

News You Can Use

Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Resource Center

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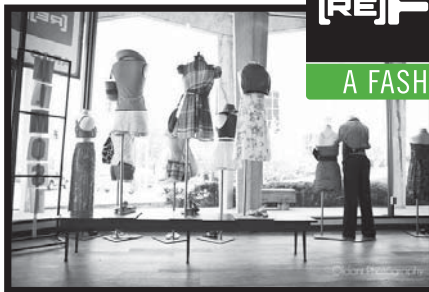
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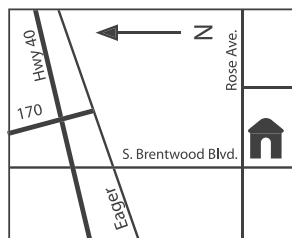
[RE]FRESH IS NOW OPEN!

We have opened the doors to our new store and fashion adventure, [RE]FRESH: A Fashion Coalition™. See inside for important discount procedures for youth in foster care and foster/adoptive/kinship families.



[RE]FRESH
A FASHION COALITION™

HOURS:
Thursdays 11 to 8
(open exclusively to foster youth and foster/adoptive families), **Fridays & Saturdays** 11 to 8 (open to all), **Sundays** 11 to 5 (open to all)



SPECIAL PRICING FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE AND FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, AND KINSHIP FAMILIES. DETAILS INSIDE!

[RE]FRESH is open at 1710 S. Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63144 (at the corner of Brentwood and Rose in the Joseph H. White Building). Park on the top deck of the parking structure.

SUPPORT GROUPS FREE TO FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND OLDER YOUTH

07.19.11 / 6 to 8 p.m.

08.23.11 / 6 to 8 p.m.

Dinner and childcare provided. **NEW LOCATION:** Support groups are now held in the Foster & Adoption Resource Center (1750 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 210, St. Louis, MO 63144). **You must register to attend.**

To register, contact Nickie Steinhoff at 314.367.8373 x2235 or nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org.

FROM THE



FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION

FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Proud member of

United Way
of Greater St. Louis



AUGUST TRAINING EXTRAVAGANZA REGISTRATION AND DETAILS INSIDE!



INTRODUCING... FREE MONTHLY FINANCIAL LITERACY AND JOB PREPARATION WORKSHOPS FOR OLDER YOUTH

The Coalition will host monthly Financial Literacy and Job Preparation Workshops for older youth (youth must be at least 15 years of age to participate) to increase their ability to make informed financial decisions, create a savings plan, and prepare for future employment. Community mentors will be present at the workshops to assist youth in setting financial, educational, and career goals.

Registration is required to attend. To register, contact Nickie at 314.367.8373 x2235 or nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org.

Upcoming Workshop Dates:

07.21.11 / 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

08.06.11 / 10 a.m. to noon



SOCIAL NETWORKS

Keep up-to-date on Coalition happenings and connect with other foster/adoptive parents. Follow us and become fans at:

[Facebook.com/fosteradopt](https://www.facebook.com/fosteradopt)
[Twitter.com/fosteradopt](https://twitter.com/fosteradopt)

DON'T MISS THIS VERY SPECIAL TRAINING EXTRAVAGANZA SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH, WITH SPECIAL GUEST, NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED SPEAKER, PAT O'BRIEN!

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis, the Coalition will host a Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, August 13th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Receive 7.5 in-service training hours in one day at this all-day workshop for foster/adoptive/relative caregivers.

EXTRAVAGANZA AGENDA: Family Advocacy

- **Unconditional Commitment: The Only Love That Matters:** The emphasis of this presentation is that every child in foster care needs one placement and one placement only. Parents will learn the skills needed to deal with children who make adults angry, and how to find strength from within to deal with even the most difficult of children. *Presented by Pat O'Brien, Executive Director, You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc.*
- **Why are Kids in Foster Care "Children with Special Health Care Needs?":** Children in foster care are more likely to have significant health conditions at the time of placement, lack of access to health care during placement, frequent changes of placement, and the lack of continuity of care while supervised. There is also limited access to needed providers given Medicare coverage. Parents will better understand the unique health concerns for children and youth in foster care, identify national guidelines for health care supervision, and learn about a new health care initiative. *Presented by Sarah Garwood, M.D., Adolescent Medicine, Washington University, Department of Pediatrics.*
- **Helping Your Child Succeed in School:** Participants will increase their knowledge of state and federal education laws related to children in foster care. Participants will increase their understanding of academic language, learning styles and multiple intelligences. Parents will understand their role and rights in the school and how to better advocate for their children in educational settings. *Presented by Leslie Lewis, Director of Educational Advocacy, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition.*

KID'S CURRICULUM: We have lots of fun activities planned for the kids, including a carnival and trivia game, school supplies for the new school year and much more! Citi financial education will be provided for all children ages 6 and older.

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

Registration forms must be received by **August 5th** to be included in the childcare lottery. ALL requests for childcare received by **August 5th** 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 7.5 training hours.

PRINT CLEARLY. REGISTRATION CLOSES 08.05.11. No phone registrations accepted.

TRAINING EXTRAVAGANZA REGISTRATION

	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.

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. You may also download the form at www.foster-adopt.org.

Send Training Extravaganza Registration to: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, ATTN: Registrations, 1750 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 210, St. Louis, MO 63144, or fax to 314.241.0715. Please call 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373), if you need to cancel your registration.

24-HOUR CRISIS INTERVENTION FOR PRE- AND POST-GUARDIANSHIP/ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY

We help families:

- 1) manage immediate crises;
- 2) improve child, parent, and sibling relationships;
- 3) increase family self-management skills; and
- 4) prevent disruption.

For immediate assistance, call Dawn Milburn, Lead Family Intervention Specialist at 314.614.2342. Crisis Intervention is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.



FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

To promote permanency and prevent out-of-home placement, **Family Support Network** has a therapist dedicated exclusively to pre-adoptive/adoptive/guardianship families in St. Louis County. Families can access this service if they are receiving Crisis Intervention services from the Coalition OR if they are seeking a therapeutic intervention but are not in crisis. To access Crisis Intervention services from the Coalition OR services from the Family Support Network, families must live in St. Louis County, and call **314.614.2342**.



MAGIC HOUSE OFFERS FREE ADMISSION TO FOSTER CHILDREN

The Magic House offers foster parents and those living in their homes free admission at all times. Foster families must show identification that proves they are currently licensed. The offer does not extend to adoptive parents, unless they can prove they are currently licensed foster parents. The Magic House is located one mile north of I-44 at 516 S. Kirkwood Rd.

KIDSTORE

The KidStore is not closing! The KidStore is a resale shop open exclusively to foster/adoptive/relative/kin caregivers, caseworkers and GALs/CASAs.

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 certificate/license, or CD/DCFS check stub.

Hours (except holidays):

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

KidStore Map



Only 5 minutes from the Poplar Street Bridge!



COALITION EVENTS

There are many ways to support the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition!

Kickball Tournament — 07.30.11

This year's Annual Kickball Tournament will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, **July 30th** at **Fenton Park**. Cost is \$40 per person (10 people per team minimum; and three girl minimum) with beer and food included. Register online at www.foster-adopt.org. For details, please contact Lia Adams, at 314.726.8598, or email faccjuniorboard@gmail.com.

Pretzel Boys Fundraiser — 08.25.11

100% of the day's sales will be donated to the Coalition! Drop by Pretzel Boys (11750 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, 63131) anytime between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on August 25th.

Volleyball Tournament — 08.27.11

Mark your calendar for the Junior Board's new event – a sand volleyball tournament at Wave Taco (1335 Convention Plz., St. Louis, 63103) – more info to come!

[RE]FRESH: A FASHION COALITION™ PROCEDURES FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE AND FOSTER/ADOPTIVE/KINSHIP FAMILIES

Youth Currently in State Custody (i.e. a child in foster care who is not adopted or in a guardianship placement):

- Each youth will receive a 90% discount on \$100 worth (original value)ⁱⁱ of clothing, jewelry, and accessories during a 6-month period.
- At the time of the youth's first visit, the youth must present a **[RE]FRESH Approval Form**ⁱⁱⁱ signed by the youth's case manager. This approval form will allow the youth to shop at a 90% discount during a 6-month period up to a \$100 limit (original value).
- In order for the discount (90% discount up to \$100 limit, original value) to be reset for another 6-month period, the youth must provide an updated [RE]FRESH Approval Form signed by the youth's case manager.^{iv}



Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Families:

- Each family will receive a 30% discount on \$100 worth (original value)^v of clothing, jewelry, and accessories during a 6-month period.^{vi}
- To utilize the 30% discount, the family must show a current check stub from the Missouri Children's Division, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, or private agency (to prove that the family is currently a foster/adoptive parent) at the time of EACH visit.
- The family's discount (30% discount up to \$100 limit, original value) will be automatically reset after the 6-month period, providing that the family continues to show a current check stub from the Missouri Children's Division, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, or private agency at EACH visit.

DISCOUNTS GO INTO EFFECT JULY 7TH, 2011.

ⁱ The KidStore will continue to operate.

ⁱⁱ To ensure that we have enough clothing for everyone, there is a limit on how much discounted clothing a foster youth may purchase during a 6-month period. The average clothing price at [RE]FRESH is \$10. Therefore, if a youth purchases 10 pieces of clothing at \$10 each and receives a 90% discount, s/he would receive \$100 worth of clothing for \$10. (10 pieces of clothing x \$10) x 90% = \$10. After the youth reaches the limit, s/he is welcome to shop using his/her foster parent's 30% discount. When the foster parent's discount is exhausted, the youth may continue to shop at the original prices (average price point at [RE]FRESH is \$10).

ⁱⁱⁱ The case manager can receive a [RE]FRESH Approval Form via email by contacting the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition at 314.367.8373 or emailing refresh@foster-adopt.org.

^{iv} As long as the youth remains in foster care, s/he is eligible to receive the 90% discount (limit = \$100 original value) during the next 6-month period, as long as the youth brings in a new [RE]FRESH Approval Form signed by the youth's case manager. The 6-month periods are July 1st to December 31st and January 1st to June 30th. Example: If a youth presents his/her case manager-signed [RE]FRESH Approval Form on October 15th, the youth has until December 31st to use the 90% discount up to the \$100 limit (original price). To receive the 90% discount up to a \$100 limit after January 1st, the youth must provide a new case manager signed [RE]FRESH Approval Form.

^v The average clothing price at [RE]FRESH is \$10. Therefore, if a family purchases 10 pieces of clothing at \$10 each and receives a 30% discount, they would receive \$100 worth of clothing for \$70. (10 pieces of clothing x \$10) x 70% = \$70. Once the family's discount is exhausted, they are welcome to continue shopping at the original prices (average price point at [RE]FRESH is \$10).

FOSTERING FINANCIAL SUCCESS: [RE]FRESH PROGRAM

We are now accepting applications for our **Fostering Financial Success: [RE]FRESH Program**. This is a job skills training and job placement program for foster youth ages 16 to 21. This program allows older youth to obtain job training and experience, demonstrate their ability to earn and save money, and finally, helps graduates of the program obtain permanent jobs in the community.

Employment Skills/Job Training - Youth learn the workings of a retail establishment in detail, including: receiving, merchandising, working the cash register, managing volunteers, customer service, inventory/stocking, marketing, and customer service. Participants take away valuable interpersonal and customer service skills that will be transferable to multiple industries. They also have an opportunity to earn up to \$600 through the incentive program! For more information, contact Nickie Steinhoff, Director of Training & Community Support at nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org or 314.367.8373 x35.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition is a non-profit agency that strives to create permanency in foster children's lives by recruiting and retaining foster/adoptive families.

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
1750 South Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 210
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144

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PERMIT # 2710

SHELDON, MARIAH, AND JAUAN – WENDY'S WONDERFUL KIDS



Sheldon, Mariah, and Jauan need a loving home that is ready to commit to them forever! They have been separated since they came into foster care and need a forever family that will be patient with them as they adjust to a new home. 12-year-old **Sheldon** (pictured left) is the oldest of the bunch. He tends to be shy around new people and is highly intelligent. **Jauan**, age 11, (pictured right) is the middle child and is very protective of his younger sister. He's outspoken and outgoing.

Six-year-old **Mariah** is the only girl of the bunch and she loves getting all of the attention. She is very energetic and easily entertained. With two older brothers, it's easy to see how she has become a bit of a tom-boy. Their team is open to exploring one home for all siblings or separate homes committed to maintaining contact. For more information on this fabulous trio, please contact Liz Johnson, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 314.367.8373 x2231 or lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org. *Photo courtesy of Sandy Schrock.*

MEET ARAYA, AZERIA, AND TIA

Araya, Azeria, and Tia are are lovable little girls who are often described as helpful, well-mannered, and polite. tend to be very shy with people they don't know, but they warm up after they get to know you. They share a strong bond and want to stay together. Seven-year-old **Araya** (pictured left) is energetic and has a great sense of humor. She likes music and loves to sing and dance, journal, and draw. Araya is smart, has a great personality, a nurturing spirit, and loves being a big sister. **Azeria** (pictured center), age 4, is busy and curious with an adventurous spirit. She loves art and gets along well with everyone. One-year-old **Tia** (pictured right) is the definition of a bundle of joy. She just started walking and is doing fabulous! For more information about these wonderful sisters, please contact Gayle Flavin, at 314.367.8373 x2228. or gayleflavin@foster-adopt.org. *Photo courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio.*



MOVE OR CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS?

To update your contact information, or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please:

Request in writing:

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
Attn: Jessi Brawley
1750 S. Brentwood Blvd.
Ste. 210, St. Louis, MO 63144

By telephone toll-free:

800.FOSTER.3 or
(314.367.8373) x2236

Or by e-mail:

jessibrawley@foster-adopt.org

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A lot happens between newsletters. To receive e-News You Can Use, a bi-monthly e-newsletter sent directly to your email, call 314.367.8373 or sign up at www.foster-adopt.org/enews.