

# FOSTERING HOPE



Proud member of

United Way  
of Greater St. Louis



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## FINDING FOREVER HOMES FOR CHILDREN FOR OVER 30 YEARS



## THE COALITION IS ON THE MOVE!

In early 2011, the Coalition hopes to move into our new facility in the Joseph H. White building in Brentwood. The new Foster and Adoption Resource Center will bring together in one location the services our families need, like support groups, workshops, training, and more. In addition to our offices, this new site will also be home to **ReFresh** – our new resale shop!

**ReFresh** is designed to be a destination where teens and twenties come together for fun and fashion, united in a celebration of shopping, sharing, and helping each other. **ReFresh** will serve the entire St. Louis community by:

- Providing quality clothing for youth in foster care who receive a clothing allowance of just \$200 a year from the State;
- Offering hundreds of volunteer hours for local high school and college students who will coordinate "Clothes to Home" clothing drives and volunteer in the store;
- Contributing to the sustainability of the Foster and Adoption Resource Center (ReFresh will be open to the public on weekends, generating revenue to support our important work of finding forever families for children.); and
- Providing on-the-job training for foster youth to prepare them for future employment

With a goal to raise \$700,000 to renovate the space, we are almost halfway there! Your gift today will help us reach this goal and begin construction. Every gift is tax-deductible and NAP tax credits are available. Experience a computerized "walk through," by visiting [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org), click on About Us and then "Foster and Adoption Resource Center" in the left-hand column. From there, scroll down and click on the link to view an animated walk-through of the Foster and Adoption Resource Center.

### How Can You Help?

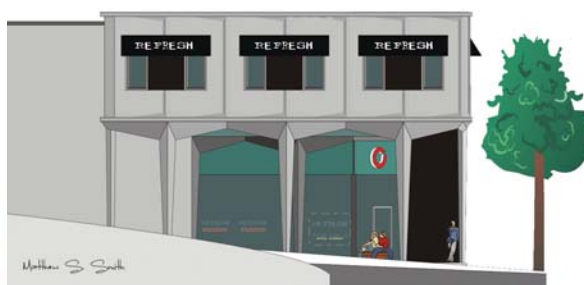
There are many tax-deductible ways that you can help the Coalition complete our building initiative and support our programs for children and families.

- A one-time, cash gift
- A pledge (leadership gifts payable over a three-year period)
- Appreciated stocks, bonds, and other securities
- In-kind gifts of building materials, labor, and professional services

In addition, we are offering a limited number of naming opportunities as a gesture of appreciation for major gifts.

### Commemorative Gift Opportunities

- **Foster and Adoption Resource Center**
- **Live Laugh Learn** (Training room)
- **Live Laugh Loft** (Stage and music center)
- **Change for Good** (Runway/changing room)
- **Live Laugh Lounge** (Media center/gathering place)
- **ReFresh: Changing Clothes, Changing Lives**



Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition  
FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

## LETTER FROM THE COALITION PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Coalition,

My wife, Kathi, and I joined the Board of the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition in 2003. As adoptive parents ourselves, we have a deep appreciation for the mission and the passion of the Coalition's families. We couldn't pass up the chance to get more involved, and are truly proud to be a part of this fantastic organization.

As my term on the Board of Directors comes to an end, I have been looking back at how far we have come since 2003 – and how far we still have to go. The past few years have been a period of amazing growth! It is a credit to the staff and others who have served on the Board that this growth has been managed so responsibly. In 2003, there were five staff members. All are still with the organization, and have been joined by 18 more dedicated individuals. In 2003, our adoption programs included "A Place to Call Home" with KSDK NewsChannel 5 and "A Child in Need," which featured children in area newspapers. Now we have Extreme Recruitment® as well, a groundbreaking adoption program that has gained national attention. In these few years, in addition to offering training and support groups for parents, we have added a full spectrum of support programs for all family members: youth workshops and support groups, educational advocacy, Little Wishes, Birthday Buddies, resource referral, and our newest program, 24/7 crisis intervention for adoptive families.

Looking at this growth, it is hard to believe we're not yet finished! There is still more to do to ensure children in foster care are placed in permanent, loving homes as soon as possible and to support children and families throughout the process. In the coming year, to expand programs even further, we will move to a new facility. We will also add a resale shop to provide high-quality clothing to foster families AND raise funds to support our increased services.

What a great time to be involved in the Coalition! I hope you will join us as we move forward – growing to serve more families, better!

All the best,



Jeff Haller



## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Matthew Smith**, Creative Design; **David Rhodes**, Architect; **David Cowell**, Structural Engineer; and **Machelle Blankenship**, Commercial Interior Design, for their generous donations of time and talent to help design the Foster and Adoption Resource Center.

**Chris Schmiz**, **Sam Schmiz** and **Susan Salzman**, who have donated many hours to help brand our new resale shop, ReFresh.

**AJ Rosenberg** and **Swiss American Inc.** for providing the fabulous cheese and crackers served at the Coalition's Open House.

**Cathy Brown**, **Nick & Suzanne Gleason**, **Jamie McCarthy**, **Annalise O'Brien**, and **Susan Turken**, for the donations of beds and bedroom furniture. They've helped get several foster children settled into their new pre-adoptive homes. We're also extremely grateful for **Junior Board members Carla Allen**, **Ryan Blackburn**, and **David Singer**, as well as **Ted & Jenny Fanon**, who helped transport the donated items.

**John Bogdanor** and **Jim & DJ Welch** for continuing to make foster children's dreams come true through their generous support of our Little Wishes program.

**Cari Iken**, who taught children to make bead jewelry at the August Training Extravaganza.

**The Boys & Girls Club of St. Charles County** for hosting a Parents' Night Out. We're also very grateful to **Foster Friends Larry Doggett**, **Laura Mazzaresse**, **Kelly Kern-Miriani**, **Jan Otto**, **Gretchen Schimmel**, **Sean Stark**, **Carol Watts**, and **John Watts**, for supervising the kids at the event.

**Monsanto's Women's Leadership Giving** group for once again creating and donating gorgeous scrapbooks for our kids, including extra stickers and pages.

**NASCAR Speedpark** for providing a special rate, enabling the Foster Friends volunteers to host a Parents' Night Out there. The event was a complete success and the kids had a blast!

## OLD BAGS™ 2011

Do you love handbags by Chanel, Fendi, Louis Vuitton, Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Dior, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors, Coach, and Tory Birch? If so, plan to come to the 5th annual Old Bags™ party on April 26, 2011! More about the party soon, but planning has already begun. Want to join a fun and dedicated group of women on the Old Bags™ committee and plan the biggest and best girls' night out in St. Louis? Call Debbie at 314.367.8373, x38 or email her at [debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org](mailto:debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org) – we'd love to welcome you to the Old Bags™ Committee!

If you have a great bag(s) to donate, please take it to one of the following drop-off locations:

### Doncaster Studios

8001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117

### Susan Lynn's

1122 Town & Country Crossing, Chesterfield, MO 63017

### The Designing Block

7735 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117



111 North Seventh Street, Suite 402  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101

p 314.367.8373 or 800.FOSTER.3  
f 314.241.0716

[www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org)

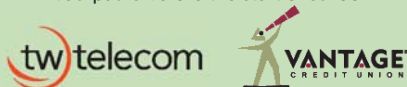
**Nicki Millburg** and **Tara Oettle**, for making delicious birthday cakes for the youth in our adoption programs.

**John Lee, Katie Werner, Eric Werner, and Ken Smith**, for moving a foster/adoptive family's belongings into a new residence after their home flooded.

**Fox Theater** for donating 100 tickets to Shrek, and **Susan Harvey** for taking two families to the St. Louis Symphony.



Children in foster care celebrate their new backpacks before the start of school!



Employees at **tw telecom** for donating school supplies and backpacks to foster children.

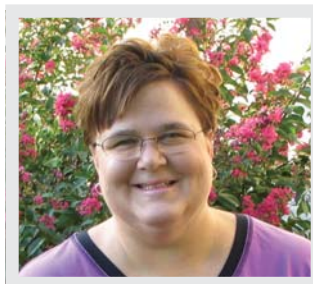
**Corporate Claims Management, Meyer Real Estate, National Imaging Associates, and Vantage Credit Union** for donating hundreds of school supplies and backpacks. Thanks also to **Kristen Weber DiBianca, Susan Harvey, Jamie McCarthy, David & Cori Neiters and family, Jan Otto, Anna Rhodes, Bob Righter, and Kathy Ziegler and family** for sorting school supplies into backpacks.

## ADAM GOLDBERG & THE ST. LOUIS RAMS ARE HELPING FOSTER CHILDREN

Special thanks to our wonderful friend, St. Louis Rams Offensive Tackle, **Adam Goldberg**, and the **St. Louis Rams** for donating 25 Rams tickets for foster and adoptive families for every home game during the 2010-2011 football season.

## SUPERSTAR VOLUNTEER — KELLY KERN-MIRIANI

Adopted herself, **Kelly Kern-Miriani** was drawn to the Coalition and its mission. "Every child deserves to feel special. A family can be so much more than blood relations," says Kelly. Kelly began volunteering at the Coalition by teaching financial education to foster children. Now she helps regularly and is one of our most active volunteers. When asked what her favorite volunteer experience was, Kelly answered, "Without a doubt, the Parents' Day Out at NASCAR Speedpark. We had a blast—the kids had the time of their lives! They made me feel like a kid again!"



Shelley Thomas-Benke, Director of FosterServe Volunteers, thinks that Kelly is a very special volunteer. "Kelly is always cheerful; she's so funny and loving with the kids, and she's always willing to help. She's terrific! She's even encouraged her employer, **Steve Pfaff at Allstates WorldCargo**, to support the Coalition." AllStates has stored and transported bedroom furniture to help transition foster children into pre-adoptive homes. In addition, AllStates is even storing furniture for the Coalition's new office. Kelly's volunteerism, enthusiasm, and support for the Coalition is truly appreciated. For more information on becoming a Foster Friend volunteer, please call Shelley at 314.367.8373 x29.

## ROCKSTAR'S AUTOGRAPH THRILLS BIRTHDAY BUDDY



When Birthday Buddy, **Joe Williams-Nelson** donated her birthday gifts to Amber, a foster child, she could not have imagined how incredible the experience would become. Joe received many wonderful gifts for Amber. To her surprise, Lucky Strike Lanes, where she celebrated her birthday, donated a pink bowling pin, autographed by the Rockstar, P!nk!

Amber was overwhelmed and grateful for all of her gifts. When she opened the autographed bowling pin, she was thrilled! Amber was already a P!nk fan, but now she's a

HUGE P!nk fan. "It has been hard for Amber to feel different," her father says, "I told her that God used Birthday Buddies to tell her that she deserved to be loved and to feel special."

The greatest news of all, Amber and her siblings were adopted by their foster parents a few weeks ago! "Even though they have only been here about seven months," says her adoptive father, "Our love for them is immeasurable. They are ours and we are theirs."

## MOSBY BUILDING ARTS HELPS OUT

Generous employees of Mosby Building Arts volunteered hours of their time and expertise to help two of our families. Tyler, **Sam, and Colton Cluff, Rick Henson, and Doug McCauley** worked to construct a new bedroom for a foster child being welcomed into his permanent home!



**Brian Brocco, Eric Fick, Rick Henson, Ryan Lane, and Doug McCauley** joined **Coalition Junior**

**Board members, Ryan Blackburn, Jenny & Kevin Reid, David Singer, and Kristen Weber** to build an accessibility ramp to ensure a foster child with a degenerative disease could safely and comfortably remain with his foster family. Our families are so grateful for these incredible gifts. Thank you for caring about our children!

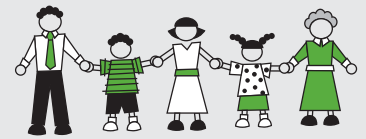


**Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition**  
FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

# FOSTERING HOPE

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a not-for-profit agency which strives to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community.



Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition  
111 North Seventh Street, 402  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101

Nonprofit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
St. LOUIS MO  
PERMIT # 462

## OUR WISHLIST

### For The KidStore

- > Baby items
- > Boys & girls clothes—sizes 2T to 8 yrs.
- > Winter clothing
- > NEW socks and underwear of all sizes

### For the Coalition

- > Great handbags for Old Bags™
- > Prizes and giveaways for the kids at Training Extravaganzas
- > Financial donations are always appreciated

## UPDATE YOUR INFO

To update your email, mailing address, or phone number, please contact Jessi Brawley, Development & Community Relations Manager, at 314.367.8373 x36 or [jessibrawley@foster-adopt.org](mailto:jessibrawley@foster-adopt.org).

## JUNIOR BOARD NEWS

The Junior Board hosted the 4th Annual **Red Ball Rumble** Kick Ball Tournament on Saturday, July 31st at Fenton Park. More than 250 individuals participated on 17 different teams! Team **Running from the Cops** took home the first place trophy for the second year in a row and are already bragging about a possible "three-peat" in 2011!

Thanks to our sponsors for generously underwriting the tournament:

**Blue Sky Vineyard, David & Peggy Davis, Gordon Food Service, New Belgium Brewing, Rhodney Construction, Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C., Schlafly Beer, Save-A-Lot, Thomas Food Marketing, and Zero Balancing.**

Special thanks to tournament Co-Chairs, **Lia Geinosky** and **Misty Watson** and their committee: **Aimee Bergan, Alex Detrick, Maggie Dougherty, Jackie Olinger, and Jennifer Rutherford**. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped make it a great day, including the umpires from the **Amateur Softball Association**, and to **Ryan Blackburn** and **David Singer** for adding their "muscle" to the day! The Red Ball Rumble raised almost \$10,000 to find forever families for children in foster care. Thank you, Junior Board!

## SOCIAL NETWORKING

Join us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fosteradopt](http://www.facebook.com/fosteradopt)), Twitter, and Flickr to view upcoming events like Old Bags™, and Junior Board events. See which of your friends are fans, and make new connections online! Visit [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org).

## GOODSEARCH

Raise money for us by searching the web with GoodSearch.com and shopping online with GoodShop.com. Enter "Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition" as your organization of choice.

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