

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

News You Can Use

Illinois Edition



FALL 2010

BIRTHDAY BUDDY PROGRAM

Need help providing birthday presents for your foster child or children? The Birthday Buddy program can help!

Foster parents fill out a short application, providing general information about the child and gift ideas, which are posted on our website. Generous donors sign up to donate some or all of their presents to the child. Parents must pick up the presents at a Coordinator's home in **Waterloo, Illinois**.

Only **foster** children (not adopted) may request a Birthday Buddy. Applications for children with **September, October, November, and December** birthdays are now being accepted. To download an application, please visit www.foster-adopt.org. For more information, please contact Karen at 314.698.1716 or karen-herrington55@gmail.com. You may also contact Shelley at 314.367.8373 x29.



CHILDREN'S HOME & AID ADOPTION SERVICES

Difficulties can arise any time after an adoption takes place. Children's Home & Aid (CH+A) provides services to adoptive families who are experiencing adoption-related difficulties. Services can include in-home and office-based assessments and counseling.

All therapists have a Master's degree and receive ongoing training in adoption related issues. The following counties are served by CH+A: Bond, Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington, and portions of Calhoun and Macoupin. Services are funded by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Those in need of services or additional information can call Jan Gann at 618.452.8900 x147.

LITTLE WISHES DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15TH!



Yes, it's still 90 degrees outside, but it's time to plan for the Little Wishes holiday program! Thanks to **KSDK NewsChannel 5** and thousands of generous donors, children in foster care will receive special holiday gifts. Children are eligible if they live in the IL counties of Bond, Clinton, Washington, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, or Randolph and are currently in the foster care system, or were in foster care, and now live with their adoptive or guardianship family.

The fastest, easiest, and most fun way to request gifts for your children is to log onto:
www.foster-adopt.org/littlewishes/holiday

Before you log on, make sure that you have your **Coalition Caregiver ID**, which can be found **above your address on the outside of this newsletter**. The deadline is **October 15th**. Don't have access to a computer? No problem! Fill out the enclosed forms and return to our office via mail by **October 15th**.

A couple of things to know:

1. Gifts will be shipped to your home and **cannot be shipped to a PO Box**.
2. The name of **current case manager** or adoption/guardianship **subsidy worker** must be provided, and this **WILL be verified**.

How many gifts can your child request? Each child that qualifies for Little Wishes holiday program may choose **one (1) gift from the white sheet** of the enclosed catalog. Children ages five and older who are **CURRENTLY IN FOSTER CARE** may also choose **one (1) gift from the yellow page**. Please fill in the item numbers for the child's gift requests on the referral form. If the referral form is filled out incorrectly, we will select age appropriate gifts for the child.

But didn't we get to request more gifts last year? Yes. Unfortunately, we have had fewer donors grant gifts in the past few years due to the current state of the economy. To eliminate your disappointment and frustration, we reduced the number of gifts requested to reflect the number of gifts that will likely be granted.

How many gifts will your child receive? That depends upon how many donors grant the wishes. **All efforts will be made to fulfill at least one (1) request per child**. One last thing to know: **children currently in foster care always receive priority**. We will contact you by mail when your children's gifts have been fulfilled. For more information, please contact Barbara Kane at 314.367.8373 x26, or barbarakane@foster-adopt.org.

UPCOMING FOSTER PARENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING

DCFS Office of Training has many opportunities for you to receive in-service training hours. You can view the training schedule via their website: http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/library/com_communications_train.shtml. Click on "Foster caregiver in-service training" and "Class description for foster caregiver in-service training" for details on upcoming classes. To register, call DCFS Office of Training at 877.800.3393. For additional questions about in-service training, contact your licensing representative.

- **Impact of Trauma on Brain Development, Learning and Emotions** (4 hours):
Gives strategies to help avoid retraumatizing the child and tips to help heal:
10.20.10 / 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Trinity United Church of Christ (47 N. Douglas Ave., Belleville, IL 62220).



314.FOSTER.3 • 800.FOSTER.3
www.foster-adopt.org





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111 N. Seventh Street, 402
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101

800.FOSTER.3 • 314.367.8373

FAX: 314.241.0715

www.foster-adopt.org

KIDSTORE

The KidStore is a resale shop open exclusively for children in foster care and adoptees.

September Special:

- **Bag Sale**
09.18.10—\$1.00 Saturday

On your first visit, please bring proof of foster/adoptive parent status. Acceptable forms of identification include: foster parent ID, copy of your foster parent license, or board payment check stub.

Hours (except holidays):

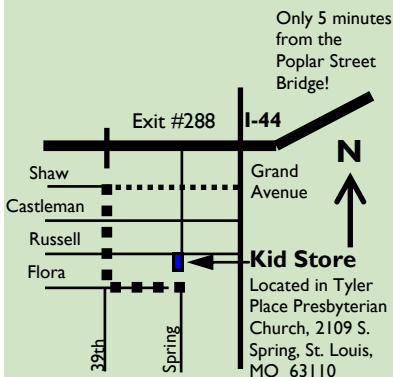
1st and 3rd Wednesday and every Saturday 9 a.m. to noon

CLOSED—09.25.10 - switchover

KidStore Directions:

Located 10 Minutes from Poplar St. Bridge; From IL, cross the Poplar Street Bridge. Take the 2nd exit to I-55/I-44. Take I-44 West to Grand, Exit 288. Take the exit, then turn left on Grand and travel south. Take the first right onto Shaw. Turn left on 39th, left on Flora, and left on Spring. It is located at 2109 South Spring, on the second floor of Tyler Presbyterian Church. Our entrance and parking are at the back of the church.

Map



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT EVENTS

Saturday, September 25th

Foster/adoptive parents can enjoy a night out on **09.25.10 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** while Foster Friends volunteers supervise the kids at **The Boys and Girls Club of St. Charles County**. Kids 7 to 16 years old will enjoy foosball, ping pong, billiards, movies, music, computers, crafts, video games, and more. **You must pre-register** by contacting Nickie Steinhoff at 800.FOSTER.3 or nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org.

Saturday, November 6th

Kids World Gymnastics in Hazelwood is partnering with Foster Friends volunteers to offer a Parents Night Out event on **11.06.10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Foster/adoptive parents will have time to themselves while kids enjoy tumbling, gymnastics, and trampoline fun (including a state-of-the-art, in-ground trampoline and a foam pit)! **Dinner for the kids will be provided. You must pre-register** by contacting Nickie Steinhoff at 800.FOSTER.3 or nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org.

TRAINING EXTRAVAGANZA: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 2010

The Coalition will host a Training Extravaganza on **10.16.10, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The theme of the October Training is *Strengthening Family Relationships*. The Extravaganza is an all-day workshop that allows foster parents to receive 6.5 in-service training hours in one day, and you can bring the kids! This training offers participants knowledge and skills designed to help create a sense of belonging for children in foster care by providing awareness and solutions that will address a variety of issues and challenges. See below for additional information and registration form. You may also download the form at www.foster-adopt.org.

CHILDCARE LOTTERY: *Space limited to 200 adults and 100 children.*

Registration forms must be received by **October 4th** to be included in the childcare lottery. It does not matter if your form is received by mail, e-mail or fax. All requests for childcare received by October 4th will be placed into the same lottery pool. Registration forms will be drawn at random until the 100 childcare slots are filled. All families who register will be **notified by mail**. *If childcare is full, adults are still welcome to attend the workshops and receive 6.5 training hours.*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY		Child's First Name	Age/Gender
Date:	_____	_____	_____
Name:	_____	_____	_____
Name:	_____	_____	_____
Address:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Zip code:	_____	_____	_____
Daytime phone #:	_____	_____	_____
Home phone #:	_____	_____	_____
E-mail:	_____		

Yes, I am still able to attend if childcare is unavailable.

REGISTRATION CLOSES 10.04.10. No phone registrations accepted.

In order for you and your child(ren) to participate, you must agree to attend **all workshops**, complete the registration form, return it, and receive verification from the Coalition that you are registered.

Send registration: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, ATTN: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101, or fax to 314.241.0715.

Please call 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373), if you need to cancel your registration.