

# FOSTERING HOPE



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United Way  
of Greater St. Louis



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## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FINDING HOMES FOR CHILDREN



## OLD BAGS™ PARTY—TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH



The hunt is on for the perfect bag! The 5th Annual Old Bags™ party is Tuesday, April 26th at the **Frontenac Hilton Hotel** (NEW location) from 6 to 9 p.m. Please plan to come to the best girls' night out in town! You will be greeted with a signature cocktail, nibble fabulous hors d'oeuvres, splurge on decadent chocolates from **Lake Forest Confections**, and enjoy an evening with girlfriends! Every purchase helps us find forever families for children in foster care! How could it be any better?

The silent auction will feature handbags from designers like Tory Burch, Marc Jacobs, Prada, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Kate Spade, Burberry, Coach, Cole Haan, and so many more.

This event sells out every year, so make your reservation today at [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org). To receive an invitation in the mail, send your name and address to [debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org](mailto:debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org).

Thanks to **Neiman Marcus** for donating this fabulous Gucci "Boston" Handbag in GG canvas with coral leather trim for the raffle. This is the hottest bag of the season and is valued at \$1,000! Purchase raffle tickets online at: [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org). The winner will be drawn at Old Bags™, but need not be present to win.



Sponsorships also available – call Debbie at 314.367.8373 and learn how you can be part of the fun that is Old Bags™!

## [RE]FRESH: A FASHION COALITION™

[RE]FRESH: A Fashion Coalition™ will open soon and we need your help to get ready for opening day! [RE]FRESH will be located at 1710 S. Brentwood Blvd., and will be open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. All proceeds will directly support our programs. [RE]FRESH will offer special pricing to foster and adoptive families, stretching the limited amounts kids in foster care receive for clothes each year - on average of just \$200 per child!

### Volunteers Needed at [RE]FRESH

Help is needed sorting, entering, tagging, folding, merchandising, and selling clothes.

### Host a clothing drive!

Now, and continuing after the store opens, we need clothing and accessories to fill our shelves. Our store inventory will consist of recycled clothing (size 12 youth and up) – **things you would lend your best friend!** We also need gently-used accessories, purses, backpacks, and new undergarments. A clothing drive is a perfect way for a class, scout troop, family, church, or other group to positively impact the lives of area foster children. To learn more about [RE]FRESH, volunteering, or holding a clothing drive, please contact Jen Frey, Director - [RE]FRESH, at [jenfrey@foster-adopt.org](mailto:jenfrey@foster-adopt.org). Our welcome mat will be out soon – watch for it!

View an animated walk-through at [www.refreshstl.org](http://www.refreshstl.org), or become a fan at [www.facebook.com/refreshstl](http://www.facebook.com/refreshstl).

## LETTER FROM THE COALITION PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

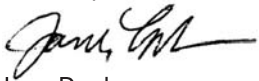
It's hard to believe that Spring is finally here! During this season of rejuvenation, the Coalition is focused on growth. We will move into our new dream home – conveniently located within a 30-minute drive of more than 80% of the region's foster and adoptive families – and renew our commitment to the community to seek out and fill gaps in services for these families.

The new Foster and Adoption Resource Center will become a one-stop community gathering place where children and families can access vital services and come together in support of one another. We are so grateful to those who have supported this new facility, from our generous donors to the many groups and individuals who have volunteered their time and talents to get the space ready. The effort reminds us of an old-fashioned barn raising, and we feel extraordinarily lucky to be the beneficiary of so much kindness. Please watch for your invitation to our grand opening next month - you will be amazed!

Following our tradition of creating programs to address specific unmet needs, the Coalition has launched a new program, 30 Days to Family. This program was inspired by the success of Extreme Recruitment. The lessons we learned through that groundbreaking process will be applied to cases of children just entering foster care. It is our hope that, in partnership with the Family Courts in St. Louis City and County as well as the Children's Division, we will find safe family members to care for children before they spend years in foster care.

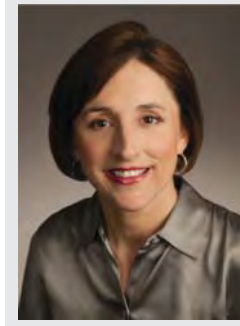
As we look forward to an amazing 2011, we hope you are as excited as we are. Thank you so much for your continued, generous support!

Sincerely,



Jane Dueker

President, Board of Directors



## ANOTHER FABULOUS LITTLE WISHES SEASON

Thanks to the generosity of the community, 3,294 Little Wishes made their way to local foster and adopted children this holiday season!

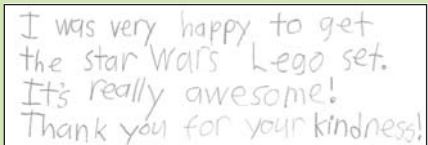
Thank you **Kirkwood Walmart** for hosting our Little Wishes Shopping Day and **FedEx** for shipping all of the Little Wishes purchased that day. We were also thrilled to receive \$1,000 from **Kirkwood Walmart** for Little Wishes!

We were blessed to have more than 100 volunteers ensure kids received a gift in time for Christmas. A special thanks to volunteer groups from **Bank of America, Kirkwood Evening Optimists, Mercer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Teradata, Thomson Reuters,** and **Trek Bicycle Shop.**

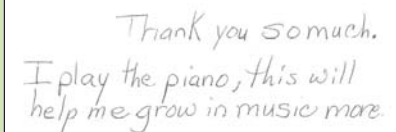
**Nestlé Purina** employees continue to support foster families by donating Christmas dinners and presents to families in need as well as donating funds to support Little Wishes.

**Edward Jones** generously donated over 100 holiday gifts to youth in our Extreme Recruitment® program. Many beautiful holiday gifts were also given to foster children by **St. Louis Dream Center** and **Old Hickory Golf Club.**

### A note from Robby...



### A note from Shantelle...



## GREAT YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Your child's church youth group or other school/scout troop can help foster children while having a blast with their friends by hosting a Kid's Trivia Event. We have designed a new 2-hour trivia program for kids in grades 3 to 7. We'll provide a PowerPoint with age-appropriate trivia questions about movies, sports, books, etc., and ask you to collect items for teens in foster care at your event. For more information, contact Shelley Thomas-Benke, Director of FosterServe Volunteers at [shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org) or 314.367.8373.



## LOVE TO PLAN PARTIES?

We're looking for volunteers to help plan fall, winter, and spring room parties for 3 to 5 year olds, 6 to 8 year olds, and 9 to 10 year olds. Games, arts & crafts activities, and other fun ideas are appreciated. Help put on the party or just share your ideas. Please contact Shelley at 314.367.8373 or [shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org).



## FANTASTIC FUN FOR KIDS AND PARENTS

Thanks to **Kid's World Gymnastics** for hosting a Parents' Night Out event – the kids loved the trampolines and the foam pit. Thanks also to the **St. Louis Basketball Academy**, who generously treated kids to an afternoon of fun and skills building.



### FORMER FOSTER YOUTH FEATURED ON "A PLACE TO CALL HOME" GIVES BACK WITH ART

In 2003, Dion was featured on "A Place to Call Home" on KSDK News-Channel 5. After his story aired, Dion finally found his forever family. Seven years later, Dion and his Dad came back to the KSDK studios to paint a mural. "Thanks to KSDK and the Coalition, I have a real home, where there's love. This is just my way of giving back," Dion said.



### EXTREME RECRUITMENT® IN TIME!

The January 10th issue of TIME Magazine features Extreme Recruitment®, a collaboration of the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, the Missouri Children's Division and private contracted agencies, the Family Courts, and other child welfare organizations.

The article details one child's connection with her family through Extreme Recruitment. According to TIME, Extreme Recruitment may "pave the way to revolutionize the foster care system in America." This isn't the first time Extreme Recruitment has received national attention. In 2010, the New York Times ran a story about the groundbreaking program. To read the full TIME article, please visit [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org).

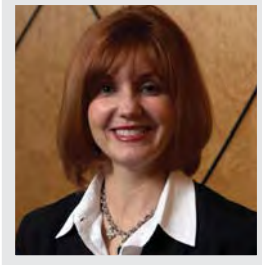
This program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, under Children's Bureau Grant number 90C010391.



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—MELODY NOEL

In 2006, Melody Noel came to the Coalition with a fabulous idea for a fundraiser – a party featuring new and like-new designer handbags in a silent auction. Old Bags™ would be a "bring your girlfriends for a fun night out" party. The rest is history!

Melody chaired Old Bags™ that first year and continues to serve on the steering committee, taking care of the arrangements each year. Her enthusiasm, expertise, and organizational skills have made Old Bags™ not only successful, but tons of fun too! Her sense of style influences the displays and her eagle eye determines if a bag is genuine or gasp – a fake! As a member of our Board of Directors, and an attorney, Melody brings sharp analytical skills and offers wise advice. Thank you, Melody, for all you do for the Coalition and for our kids.



### THANKS, [RE]FRESH VOLUNTEERS & ASSOCIATES!

We greatly appreciate the students from Crossroads School, College Bound/Wyman, Principia Upper School, and the Ervin Scholarship Program at Washington University for sorting clothing donations. Special thanks to the Jewish Social Action Network for their all-day volunteer event at the store. We are grateful to the Black Pages, teachers in the Collinsville School District, Delta Sigma Theta, Fontbonne University, Marquette Key Club, and Webster Groves Presbyterian Church for their wonderful clothing donations to [RE]FRESH. Thanks also to Maryville University for donating the proceeds of their Fashion Show to the new store. We are thankful to the Little Black Dress for donating store fixtures, dresses, and more!

Once again, Kelly Kern-Miriani and Allstates WorldCargo, supported us by transporting and storing [RE]FRESH fixtures and furniture.

Our store associates, older youth in foster care, are receiving vocational training at [RE]FRESH to prepare them for future employment. Their hard work is paying off! Associates are showing awesome initiative and demonstrating great professionalism when greeting donors and training volunteers. They are detail-oriented and very organized. We're so lucky to have them!

### LAURA MAZZARESE, FEATURED IN TOWN & STYLE MAGAZINE

Laura is a member of our Board of Directors, serves on the Old Bags™ Committee, and is a Foster Friend. As a valued volunteer, Laura was recently profiled in an article about the Coalition.



### MANY THANKS TO OUR BIRTHDAY BUDDIES!

Birthday Buddy donors made sure that over 150 foster children had special, memorable birthday celebrations in 2010. The following compassionate individuals and groups adopted a foster child and granted his or her birthday wish:

- |  |                                |   |                         |
|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Peggy Behan                                    | Brent Farrow                   | Mary Carter Martin                            | Cathleen Schaeffler     |
| Melissa Behrend                                | Rachel Garlinghouse            | Julianne Matt                                 | Debbie Schoemehl        |
| Kirsten Bergman                                | Pat Getz                       | Kimberly McQueen                              | Abby Shockley           |
| Kari Bjorkland's Church Group                  | Pamela Gillen                  | Megan Moncure                                 | Brogan Schuppan         |
| Verbal Blakely                                 | Girl Scout Troop 333           | Lorinda Moore                                 | Erin Schuppan           |
| Mary Florence Boone                            | Girl Scout Troop 2895          | Keilan Morrissey                              | Laura Segelhorst        |
| Stephanie Buck                                 | Dathan Greene                  | Kathleen Moses                                | Kyle Stockman           |
| Sheri Campbell                                 | Camille Grimes                 | Laura Ng                                      | Kim Streicher           |
| Carlson Wagonlit Travel                        | Caden Hanewinkel               | Meesa Olah                                    | Tara Thebeau            |
| Tina Charpentier                               | Lorie Harper                   | Our Lady of Lourdes 5th Grade Volleyball Team | Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo |
| Kay Cochran                                    | Anne Hensley's 5th Grade Class | Momoko Oyama                                  | Shane & Shelly Walker   |
| Emily Collop                                   | Hyatt Hodges                   | Amanda Peterson's Bible Study Group           | Carol & John Watts      |
| Lee Davis                                      | Benjamin Hutchens              | Melissa Posten                                | Kristen Weber           |
| Chelsea Diestelkamp                            | Ivy Chapel UCC Youth Group     | Rawlings Sporting Goods                       | Mary Whiteaker          |
| Ellen Duncan                                   | Beth Korte                     | Lonnie Ross                                   | Joe Williams-Nelson     |
| Liz Fendler                                    | Riley Lawson                   | Jennifer Ryan                                 | Leslie Wilson           |
| Kristine Fields                                | Kristen Huff                   | Maura Ryan                                    |                         |
| Kelly Filla                                    | Katie Lueken-Delf              | Sadie Saltsman-Buck                           |                         |
| Fontbonne University's Chili Cook-Off for Kids | Kylie Maloney                  | Cullen Saltsman-Buck                          |                         |

# 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  
1750 South Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 146  
Brentwood, Missouri 63144

Nonprofit Org  
US POSTAGE  
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PERMIT # 462

## OUR WISH LIST

### [RE]FRESH

- Clothing and accessories for guys and gals in their teens and twenties
- Groups to hold clothing drives
- New and gently-used supplies for renovation

### Events

- Games, Toys, Electronics for kids
- Great Purses for Old Bags™

### KidStore

- Summer clothes for children ages birth to 12 years

See the full list: [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org).

## JOIN FOSTER FRIENDS!

Bowling, Circus Flora, NASCAR Speed-park... these are just a few of the fun things Foster Friends volunteers will do with foster/adoptive kids this year. You can join the fun and make an impact on a child's life! Please visit [www.foster-adopt.org/fosterfriends](http://www.foster-adopt.org/fosterfriends) to learn about becoming a Foster Friend or call Shelley at 314.367.8373 x29.

## JUNIOR BOARD NEWS

### JUNIOR BOARD EVENTS

#### Trivia Night – 05.07.11

Teams and sponsors needed for the upcoming Annual **Trivia Night** on **May 7th** at **Central Reform Congregation** (5020 Waterman Blvd., 63108). Reserve online at: [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org) (\$25 per person / \$200 for a team of 8). For more info, please email the Junior Board at [faccjuniorboard@gmail.com](mailto:faccjuniorboard@gmail.com) or contact Debbie Genung, Director of Development, at 314.367.8373 x38.

#### CASA Gallardo Night – 05.12.11

Watch for a flyer to take with you – 25% of sales donated to the Coalition!

#### Red Ball Rumble – 07.30.11

This year's Annual **Kickball Tournament** will be held Saturday, July 30th at Fenton Park.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members of our Junior Board:

**Shawna Harris** — Conner Ash P.C.

**Tara Kpere-Daibo** — KD Law Group LLC

## REMEMBER

### IRA GIFTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TAX CREDITS

IRA owners age 70½ and older can donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charity through 2012 *without* having to report the withdrawal as income and may deduct the donation as a charitable contribution! Deductions will not be limited by the Adjusted Gross Income cap on charitable contributions or the itemized deduction phaseout. Keeping IRA distributions out of adjustable gross income can also have other benefits. Amounts donated in this way count as all or part of the IRA owner's required minimum distribution. *It is always advisable to consult a tax professional with individual questions. This information is not legal advice.*

### SOCIAL NETWORKING

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

[www.facebook.com/fosteradopt](http://www.facebook.com/fosteradopt)  
[www.twitter.com/fosteradopt](http://www.twitter.com/fosteradopt)

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