

# News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Volume 8, Issue 2

Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



## Connie Doty

Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter  
conniedoty@foster-adopt.org

## Debbie Genung

Director of Development  
debbiegenung@foster-adopt.org

## Heather Henke

Director of Public Relations  
heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org

## Elizabeth "Liz" Johnson

Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter  
lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org

## Monyka Jones

KidStore Manager  
kidstoremanager@yahoo.com

## Barbara Kane

Outcome Specialist  
student3@foster-adopt.org

## Denise Kelley

Director of Advocacy & Recruitment  
denisekelley@foster-adopt.org

## Tom Kircher and Jan Joeckel

Co-Directors of Illinois Recruitment  
tomkircher@foster-adopt.org  
janjoeckel@foster-adopt.org

## Aaron Layton

Director of Youth Support  
aaronlayton@foster-adopt.org

## Leslie Lewis

Director of Educational Advocacy  
leslelewis@foster-adopt.org

## Kimberly Like

Director of Family Development  
kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org

## Carlos Lopez

Director of Investigations  
carloslopez@foster-adopt.org

## Maryanne Mica

Director of Family Finding  
maryannemica@foster-adopt.org

## Melanie Scheetz

Executive Director  
melaniescheetz@foster-adopt.org

## Sheila Suderwalla

Director of Project Teen Plus & APTCH  
sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org

## Reshelle "Rossi" Summers

Director of Operations  
reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org

## Shelley Thomas-Benke

Director of FosterServe Volunteers  
shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org

## **FACC Announces 2008 Training Extravaganzas: Earn 7.5 Training Hours!**

Thanks to the  
**DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY  
HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION OF ST. LOUIS**

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity Healthcare Foundation of St. Louis, FACC will host the next Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** with the theme: **Family Strengthening through Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)**. The Extravaganza is an all-day training that allows foster/adoptive/relative caregivers to receive 7.5 in-service training hours in one day, and you can bring the kids, too. For the March 1st agenda and registration form, see page 2.

You may also download a registration form by visiting [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org). For more information, please contact Kimberly Like at 800.FOSTER.3 x35, or [kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org](mailto:kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org).

## **Policy Hot Topic**

### **Prior Authorization for Counseling Services for Children in Foster Care**

Effective January 2, 2008, mental health professionals working with children in foster homes are required to request Prior Authorizations (PA) from the MO HealthNet Division (MHD—previously known as MO Medicaid) for services they provide.

MHD and its partners will be assessing these changes to determine if the desired outcomes have occurred with the Prior Authorization requirement. The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition's Parent Advisory Board will be discussing this issue in detail during their March 1st meeting. The Board meets during the Training Extravaganza and all parents are welcome to attend regardless of participation in the full Extravaganza training.

To register for March's meeting, or for more information on FACC's Parent Advisory Board, please contact Denise Kelley at 800.FOSTER.3 x25, or [denisekelley@foster-adopt.org](mailto:denisekelley@foster-adopt.org). Additional information on MO HealthNet and Prior Authorization requirement can be found at the following web links:

- **Prior Authorization for MO HealthNet Counseling Services for Children and Youth in Foster Care (CD07-69):** <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2007/cd0769.pdf>
- **MO HealthNet Identification Cards (CD08-03):** <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2008/cd0803.pdf>
- **MO HealthNet Provider Bulletins (10.24.07):** [http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin30-18\\_2007oct24.pdf](http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin30-18_2007oct24.pdf)

## **Dear Denise:**

I have been a foster parent for a while. I love the agency I am licensed with but recently have not been receiving placements. Should I change my license to another agency?

Sincerely, Pause in Placements

Dear Pause:

It is always recommended to first explore the reason for your lack of placements with your licensing agency. This is important to ensure there are no licensing concerns and to facilitate a discussion on the reason for the limited number of placements. Exploring the age-range, gender, ethnicity, and special needs that you would consider, and discussing how that corresponds with the children currently waiting for a foster placement, is also a great place to start.

Assuming there are no licensing concerns and your considerations coincide with the needs in your community, talk with your licensing worker about other options. Many of the child-placing agencies in the St. Louis area are open to working together to ensure children have a safe home--regardless of which approved agency holds the license.

For questions or concerns about placements, talk to your licensing worker. General questions may be directed to me at 800.FOSTER.3 x25, or [denisekelley@foster-adopt.org](mailto:denisekelley@foster-adopt.org).

Sincerely, Denise



314-FOSTER-3 or 1-800-FOSTER-3  
[www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org)



## Parent Support Groups

Parent Support Groups are made possible by the National Foster Parent Association.

### All Upcoming Groups are held:

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

God's Grace Church

10308 Lackland Road, 63114

Dinner & child care provided.

Must be registered to attend.

**02.19.08 - It's All Good Hair: Hair and Skin Care for the African American Child(ren)** Learn the right techniques and the products to use.

**03.11.08 - Understanding the IEP Process** Learn about the process, eligibility, and monitoring of the IEP.

**04.15.08 - When Love is Not Enough: Reactive Attachment Disorder** Understand the cause, diagnosis and treatment of RAD, and identify how to establish trust and bonding within the family.

To register, please contact Kimberly Like at 800.FOSTER.3 x35, or [kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org](mailto:kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org).

## REAL TALK: Support Group for Older Youth

The program "Real Talk" helps youth gain a better understanding of adoption and discuss their unique concerns.

### All Upcoming Groups are held:

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

God's Grace Church

10308 Lackland Road, 63114

Dinner provided.

Must be registered to attend.

**02.19.08 - What's Race got to do with it?** Identifying and understanding racial and cultural identity issues.

**03.11.08 - Foreign Language** Challenges in communication for adopted children with their adopted families.

**03.25.08 - Those Aren't My Real Parents** Empowering youth to handle foster care or adoption questions.

### 04.15.08 - Handle "Yo Bit Ness"

How to be a part of a successful family.

To register, please contact Aaron Layton at 800.FOSTER.3 x34, or [aaronlayton@foster-adopt.org](mailto:aaronlayton@foster-adopt.org).

## March 1st, 2008 Training Extravaganza Agenda

### THEME: Family Strengthening Through Gang Resistance Education and Training

FACC will hold the first Training Extravaganza with the help of Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.). This new program, which provides presentations by specially trained St. Louis police officers, teaches life skills to help children avoid delinquent behavior that often leads to violence being used to solve problems.

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Family Communication:** Understand the importance of using appropriate communication to develop and strengthen relationships. Parents will learn to effectively use words, non-verbal behaviors, and listening skills to enhance and improve communications.
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Family Skills:** Discover the advantages of parental monitoring and how it can be done successfully. Learn the benefits of having clear and consistent rules. Parents will define and identify purposes of effective discipline.
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Resource Table:** The resource area will: 1) provide caregivers useful community information regarding area activities and summer camps, and 2) create an opportunity for parents to network with each other. If you have special dietary needs please feel free to bring a sack lunch. At this time, the Parent Advisory Board will meet (see page 1).
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Family Relationships:** Use the G.R.E.A.T. decision-making model to identify family goals. Identify situations that trigger anger and practice anger management techniques. Parents will be equipped with tips for calming others.



**Children's Agenda:** Children will enjoy an educational day packed with fun! Activities include a spring egg hunt, arts and crafts, Barnes and Noble Book Fair and outdoor play! St. Louis Metropolitan Police officers will teach children ages 13-18 about Computer and Internet Safety. Children ages 9-12 will learn about Gang awareness and Violence and Drug Prevention. Free giveaways including a t-shirts, shoulder bags and a chance to win a Blockbuster or McDonald's gift card! Registered children ages 6 - 18 will participate in financial literacy training, where they learn about needs vs. wants, the importance of saving and good credit vs. bad credit. Financial literacy training is available thanks to Citigroup.

## SAVE THE DATE: 2008 Training Extravaganzas - 5/31, 8/02, & 10/18

### It's a Lottery . . .

Spaces for the Training Extravaganza are limited to 200 adults and 100 children. We try to accommodate adults with childcare services, however, the spaces for children ALWAYS fill up within the first couple of days. In order to "level the playing field," we play the lottery.

Here's how it works: Registration forms must be received at FACC by **FEBRUARY 20TH** to be included in the childcare lottery. It does not matter if we receive your form by mail or fax, on February 12th or February 20th—ALL requests for childcare received by February 20th will be put into the same lottery pool. Registrations forms will be drawn at random until the 100 childcare slots are filled. All families who register will be **notified by mail**.

To register for the Training Extravaganza, complete the below form and send it to Attn: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101 or fax it to 314.241.0715.

### PLEASE PRINT

Child's First Name

Age

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008**  Yes, I am 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 FACC that you are registered.

**Send registration form to:** FACC, ATTN: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101, or fax to 314.241.0715. Please call 800.FOSTER.3, if you need to cancel your registration. No phone registrations accepted.

## **Take a Break through the Parent-to-Parent Network**

Have you ever needed a break but couldn't find a temporary caregiver? The Parent-to-Parent Network is a temporary relief system for caregivers and families who are caring for foster and adoptive children. FACC believes that this temporary care is an essential part of support that helps a family take a break from the daily routine and stress. This is a network where parents can help other parents by providing short-term child care. Although not part of the State of Missouri's paid respite care program, it is very similar.

Participants in the Parent-to-Parent Network must complete three-hours of training, a current background check, and have a home visit by our Director of Family Development, Kimberly Like. Once you are matched with another family, then you are ready to go!

### **Parent-to-Parent Network Training**

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Childcare provided. Parents must be registered to attend.

Are you interested in the Parent-to-Parent Network? To register, contact Kimberly Like at [kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org](mailto:kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org) or 800.FOSTER.3 x35.

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### **Summer Camps**

Spring is almost here... Are you searching for a camp or extracurricular activities for your child(ren) to participate in this summer? Check out these resources:

#### **The Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis**

The Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis is a not-for-profit organization which serves as a "clearinghouse" for information on leisure, recreation and socialization opportunities for children of all abilities. Visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/reccouncil/index.htm> for more information.

#### **KSDK-TV NewsChannel 5 Summer Camp Guide**

From the YMCA and Baseball Camps, to day camps at the Magic House and the St. Louis Zoo! Check out the KSDK Summer Camp Guide online at: [http://www.ksdk.com/life/advertorial/summer\\_camps/summercamps.aspx](http://www.ksdk.com/life/advertorial/summer_camps/summercamps.aspx).

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### **Dear Educational Advocate,**

My child in fourth grade has a learning disability and an IEP [Individual Education Plan]. She will be taking the state MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) test in March. She does not work at the fourth grade level in reading, but her teacher said she has to take the fourth grade test. This does not seem right. Can you help me?

Sincerely, Concerned Parent

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Dear Concerned Parent,

All students in public and charter schools in our state must take the MAP test at their assigned grade level. A student with a disability may be allowed to have some accommodations during the test to "level the playing field." Her IEP Team would determine the appropriate accommodations for the MAP, such as more time for testing, small group or individual testing, or assistance writing the answers.

Students with significant disabilities may be able to take the MAP-A, an alternative form of the test. This test is for students who are learning "essential" skills for daily living and will probably need supported or assisted living after high school. All students need to be prepared for the MAP. It can be a difficult time for students, especially those with disabilities. Often students express more frustration and anxiety during testing time, so teachers and parents need to be prepared to help their child during this time.

Visit the state website, <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/msipl/>, for more information and tips for parents about the MAP. If you have a question regarding education and your children, please contact me at 800.FOSTER.3 x37, or at [leslielewis@foster-adopt.org](mailto:leslielewis@foster-adopt.org).

Respectfully, Leslie Lewis, Director of Educational Advocacy

*Educational Advocacy Services are made possible through the support of the Missouri Children's Division and ARCHS*

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### **Our Little Academy at Our Little Haven**

Designed for children ages 3 to 6 who have not succeeded in preschool due to complex behavioral issues, Our Little Academy is new to the St. Louis region. Our Little Academy is St. Louis' only full-day treatment option for children ages 3 to 6, one of only three such preschools in Missouri.

For more information, please contact Susan Villasana, Licensed Psychologist and Preschool Director at Our Little Academy 314.533.2229 x222, [svillasana@ourlittlehaven.org](mailto:svillasana@ourlittlehaven.org), or visit the website [www.ourlittlehaven.org](http://www.ourlittlehaven.org)

*This program is not affiliated with FACC. Inclusion in this newsletter is for your information.*

## **Tax Time**

### **Federal Tax Benefit Guide for Foster/Adoptive Parents, and Kinship Caregivers**

The National Foster Parent Association is pleased to present the 2007 Tax Benefits for Foster, Adoptive Parents and Relative Caregivers. The guide explains basic rules and offers tips on ways that foster / adoptive parents and relative caregivers can claim deductions and credits available to them.

This information should not be considered legal advice or tax advice – it is general information that should not be acted upon except in consultation with a professional tax advisor. Give a copy of the guide to your tax preparer and discuss the qualifications for any of the benefits discussed. The guide is available on-line at

[www.nfpaonline.org/uploads/2007\\_Federal\\_Tax\\_Benefits.pdf](http://www.nfpaonline.org/uploads/2007_Federal_Tax_Benefits.pdf)

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### **Does Your Child Need Help with Reading Skills?**

We have several tutors trained and waiting for a learner! FACC has partnered with the YMCA's YRead program to match volunteer tutors with foster/adoptive children, ages 7 to 14, who need help with their basic reading skills.

Your child will meet with the tutor at a public library two times per week, for an hour each time. You must be willing to transport your child to and from the public library of your choice.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the program, please contact Shelley Thomas-Benke, Director of FosterServe Volunteers, at [shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org) or at 800.FOSTER.3 x29.

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### **Parents: Become a Media Representative!**

FACC is often approached by the media about foster care and adoption issues. If you feel you have a story to share with the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition or the media, please contact Heather Henke at 800.FOSTER.3 x36, or [heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org).

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### **Subscribe to e-News You Can Use**

A lot happens between newsletters... If you would like to be included in the e-News You Can Use, a bi-weekly update sent directly to your e-mail account regarding workshops, free community activities and more, send an e-mail to [heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org) or sign-up through the FACC website at [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org).

# News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402  
St. Louis, MO 63101

314.FOSTER.3 • 1.800.FOSTER.3

FAX: 314.241.0715

www.foster-adopt.org

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a not-for-profit agency which strives to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community.

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## KidStore

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

**ATTN CAREGIVERS:** Need infant car seats, strollers, or winter clothes? Well then stop by our KidStore which currently has an abundance! All winter items on sale... **Buy One Get One Free** every Saturday in February!

## Hours (Except Holidays):

1st and 3rd Wednesday  
ALL Saturdays  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Only 5 minutes from the Poplar Street Bridge!



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## Wendy's Wonderful Kids

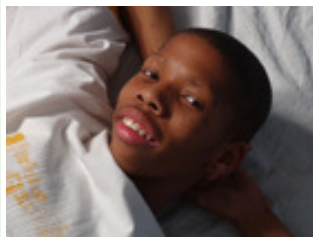


Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

Carlandis is a curious 13-year-old who initially seems a bit shy. Carlandis likes to spend time outdoors, and enjoys playing basketball and baseball. He would like to go to Hawaii some day, and thinks it would be "cool" to learn how to surf. Carlandis is strong academically, and enjoys math, but his grades do not always reflect his abilities. He enjoys socializing with friends, but also likes quiet, private time.



Carlandis has been in foster care for five years, and is legally free for adoption. Carlandis would benefit from a family that provides structure and consistency, and he needs the guidance of a strong male role model. He has brothers who are also in care, and it is important to him that he maintains contact with them.

For more information, please contact Connie Doty, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 800.FOSTER.3 x28, or [conniedoty@foster-adopt.org](mailto:conniedoty@foster-adopt.org).

## Wendy's Wonderful Kids



Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

Kyle is an active and friendly 13-year-old who is waiting for a family. Described as "curious and inquisitive," he loves learning and is always willing to try new things. Kyle makes friends easily and is popular with other children. He enjoys adult attention and tries hard to please the adults in his life. Kyle does well in school and is proud of his grades.

Kyle has two brothers and would like to be placed with a family that would help him to maintain this relationship. His favorite activities include playing video games and remote control cars, playing sports, listening to music, hiking, and fishing. He is in good health and has lots of energy.



For more information, please contact Liz Johnson, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 800.FOSTER.3 x31, or [lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org](mailto:lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org).