

News You Can Use

From the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

November / December 2007

Eastern Missouri Foster and Adoptive Care Resource Center



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BARNES & NOBLE Book Fair

Are books on your holiday shopping list? Then shop at any metro area Barnes & Noble on **November 16, 17, and 18** and tell the cashier that you are shopping with the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition and FACC will receive up to **20% of your purchase!** This includes: books, apparel, toys, and the Starbucks Café! Proceeds will help FACC find "forever families" for children in foster care.

Starting **November 1st through January 1st** all St. Louis metro area Barnes & Noble stores are hosting a book drive to collect new books for children in foster care.

For more information on supporting FACC, please call 800.FOSTER.3, or visit www.foster-adopt.org.

Little Wishes Ornaments - \$10

Help grant the "Big" wish of a "forever family" for a foster child this holiday season by purchasing a "Wish" ornament. Each ornament measures about 4"x 4" and costs just ten dollars. Shipping and handling extra.

Order your "Wish" ornament online by visiting www.foster-adopt.org, or contact Heather Henke at 800.FOSTER.3 x36 or heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org.



Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Elijah is a soft-spoken 12-year old boy with an active imagination. Although initially shy, Elijah is a keen observer and will gladly share his ideas. He brightens up and becomes animated when talking about cars and other topics of interest. Elijah has warm brown eyes and an engaging smile. He likes computers, playing with toy cars, and the board game "Battleship."



Elijah has been in placement almost his entire life, and longs for a family to call his own. He wants parents who will love him and care for him. Elijah is very close to his sister and wants to maintain contact with her.

For more information, please contact Connie Doty, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 800.FOSTER.3, or conniedoty@foster-adopt.org.

A Place to Call Home

This section includes children featured on **KSDK NewsChannel 5's "A Place to Call Home."** The segment airs on **Tuesdays** during the **6:00p.m. news, Thursdays** in the **5:00a.m.** hour, and the **Saturdays 9:00a.m.** broadcast.

NEWSCHANNEL 5



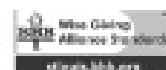
Aired October 16, 2007

Lynette is an attractive 16 year-old-girl who would really like a "forever family." She has been described as a "beautiful person" by those who work with her. Lynette is social, articulate, and loves the telephone. Like many girls her age, Lynette can be found with a phone attached to her ear at all times of the day or night. She likes drawing, singing and being with her friends.

Lynette is a participant in *Wendy's Wonderful Kids*. For more information on Lynette, please contact Liz Johnson at lizjohnson@foster-adopt.org. For more information on "A Place to Call Home" please contact Sheila Suderwalla at sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org.



314-FOSTER-3 or 1-800-FOSTER-3
www.foster-adopt.org



Parent Support Groups

Parent Support Groups provide a place for parents to share their experiences and gain relevant information and resources from FACC! Parent Support Groups are made possible by the National Foster Parent Association.

All Upcoming Groups:

6:00 - 8:00p.m.

God's Grace Church

10308 Lackland Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63114

Dinner & child care provided.

Must be registered to attend.

November:

13th - Beyond Black and White: Making Trans-cultural Placements Successful - Parents will learn strategies to promote positive cultural and racial identities in their children as well as ways to deal with public attention.

To register, please contact Kimberly Like at 800.FOSTER.3 x35, or 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:

6:00 - 8:00p.m.

God's Grace Church

10308 Lackland Road

St. Louis, Missouri 63114

Dinner & child care provided.

Must be registered to attend.

November:

13th - A Whole New World: Settling in with an unfamiliar adopted family.

December:

4th - Lost and Found: Exploring the emotions associated with abandonment or loss of a biological family and the acceptance into an adoptive family.

20th - Tears for Fears: Discussing an adopted child's worst fears and apprehensions.

January

8th - New Kids on the Block: Transitioning into an adoptive home when biological or adoptive children are already there.

To register, please contact Aaron Layton at 800.FOSTER.3 x34, or aaronlayton@foster-adopt.org.

Project Teen Plus

For the first time in their lives, five teens who were participants in Project Teen Plus will spend this Thanksgiving with their forever families. "I waited for ten-years," says one teen of his adoptive family. "I didn't think this day would ever come," says another. For waiting teens in foster care, each day seems like an eternity. In Missouri, there are approximately 11,681 children in foster care; 29% of foster children are ages five and under; 30% of foster children are between the ages of six and 12; and 41% of foster children are between ages of 13 and 21.

The youth in Project Teen Plus have worked hard to prepare and transition into their adoptive homes. For some teens, immediate improvement was shown, not only academically, but behaviorally and emotionally. "I know I have someone that loves me and won't give up on me," said one participant. He explained that having stability and relief of never having to move again contributed to the drastic change.

This Thanksgiving, not only are the adopted teens giving thanks, but so are their adoptive families. As one parent stated, "They have been a blessing and have added so much joy to my life!"

For more information, please call Sheila Suderwalla, Director of Project Teen Plus at 800.FOSTER.3 x30, or sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org.

*Data from AFCARS (2004), ASPE Claims Reports (2005), and ACF Budget Reports (2005).



Anneke (mom) with her two sons LT and Durrell. Adoption finalized 9/14/07.

Our Little Academy at Our Little Haven Enrolling Now

Our Little Academy is a daytime program for children three to six years of age who have emotional and/or behavioral issues, and who have not been successful in traditional preschool settings. The Academy is licensed by the Missouri Department of Mental Health for day treatment, which is a program only for kids who are served through Children's Division in foster or adoptive care. Medicaid pays for 100% of the cost for children who need counseling and therapeutic intervention at the preschool level. Our Little Academy is able to enroll children from both St. Louis City and County. It is a full day program, 8:00a.m. to 3:30p.m., with optional aftercare until 6:00p.m. The program is year-round, and limited to eight children, with a 4:1 teacher/student ratio.



The program is especially aimed toward healing children who have had disruptions, losses, attachment issues, and who are struggling emotionally, as many in the foster care system are. Traditional preschool activities and pre-academic learning experiences are offered, along with a daily social skills group, weekly 1:1 therapy with a Master's level therapist, and family meetings to help school and home work together toward improved parenting skills.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or enrolling a child, contact Susan Villasana at 314.533.2229 x 222, or svillasana@ourlittlehaven.org.

A Place to Call Home Celebrates 5 Years On-air!

FACC & KSDK NewsChannel 5 are proud to mark this 5th year milestone! This award-winning program has helped **more than 120 kids** find wonderful forever families. "A Place to Call Home" (APTCH) sensitively features children in need of adoptive families with KSDK personalities doing activities that children and youth enjoy, such as cooking at a culinary school or zipping around in a go-cart. APTCH airs **Tuesdays at 6:00p.m., Thursdays at 5:30a.m. and Saturdays during the 9:00a.m. show.**



To celebrate our fifth year, KSDK will air a 30-minute, primetime special featuring "success stories" of children and families coming together; myth-busting or informational stories, such as understanding adoption options; and uplifting stories of hope and togetherness. There are even a few surprises! Look for the special to air in **mid December** during FACC's "Holiday Wishes" campaign on KSDK NewsChannel 5. **Thank you to child welfare professionals and foster parents for your role in making this a success!**

For more information, please contact Sheila Suderwalla at 800.FOSTER.3 x30, or sheilasuderwalla@foster-adopt.org.

Parents' Day Out

With the Holiday season approaching, here's your chance to check a few items off your shopping list... child-free! Register for your foster or adoptive child to enjoy a family movie (TBA) at St. Andrew's Cinema (2025 Golfway Street, St. Charles, MO 63301) **Saturday, November 10th. Check-in at 8:30 a.m.** Event ends at 12:00 p.m. The cinema is conveniently located near Mid Rivers mall and various shopping centers. Lunch will be provided.

You must be registered to attend! To register, please contact Kimberly Like at 800.FOSTER.3 x35, or kimberlylike@foster-adopt.org

Dear Denise:

Next year I'm due for re-licensure. I've been hearing different things about what counts toward my training hours. I've been told from some that only "module" training counts and other parents say they've gotten credit for reading a book. What type of training can count toward my hours?

In-Service Insecurity

Dear Insecure,

Foster parents should always be in communication with their licensing worker to make sure they are meeting the training needs identified in their Family Development Plan. However, you are not alone in your confusion about what typically qualifies for in-service training. The Children's Division recently tried to clarify in-service training questions through a policy memo, which provides additional guidelines:

In-service training can be obtained from the following sources:

- **STARS In-Service Training Modules** are available and completion of a specific module should be based on the identified need in the Professional Family Development Plan. The modules are now available on DVD.
- **Local Training Resources** which are developed within their own community;
- **Other Approved In-Service Training** (must have prior approval by the Regional office if the placement provider is requesting CD to cover the cost or if they are requesting the hours be counted toward meeting training requirements). Other approved in-service training should be flexible and competency based. Competency takes into account the person's knowledge, skill, willingness, and ability to practice and perform the desired parenting to meet the needs of the children in our care. Flexibility can be allowed for training to occur in various formats such as, but not limited to, small or large group sessions, individual study, readings, coaching, web trainings, conferences, college courses, etc. Staff should consult with their regional office to determine hours of "other approved in-service training" and if the training addresses the competencies required in agency policy.

The entire memo can be found on-line at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2007/cd0748.pdf>. For questions or concerns about your training plan, talk to your licensing worker. General questions may be directed to me at 800.FOSTER.3 x25, or denisekelley@foster-adopt.org.

Denise

Ask the Educational Expert

Do you need help finding tutoring for your child? Would you like expert help developing an IEP? Do you need to find out how to get your child an educational evaluation?

For more information, please contact Leslie at 800.FOSTER.3 x37, or leslielewis@foster-adopt.org.

Thanks to the Missouri Children's Division for making this service possible.

KSDK Launches Website

KSDK recently launched a website dedicated to area Moms called www.STLMomsWorld.com.

STLMomsWorld.com is a community based, interactive resource for moms. It is a place for Metro St. Louis moms to connect with other mothers, ask questions, share advice, and learn from each other!

Donate While You Search

What if the FACC earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Now we can! Go to **GoodSearch.com** and choose Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition as your cause. Search the Internet just like you normally would — the site is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get high-quality search results. GoodSearch.com donates 50-percent of its revenue to charities and schools.

Donate to FACC with Escrip

Here is an easy and no-cost way for you to support the work of the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition - just by shopping for groceries! Please visit the Customer Service Desk of your **Schnuck's** store and ask for an **eScrip Community Card**. After you receive your card, activate it by calling 800-931-6258 or visit www.escrip.com. Our group ID # is **500004839**.

Tell them you are supporting the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition. Then, every time you shop, present your card. Up to 3% of your total monthly purchases will be donated to the FACC. If you already have an eScrip card please consider adding FACC.

For more information on supporting FACC, please call 800.FOSTER.3.



Seeks Children In Foster Care

Under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind, schools may be required to provide tutoring to children who tested below proficient on the MAP test for two years or more.

Tutoring is provided at **no expense** to parents or responsible parties. Sylvan Learning is an approved tutoring provider in the state of Missouri and Illinois. Sylvan offers an in-school program called Ace It!

To find out if your child(ren) may be eligible for free tutoring, contact Leslie Lewis, Director of Educational Advocacy at 800.FOSTER.3 x37, or leslielewis@foster-adopt.org.

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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, a resale shop open exclusively to foster/adoptive, relative/kin caregivers, caseworkers and GALs/CASAs, announces that fall/winter items are now on the racks! The KidStore is currently **in need of good quality, gently used shoes**, all sizes, and **boys clothing sizes 6-12**.

Hours: First & Third Wed. and Sat.
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

Only 5 minutes
from the
Poplar Street
Bridge!



KidStore
Located in Tyler
Place Presbyterian
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Spring, St. Louis,
MO 63110

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FREE Night at the Theatre

Each year, FACC celebrates Adoption Awareness Month by offering foster/adoptive/relative families a night at the theatre. The one-hour children's theatre production is always a hit with children of all ages.

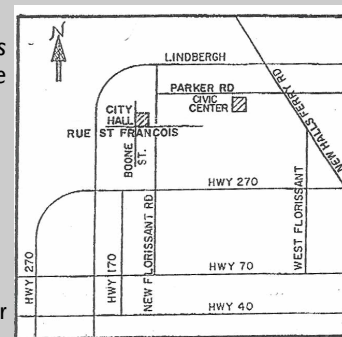
The **8th Annual Family Ties** event will take place **Saturday, November 24th, 2007** at 6:30p.m. This year's production is a children's favorite, the "**Max and Ruby Show**," based on the Fox TV series and books.

Make sure to bring your cameras, as costume-characters will arrive at 6:00p.m. to meet your entire family!

To reserve your tickets, call FACC at 800.FOSTER.3

Directions to Florissant Civic Center 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)



FREE FAMILY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



FAMILY TIES

This coupon will admit _____ to the performance of "Max & Ruby" on **Saturday, November 24th**. Exchange this coupon for tickets at the box office the night of the event. This is a sold out event... please arrive early to ensure ticket availability.

