We thank **Bertie Dame** and **Girl Scout troop 4236** for collecting scrapbook donations at their Girl Power Trivia Event.

Birthday Buddy:

The extraordinary generosity of our Birthday Buddy donors has made the program a success! A huge thank you to **Brad and Robin Garlich** of **Garlich Printing** for printing the flyers to promote the program free of charge. We are also so thankful to **Melissa Cella** and the **Living Water Academy, Jami Allensworth** and the **Dream Center**, and Mary Kennedy and **Pack 646** at St. Catherine's parish who brightened the birthdays of many foster children. Many, many thanks to all of the children and adults who have donated birthday presents to foster children through the Birthday Buddy program. This program would not be possible without **Debbie Schoemel** who volunteers to coordinate the program.

Book Fair:

The eight participating St. Louis area **Barnes & Noble** stores collected **13,721 books!** (We beat last year's total by 1,708!) Our top store this year was Crestwood, and our top Bookseller was **Carole Wantz** at Ladue, who collected 1,000 books all on her own.



HELP WITH SCAVENGER HUNT

On **Saturday, May 30**, FACC will hold an all-day event for foster families. We are planning a day of fun-filled activities for the kids, and we would like for an energetic group of volunteers to organize a scavenger hunt.

All volunteers must be 21 years or older. For more information, please contact Shelley Thomas-Benke at 314.367.8373 or via e-mail at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org.

THANK YOU WHITFIELD SCHOOL

Volunteers from Whitfield School collected a truck full of sports equipment for the KidStore. This effort was headed by Matt Chabot and Jonathan Rothman for their Junior Class Community Service Project.



If you would like to update your contact information, or if you no longer wish to receive **Fostering Hope**, please:

Request in writing :

FACC—Heather Kemper
111 N. Seventh Street, Ste. 402
St. Louis, MO 63101

By telephone toll-free:

800.FOSTER.3 (367.8373) x36

Or by e-mail:

heatherkemper@foster-adopt.org.

If you would like to switch to, or receive **eFosteringHope**, sign up at www.foster-adopt.org/enews.

Fostering Hope

Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a non-profit agency that strives to create permanency in foster children's lives by recruiting and retaining foster and adoptive families.

For Every Child... A Place to Call Home!

FACC WISH LIST

For The KidStore

- NEW socks and underwear
- NEW shoes
- Pajamas
- Clothing for TEENS
- Baby equipment

For FACC

- **Handbags** for Old Bags™
- **A new home**—looking for a building with 10,000 sq. feet!
- **Prizes** for the children at Training Extravaganzas
- **Gift cards**—Target, WalMart, Schnucks, McDonald's, and movie theatres.
- **Financial donations** are always appreciated.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Join us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** or **MySpace** to view upcoming events like Old Bags™ and Trivia Nights, see which of your friends are fans, and make new online connections.

Junior Board News

The Junior Board was out in full force at the Loop Ice Festival in the Delmar Loop area. Thanks to **Jadea Abolahrari, Carla Allen, Maggie Dougherty, Devin H. Carrie Mattingly, Jackie Olinger, Bhavik Patel** who baked and sold yummy cupcakes and painted faces of eager children.



A great crowd turned out at **The Old Rock House** for the first **Happy Hour** of 2009 hosted by the Junior Board! What a fun evening of good friends, good food and drinks, music and best of all, raising funds to help FACC find homes for children. **Lia Geinosky** spearheaded the effort with hefty assists from **Jadea Abolahrari, Carla Allen, Aimee Bergan, Maggie Dougherty, Megan Green, Preston Humphrey, Maria Moore, Jackie Olinger, Kristen Reynolds, Bhavik Patel, Sam Schmiz, David Singer, Tim Walshausser.**

Junior Board Upcoming Events

TRIVIA NIGHT—Saturday, May 9th

One City Centre / \$200 per table of 8

A night of trivia complete with a silent auction, good eats and drinks. www.foster-adopt.org/trivianight

RED BALL RUMBLE—Saturday, July 25th.

Teams forming now—don't miss out! \$400 per team. Come relive your childhood recess at the third annual Kick Ball Tournament. www.foster-adopt.org/kickball

To learn more, visit www.foster-adopt.org or email us at faccjuniorboard@gmail.com.

