

# News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Volume 8, Issue 4

Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



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## **Training Extravaganza: Saturday, August 2nd, 2008**

*THEME: ABC's for Academic Success*

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity Foundation, FACC will host the next Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, August 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** 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!

Please see **page two** for additional information and registration form. You may also download the form at [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).

## **Parents' Day Out—Day at the Circus!**

**06.07.08 / 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. / New City Fellowship Church, 1483 82nd Street, 63132**



Here's a chance for foster parents to complete some Spring gardening or cleaning... **CHILD-FREE!** Foster and adoptive children (Ages 5+) will enjoy carnival themed activities such as: a bounce house, carnival games, a clown, and **FREE** food (sno-cones, hot dogs, and chips). Activities are provided by the St. Louis Dream Center, a part of the Joyce Meyer Ministry. Also present will be Safari Steve and the Reptile Experience, and Sparkles the Clown. Children must be registered to attend.

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

## **Introducing the Birthday Buddy Program**

Do you need help providing birthday presents for your foster child(ren)? FACC recently launched a new resource that could help - the Birthday Buddy program!

Through this program, generous individuals in the St. Louis community apply to become a Birthday Buddy to a child in foster care. Foster parents provide FACC with general information about the child and birthday present ideas, which will be posted on our website. The donor agrees to give some or all of the presents that he/she receives to his/her Birthday Buddy. After the donated presents are dropped off, the foster parent must pick up the birthday presents at the Birthday Buddy Coordinator's home in **Sunset Hills in St. Louis County**.

Only foster children (not adopted) 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 Shelley Thomas-Benke at 800.FOSTER.3 x29, or [shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org).



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

The Parent-to-Parent Network is a temporary relief system for families who are caring for foster and/or adoptive children. This network allows parents to help other parents by providing short-term child care. The Network is similar to, but not part of, the State of Missouri's paid respite care program.

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, you are ready to go!

### **Upcoming Parent-to-Parent Training**

- **06.17.08 / 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. / God's Grace Church, 10308 Lackland Road, 63114**
  - **07.15.08 / 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. / God's Grace Church, 10308 Lackland Road, 63114**
- Childcare provided. Parents must be registered to attend.

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



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.

**06.10.08 - Prevent Parent Burnout: Signs, Symptoms and Strategies to Avoid It** Recognize the signs and symptoms of impending burnout and take steps to prevent it. Discover effective burnout-busting strategies and how to take care of yourself.

**07.08.08 - Family Ties: Relative and Kinship Care** Discuss the unique challenges of kinship care and how to overcome potential obstacles. Develop communication skills and identify creative ways to include biological family in a child's daily life.

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.

### 06.10.08 - Battling or Bonding

Handling conflict and embracing a new foster/adoptive home.

**07.08.08 - Where do we go from here?** Not letting the past paralyze your future.

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

## 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).

## Training Extravaganza Agenda: Saturday, August 2nd, 2008

Gear up for back to school with this power packed training on academic success! A typical school day can put stress on any child. For children with special needs, the academic and social demands of school can be overwhelming. Obtain the tools you need to help your child succeed in school and life including ways to improve your child's learning, tips for communicating with school staff and other team members, and basic education rights. Topics include: Homework, Study Skills and Organizational Techniques, Understanding the IEP Process, and more!



**Children's Agenda:** Children will enjoy an educational day packed with fun! In the morning children will participate in Financial Literacy Training thanks to Citigroup. Afternoon activities include arts and crafts, St. Louis Zoo Outreach program, Barnes and Noble Book Fair, and outdoor play!

## Childcare Lottery

Spaces for the Training Extravaganza are limited to 200 adults and 100 children.

Registration forms must be received at FACC by **July 14th** to be included in the childcare lottery. It does not matter if your form is received by mail, e-mail or fax, on July 1st or July 14th—ALL requests for childcare received by July 14th 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.

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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

### REGISTRATION CLOSING JULY 14

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 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.

## Save the Date:

Upcoming Training Extravaganza **October 18th**. (Last training offered in 2008!)

## Hot Topic: National Association of Social Workers' Ethical Standards

During last year's legislative session, various revisions were made to the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. One of those revisions stated:

"The Children's Division and its contractors recognizing that foster parents are not clients but are colleagues in the child welfare team and should be treated in a manner consistent with the National Association of Social Workers' ethical standards. Foster parents shall treat the children in their care, the child's birth family and members of the child welfare team in a manner consistent with their ethical responsibilities as professional team members."

The Family Resource Center - Family Support Council are hosting a series of skill-building trainings focused on Ethics and Evidence-Based Practice related to Child Maltreatment.

### Social Work Ethics: Knowing Your Responsibility

- June 5 - Family Resource Center (St. Louis City)
- June 11 - Parents as Teachers (Westport Area)

For more detailed information or to register, call 314.534.9350 x120. If you are interested in obtaining in-service training hours for this workshop talk to your licensing worker. To view the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and Responsibilities in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section1/ch3/sec1ch3attach.htm>.

## **Dear Educational Advocate,**

*My daughter has a difficult time printing, buttoning her clothes, and also seems to have some sensory problems. She is an average student and I was told she is not eligible for occupational therapy or services from the special education department at school. Do you know of any other options?*

Thanks,  
Steve

Dear Steve,

**Sensory Solutions, LLC**, provides therapy to children who may not qualify for therapy or services from the school district. Sensory Solutions, LLC, is in the network with the majority of insurance companies. They may be able to provide these services for your child at little or no cost. Many families, foster parents, case managers, and others are not aware that they can use insurance, including Medicaid, for the cost of therapy services.

Sensory Solutions, LLC provides therapy for a number of delays and disabilities including but not limited to: Autism, developmental delays, RAD, orthopedic conditions, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, neuromuscular dysfunctions and delays, language delays, fine motor delays, atypical behavior and motor planning disorders. They also have a feeding program geared towards children whom are picky eaters and/or have a limited diet.

Therapy from Sensory Solutions, LLC can be used in addition to current First Steps, Early Childhood Special Education or school programs as well as individual treatment for children who do not qualify for state funded programs.

Visit the website at [www.sensorysolutions.org](http://www.sensorysolutions.org), or call Sheree, owner of Sensory Solutions, LLC, at 314.567.4707. *If you have any questions, 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



## **Dear Denise,**

*I know of a situation where placement and education plans are being made for a teenage foster youth without her input. This is a very capable child who has high hopes for her future. Does she have any rights to voice her wishes?*

Voice for Choice

Dear Voice,

Whenever decisions are being made for a youth in foster care, they should be a part of the discussion. Depending on the child and the issues being discussed, some may be able to participate at a younger age than others. However, when making significant decisions such as you described, the youth most definitely should be involved in the planning for their future.

The Children's Division realizes the importance of youths' involvement in their case plan and produced a handbook for them called, "What's It All About," to better explain this and other foster care issues they may face. The handbook can be downloaded on-line at [www.dss.mo.gov/cd/chafee/wiaa.pdf](http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/chafee/wiaa.pdf).

The Children's Division specifically recognizes youth as an important decision maker in their placement. Policy provides youth who do not agree with their placement plan an opportunity to make a formal complaint through the Service Delivery Grievance process. More information is available on-line at [www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section8/ch1/sec8ch1sub1.htm](http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section8/ch1/sec8ch1sub1.htm).

As always, specific case issues should be brought to the child's team. *General questions may be directed to me at 800.FOSTER.3 x25, or [denisekelley@foster-adopt.org](mailto:denisekelley@foster-adopt.org).*

With Regards,  
Denise Kelley, Director of Family Advocacy

## **Foster Children Admitted**

### **Free into Magic House**

The Magic House now admits foster parents and their families free of charge at all times.

Foster families must show identification that proves they are current foster parents. The offer does not extend to adoptive parents, unless they can prove they are currently licensed foster parents.

For further questions, please contact Rossi Summers, Director of Operations/Little Wishes via e-mail at [reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org](mailto:reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org), or at 800.FOSTER.3 x33.

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

We have several tutors trained and waiting for a learner! FACC 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 session. 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 Leslie Lewis, Director of Educational Advocacy by e-mail at [leslielewis@foster-adopt.org](mailto:leslielewis@foster-adopt.org), or contact by phone at 800.FOSTER.3 x37.*

### **Little Wishes**

#### **Fulfilling Childhood Dreams!**

Children currently in foster care can receive up to \$200.00 to help fulfill a childhood experience, such as basketball camp, ballet lessons, or a room makeover.

For criteria and referral form, visit the Parents section on the FACC website: [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org), or contact Rossi Summers, Director of Operations/Little Wishes at 800.FOSTER.3 x33, or [reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org](mailto:reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org).

### **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, Director of Public Relations, at 800.FOSTER.3 x36, or [heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org](mailto:heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org).

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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.

## In This Issue:

- Parent's Day Out—Page 1
- Training Extravaganza—Page 2
- Dear Denise—Page 3
- Dear Educational Advocate—Page 3

## KidStore

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

On 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.

Also, please bring documentation that you have physical custody of the child(ren) or court order. Your information will be kept safely on file for future visits.

**June Special:** Buy One Get One Free on all Swimwear and Shorts

**July Special:** - Closed Vacation

**August Special:** - Uniforms and School Supplies

## Hours (Except Holidays):

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

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## A Place to Call Home



Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

**Laron** (age 15) is a handsome teenager who really wants a family to call his own. He is a very talented teen who is interested in music and is described as being a good dancer. He really loves basketball and would like to play on a basketball team through school or through the community.

He also has a great sense of style and loves to go shopping. He has a good sense of humor and a great smile. Unfortunately, Laron has been let down and disappointed by a lot of adults in his life, and he does not smile often enough.



Laron is legally free for adoption. He would like a family with a single mom and not a lot of children in the home. He would love the opportunity to play basketball at his new school or in the community. For more information, contact Sheila Suderwalla, Director of APTCH, at 800.FOSTER.3 x30, or sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org.

## Wendy's Wonderful Kids

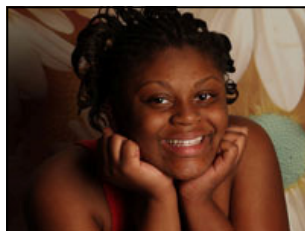


Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

**Lakeisha** (age 15) is a bubbly girl with an outgoing personality who brightens a room. She is described by friends as loyal, kind and helpful with a great sense of humor. Lakeisha enjoys being around people, and her talkative nature keeps conversations lively. A fun loving "typical" teen, Lakeisha likes to dance, sing and socialize with friends. She enjoys being outside, doing arts and crafts, and sewing. Her engaging smile is a great complement to her spirited personality.



Lakeisha has been in foster care since she was a little girl, and is legally free for adoption. She would do best with a family that provides structure, guidance and encouragement. Lakeisha longs for the love and close relationships of a permanent family. For more information, please contact Connie Doty, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 800.FOSTER.3 x28, or conniedoty@foster-adopt.org.