



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

News You Can Use

Illinois Edition



Spring 2009

Birthday Buddy

Do you need help providing birthday presents for your foster child(ren)? The Coalition has a resource that could help - **The Birthday Buddy Program!**

Through the program, generous individuals in the community sign up to provide presents to a child in foster care. Foster parents give the Coalition general information about a child with birthday present ideas, which will be posted on our website. Generous individuals and groups visit our website and sign up to choose a child in foster care as their Birthday Buddy.

Often the donor is a child having a birthday party of his own, and he donates his presents to a foster child. Scout troops, school classrooms, and companies have also been donating to the Birthday Buddy program.

After the donated presents are purchased, the foster parent must pick up the birthday presents at the Birthday Buddy Coordinator's home in **Collinsville, Illinois.**

Foster children (not adopted) of **ANY AGE** can request to be matched with a Birthday Buddy. Applications for **June, July, August, and September** birthdays are now being accepted.

For more information, or to request a Birthday Buddy application, please contact **Bob Kime**, the IL Birthday Buddy Coordinator, at 618.345.5315 or via e-mail at mcki@att.net.

You can also contact Shelley Thomas-Benke at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org or by phone at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x29. For additional information, please visit our website at www.foster-adopt.org/birthdaybuddyapp.

A Day at the Ballpark

The organizers of Christian Family Day have again offered to donate Cardinal Baseball tickets for Illinois foster families. Game day is **Saturday, June 27, at 12:10p.m.** when the Cardinals host the Minnesota Twins. In addition to the game, beginning at 9:30a.m. there will be pre- and post-game activities, including Christian music, special Cardinal baseball cards, testimonials from players, a featured speaker, a concert, and lunch. To be eligible, families must reside in Bond, Clinton, Washington, Monroe, Randolph, Madison, or St. Clair Counties.



A total of 100 tickets will be provided at no charge to foster parents and **their immediate families**, including foster, adoptive, and biological children **LIVING IN THE HOME by a lottery drawing.** This is an event for children so please, only two adults from each family.

To place your entry into the drawing, please mail the entry form below to: Jan Joeckel, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, 111 North Seventh Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101. **Entry forms must be received on or before June 15th.** We will **pick the winners on June 16th** and notify them with a phone call the following day. The tickets will be mailed out on the 19th. **Only the winners will be notified.**

Thanks to the Cardinals and the Christian Family Day at the Ballpark organizers for their generosity. This is a great opportunity for the entire family to head to the ballpark and cheer on the Cardinals!

Foster Family Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Phone Numbers: (home) _____	(cell) _____
Email address: _____	Licensing Agency: _____
Number of Adult Tickets: _____	Number of Child(ren) Tickets: _____

End of Summer Parents' Day Out: August 8th



Parents, here's your opportunity to enjoy a few hours of relaxing, shopping/eating in the Kirkwood, MO area, while your kids get to view a live theatre performance.

Stages St. Louis, a leading company for musical performance and education in the Midwest, has generously donated 50 tickets to their **Alice in Wonderland** performance. After the theatre, volunteers and staff from Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition will walk with the kids over to Kirkwood Park for lunch and playtime on Kirkwood Park's new playground. We'll have games for the older kids as well. This Parents' Day Out event takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 8th. **Registration is required and space is limited to the first 50 children registered.**

Children must be at least five years old to participate in this event. To register, contact Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373).



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 Happenings

The KidStore is a resale shop open exclusively to foster/adopt, relative/kin caregivers, caseworkers and GALs/CASAs.

June Special:

- Buy one pair of shorts get t-shirt free

July Special:

- Closed Month of July

Half Off Clothing

Become a regular once-a-month volunteer at the KidStore and get half-off KidStore clothing for your kids. Contact Shelley Thomas-Benke at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x29 or via e-mail at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org.

Classifieds

Check out the Coalition's Online Classifieds (www.foster-adopt.org/classifieds). The Parent to Parent Trade Classifieds is a free section that allows parents to post items they no longer need, and also see what other parents have to offer. The KidStore Classifieds is a section that allows foster parents to see what we have to offer at our KidStore.

Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday;
All Saturdays / 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Located 10 Minutes from
Poplar St. Bridge; Directions:**

From IL, cross the Poplar St. 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.

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Coalition Training Extravaganza: 6.5 Training Hours

THEME: Starting a Successful School Year

The Coalition will host a Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, August 15, from 8:30am - 4:00pm**. The Extravaganza allows foster/adoptive/relative caregivers to receive 6.5 in-service training hours in one day, and allows you to bring the kids. Space is **limited to 200 adults and 100 children**. Because childcare fills up in the first few days, we use a lottery method to process registration. Download a registration form at **www.foster-adopt.org**. In addition to registering with the Coalition, you **MUST** also register with the DCFS Office of Training by calling 877.800.3393.

NEXT TRAINING EXTRAVAGANZA: 10.17.09

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Child's First Name

Age/Gender

Date: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip code: _____

Day Phone #: _____

Home #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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

REGISTRATION CLOSES AUGUST 3, 2009

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 form to: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, ATTN: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th St., Ste. 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.

No phone registrations accepted.