

News You Can Use

Illinois Edition



**111 N. Seventh Street, 402
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www.foster-adopt.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent and Older Youth

Support Groups

03.22.11 / 6 to 8 p.m.

Dinner and childcare provided.

Olivette Community Center

(9723 Grandview Dr., St. Louis, MO 63132). You must register to attend.

To register, contact Nickie nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org or at 800.FOSTER.3.



Parents' Day Out

04.03.11 / 2 to 4 p.m.

Olympiad Gymnastics in Chesterfield Valley is hosting a Parents' Day Out on Sunday, April 3rd from 2 to 4 p.m. for 6 to 12 year olds. Trampolines, foam pit, and tumbling will be enjoyed by all! Space is limited. Please RSVP to Shelley Thomas-Benke, Director of FosterServe Volunteers at 800.FOSTER.3.



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.

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IT'S TAX TIME

The health care reform bill made the U.S. federal adoption tax credit refundable for 2010 and 2011. New guidance from the IRS states that adoption tax credits carried forward from previous years will also be refundable, which means that families who adopted as far back as 2005 but who didn't have enough tax liability to use the credit in the past may be able to take full advantage of the credit with their 2010 return. Both NACAC and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption provide additional information about the adoption tax credit on their websites (www.nacac.org and www.davethomasfoundation.org). They also offer special savings for adoptive families on tax preparation services.

Visit the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's website (www.davethomasfoundation.org) to watch a video about the adoption tax credit and download a coupon for \$25 off tax preparation from Jackson Hewitt. NACAC has partnered with H&R Block to help adoptive parents determine whether they are eligible to receive additional benefits. H&R Block is also offering \$20 off tax preparation. Visit www.nacac.org for more information. *This information is not legal advice. It is always advisable to consult a tax professional with individual questions.*

UPCOMING FOSTER PARENT IN-SERVICE TRAINING

DCFS Office of Training has many opportunities for you to receive in-service training hours. The training schedule can be viewed here: 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.

- **Reunification** (3 hours): **03.14.11** / 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Emanuel United Methodist Church (3993 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, IL 62002)
- **Using Discipline to Protect, Nurture, and Meet Developmental Needs** (9 hours):
04.05.11 and **04.07.11** / 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Trinity United Church of Christ (47 N. Douglas Ave., Belleville, IL 62220)
- **Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family** (6 hours):
04.26.11 and **04.28.11** / 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Trinity United Church of Christ (47 N. Douglas Ave., Belleville, IL 62220)
- **Child Trauma** (4 hours): **04.30.11** / 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Emanuel United Methodist Church (3993 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, IL 62002)
- **Understanding and Promoting Preteen and Teen Development** (6 hours):
05.21.11 / 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Children's Home & Aid (120 East A St., Belleville, IL 62223)