

News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Volume 9, Issue 4

Equal member of

United Way
of Greater St. Louis



Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



foster & adoptive care coalition

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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 Metro St. Louis and: 1) are currently in the foster care system; or 2) 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 child(ren) is to log onto:
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:

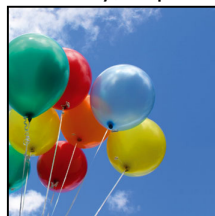
1. Gifts will be shipped to your home street address and cannot be shipped to a PO Box;
2. Name of current case manager or subsidy worker must be provided, and WILL be verified.

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 blue sheet**. 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.*

September Respite Event: Carnival Theme

Saturday, September 26, 2009 / 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. / 4324 Margareta Avenue, 63115



Do you feel like you need more time in the day? Have some shopping to do? Or some overdue cleaning? Here's your chance to complete some tasks on your "to-do" list... **CHILD-FREE!**

Your child(ren), ages 5 and up, will enjoy carnival themed activities such as: a bounce house, carnival games, arts & crafts, face painting, and **FREE** food (sno-cones, hot dogs, and chips). Activities are **FREE** and provided by the St. Louis Dream Center, a part of the

Joyce Meyer Ministry. Children must be registered to attend. **Deadline is Wednesday, September 23rd.** Register today by contacting Kimberly Knox at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x35, or kimberlyknox@foster-adopt.org. Please help us respect those children on our waiting list. Being a "no-show" at an event will prevent your family from attending future events.



314-FOSTER-3 or 1-800-FOSTER-3

www.foster-adopt.org



Support Groups Older Youth Support Groups

God's Grace Church
10308 Lackland Rd, 63114
Dinner provided.

10.06.09 / 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Why me?-Having a greater understanding as to why children are placed for adoption and help clarifying their adoption story.

11.03.09 / 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

W.I.S.E. UPI-Why do people ask me so many questions about my adoption?

Parent Support Groups

God's Grace Church
10308 Lackland Rd, 63114
Dinner and childcare provided.

11.03.09 / 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sticking Together-Kinship Care

Must be registered to attend support groups. To register, please contact Kimberly Knox at kimberlyknox@foster-adopt.org, or 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x35.

Parent-to-Parent Meet & Greet

Want to meet other foster/adoptive parents? Learn from their experiences? The Parent-to-Parent Network is a temporary relief system for families who are caring for foster and adopted children.

The Network allows parents to help other parents by providing short-term child care. The Network is similar, but not part of the State of Missouri's paid respite care program.

Participants in the Parent-to-Parent Network must be licensed adoptive or foster parents, and have a current background check. Once you are matched with another family, then you are ready to go! Attend a Meet & Greet for more information and to meet other parents!

Parent-to-Parent Meet & Greet 09.22.09 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

God's Grace Church
10308 Lackland Rd, 63114
Childcare provided.

Must be registered to attend. To register, contact Kimberly Knox at kimberlyknox@foster-adopt.org or 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x35.

Training Extravaganza: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis, the Coalition will host the next Training Extravaganza on **Saturday, October 17th, from 8:30a.m. - 4:00p.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 below for additional information and registration form. You may also download the form at www.foster-adopt.org. For more information, please contact Kimberly Knox at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x35, or kimberlyknox@foster-adopt.org.

Extravaganza Agenda

THEME: Abuse and Neglect - Preparation and Prevention

- **Breaking the Cycle of Abuse** - Physical and emotional violence that is not addressed at an early age can too easily become domestic violence later. Parents promote the nourishment of healthy relationships. Help children heal from emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and recognize early warning signs of toxic relationships.
- **Strategies for Anger Management** - Parents will learn to manage their anger and use practical methods for addressing challenging behavior. Discover the reasons and purposes of behavior and find out how to tailor your responses to fit the purpose.
- **Verbal Violence (Communication)** - Communicate with children and others in a non-threatening manner and listen effectively. Discover favorable means of communication both parents and children can use.

Kids Curriculum: Children will enjoy an educational day packed with fun! In the morning children will participate in Financial Literacy Training thanks to Citigroup. Children ages 9 and up will create Lifebooks, and youth ages 5 through 12 will have a dental exam. Teens will participate in a youth support group focusing on depression and self-esteem relating to adoption and foster care. All children will receive free books and the chance to win a Playstation Portable!



Childcare Lottery: Spaces limited to 200 adults and 100 children.

Registration forms must be received by **October 2** to be included in the childcare lottery. It does not matter if your form is received by mail, e-mail or fax, on September 1 or October 1—**ALL** requests for childcare received by October 2 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: _____	_____	_____
o 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 to: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, ATTN: Training Extravaganza, 111 N. 7th Street, Suite 402, St. Louis, MO 63101, or fax to 314.241.0715.

Please call 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x35, if you need to cancel your registration.
NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED.

HealthCare Education Series brought to you by:

Dental Services Available Through MO HealthNet

Our children need to have a healthy smile and therefore... healthy teeth. Did you know that MO HealthNet pays for preventive and restorative dental care for children under twenty-one years of age? Dental services such as cleanings, fillings, extractions and dentures are all covered services. Dental care is very important for your foster/adopted child to stay healthy. A cleaning and check-up is recommended every six (6) months.



For a list of dentists or if you need help getting an appointment, call HealthCare USA Member Services at 1.800.566-6444.

In-home Counseling Service by Family Support Network

Thanks to funding from the Mental Health Board, Family Support Network has partnered with the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition to provide additional support to pre- and post-adopt families. This program expansion is specific to families living in **St. Louis City** or who are caring for **children still under the custody of St. Louis City Family Court**.

Family Support Network primarily works with families who have at least one child under the age of 14 in the home. All therapists are master's level social workers and counselors. If you would like more information about this **NO COST** service, contact the Coalition's Director of Family Advocacy, Denise Kelley at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x25, or denisekelley@foster-adopt.org.

Fostering Faithful Families: Putting Faith in Foster Care

Last year, six faith-based organizations with a commitment to increasing the number of support for foster and adoptive families began meeting to explore ways to provide a unified faith-based approach to recruitment, training, and support of foster and adoptive families in the greater St. Louis area. The goals of the new collaborative include working with and through area congregations to:

- Raise awareness within the Christian community about the great need for more individuals and families to care for foster children;
- Recruit new strong, stable Christian families to become licensed foster and adoptive families;
- Provide better support for foster and adoptive families; and
- Improve care for one of our society's most vulnerable population – abused and neglected children.

If you are a foster or adoptive parent, or are involved with foster care or adoption professionally, and involved with a church, you might consider **being an Ambassador**. Forty-five area churches are currently participating in Fostering Faithful Families. Visit www.fosteringfaithfulfamilies.org to see if your church is involved. For more information visit the website, or call Emily or Theresa at 314.835.1690.

Our Little Academy—A Foster Adopt Resource



When a child's challenging behaviors are standing in the way of having a successful preschool experience, Our Little Academy provides the intensive, full day option which can help transition to a more traditional school setting. Our Little Academy is a full day therapeutic preschool for children ages 3-6 with complex behavioral issues.

Foster and adoptive families can find needed support through this innovative program, which includes child and family therapy. Convenient Central West End location. Payment options include Medicaid (foster & adoptive children may qualify for 100% Medicaid reimbursement), MC+, sliding scale fees, and some scholarships are available. Transportation financial assistance is available.

For more information, please visit the website at www.ourlittlehaven.org and go to "Programs." If you would like to know more about the benefits of this community resource for foster and adopt families, please contact OLA Director, Susan Villasana at 314.533.2229 x222.

KidStore

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
ALL Saturdays
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

October Special:

- 1/2 off black & orange clothing

November Special:

- 1/2 off dresses & dress pants

December Special:

- Buy one sweater, get one FREE

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 (314.367.8373) x29, or via e-mail at shelleythomasbenke@foster-adopt.org.

Classifieds

Check out the Coalition's Online Classifieds (www.foster-adopt.org/classifieds). The Parent-to-Parent Trade Classifieds is a free section that allows parents to post items that 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.

KidStore Map

Only 5 minutes from the Poplar Street Bridge!



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Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



**111 N. Seventh Street, Suite 402
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101**

800.FOSTER.3 • 314.367.8373

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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If you would like to update your contact information, or if you no longer wish to receive News You Can Use, please:

Request in writing:

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
Attn: Heather Kemper
111 North Seventh Street, Ste. 402
Saint Louis, Missouri 63101

By telephone toll-free:

800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373)

Or by e-mail:

heatherkemper@foster-adopt.org

If you would like to receive e-News

You Can Use, sign up online at
www.foster-adopt.org/enews.

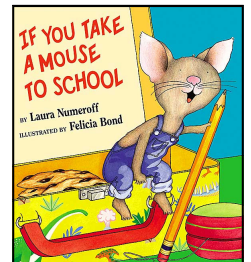
While there, you can also find out how to start following us on

Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and MySpace.

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 28, 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 costumed characters will arrive at 6:00p.m. to meet your entire family! After the show, the actors will be available for photos and autographs.*



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 the famous artists he's worked with in the past.

To make your reservation for Family Ties, please 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 (formerly the Florissant Civic Center)

Wendy's Wonderful Kids



Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

Hakeem (15) is great kid who is looking for a patient and stable family that can meet his developmental needs. Hakeem is a friendly, fun loving, and sweet child who is very athletic and enjoys basketball. He loves video games and board games and is especially good at memory games.

Hakeem enjoys school and works hard at his studies. However, he is developmentally delayed and

therefore special services will be a need. Hakeem is legally free for adoption. For more information, contact Liz Johnson, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x31, or lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org.



A Signature Program of the
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Wendy's Wonderful Kids



Photo Courtesy of Sears Portrait Studio

Markisha (11) is a cheerful, helpful young lady, who gets along well with both children and adults. Although she is full of energy and very outgoing, Markisha is also soft-spoken and very nurturing and patient with younger children. She has a wide variety of interests, and enjoys games such as hide and seek, frisbee and freeze tag. A good athlete, Markisha also likes basketball, soccer and swimming.

Markisha would like to help make the world a better place when she grows up, by helping people in need and by saving dogs, too. She is a real pet-lover who hopes to someday have a puppy.



A Signature Program of the
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Markisha is legally free for adoption. For more information, contact Gayle Flavin, Extreme Recruiter, at 800.FOSTER.3 (314.367.8373) x28, or gayleflavin@foster-adopt.org.