

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

# News You Can Use

## Illinois Edition



Summer 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 **October, November** and **December** 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](mailto:mcki@att.net).

You can also contact Shelley Thomas-Benke at [shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto: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](http://www.foster-adopt.org/birthdaybuddyapp).

### Holiday Little Wishes Deadline is October 15th!



Yes, it's still 80 degrees outside, but it's time to plan for the big Holiday Little Wishes program! Thanks to **KSDK-TV** and thousands of generous donors, children in foster care will receive special Holiday gifts. Children are eligible if they live in the Illinois counties of Bond, Clinton, Madison, Washington, 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](http://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 it 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. Name of current case manager or subsidy worker must be provided, and WILL be verified

How many gifts can your child request? Each child that qualifies for Holiday Wishes may choose **one (1) gift from the white sheet and one (1) gift from the green 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.

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 800.FOSTER.3 x26, or email [barbarakane@foster-adopt.org](mailto:barbarakane@foster-adopt.org).*

### Upcoming Foster Parent In-Service Training

DCFS Office of Training has many opportunities coming up for you to receive your in-service training hours. You can also view the training schedule via their website: [http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/library/com\\_communications\\_train.shtml](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 regarding upcoming classes.

To register, call DCFS Office of Training at 877.800.3393. If you have any additional questions about in-service training, please contact your licensing representative.

- **September 26 / 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. / Saturday**  
**Module #9: Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family** (6hrs);  
Trinity United Church of Christ, 24 N. Douglas Ave., Belleville, IL 62220
- **December 5 / 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. / Saturday**  
**Child Trauma** (4hrs);  
DCFS Office, 10251 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL 62025



314.FOSTER.3 • 800.FOSTER.3

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

#### October Special:

- 1/2 off black & orange clothing

#### November Special:

- 1/2 off dress & dress pants

#### December Special:

- 1/2 off dress & dress pants

#### 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 x29 or at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org.

#### Classifieds

Check out the Coalition's Online Classifieds ([www.foster-adopt.org/classifieds](http://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:**

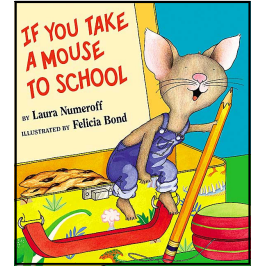
From IL, cross the Poplar St. Bridge. Take the 2nd exit to I-55/I-44. Take I-44 West to Grand, Exit 288. Take the exit, then turn left on Grand and travel south. Take the first right onto Shaw. Turn left on 39th, left on Flora, and left on Spring. It is located at 2109 South Spring, on the second floor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

### 10th Annual Family Ties: FREE Night at the Theatre

Each November, the Coalition celebrates Adoption Awareness Month by offering foster/adopt/relative families a FREE night at the theatre with the annual Family Ties event.

The one-hour children's theatre production is always a hit with children of all ages. The **10th Annual Family Ties** event will take place **Saturday, November 28th, 2009** at 6:30p.m. This year's production is a children's favorite, "If You Take a Mouse to School".

*Make sure to bring your cameras, as costume-characters will arrive at 6:00p.m. to meet your entire family! After the show, the actors will be available for photos and autographs.*



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**New this year... Don't let your TEENS miss out** on the chance to learn from a master. DJ AFlex will teach them how to spin and scratch a record. They will also learn about the history of DJ'ing, influence of the music, and hear stories about some of the famous artists he's worked with.

*No reservation necessary.* For more information, Call 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373).

#### Directions to Theatre:

- Take Hwy 270 to New Florissant Road, Travel north on New Florissant Road
- Turn right on Parker, and follow one-mile to the James J. Eagan Center

### Coalition Training Extravaganza: 6.5 Training Hours

#### THEME: Abuse and Neglect - Preparation and Prevention

The Coalition will host a Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, October 17th, 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](http://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.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	Child's First Name	Age/Gender
Date: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____
Address: _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Zip code: _____	_____	_____
Day Phone #: _____	_____	_____
Home #: _____	_____	_____
E-Mail Address: _____	_____	_____

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

#### REGISTRATION CLOSING OCTOBER 2, 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.