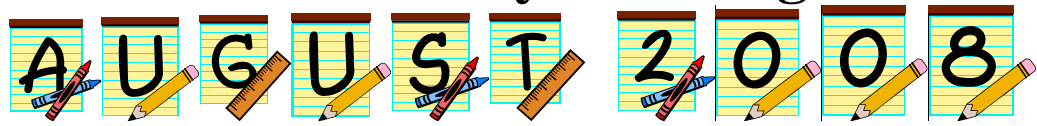




# Geauga County Job & Family Services Permanency Planning



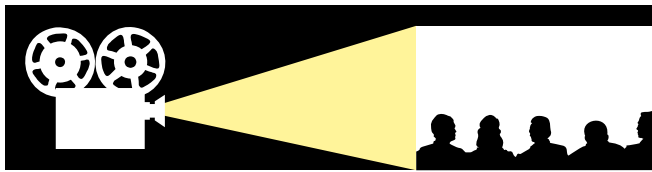
## Newsletter

Wow, where did the summer go? It is time to start thinking about the new school year. What school supplies do my kids need? Have my kids outgrown all of their clothes from last year? How are we going to get everyone to their activities and still have time as a family? For some of our children we also need to think about: Is my child's IEP still meeting their needs? What other services do I need for my child to be successful in school? Last year my child did not do well, but I am not sure what I can do? Is it time to request a Multi-Factored Evaluation for my child? These are things that can be asked of the counselor at your child's school or you can contact the special education department at the school board. You have rights as a parent to ensure that your child is receiving the services necessary to meet their individual needs. Some schools do a better job than others of making parents aware of what services are available to children at the school or within the district. But you have the right to ask questions about what services are available to your child. If you are requesting services it is a good idea to put that request in writing. You can also ask the school for a copy of "Whose Idea Is This? A Resource Guide for Parents. This guide gives parents a starting point if their child is struggling in school, answers frequently asked questions, gives definitions for terms used by the school and walks a parent thru the process of getting needed services for their child within the appropriate time frames. If you would like to view "Whose Idea Is This?" You can log on to <http://www.ode.state.oh.us>, then click on Learning Conditions and Support, then click on Students with Disabilities. Scroll down and you will see the link to view "Whose Idea Is This?"

Here are some questions to ask at the beginning of the school year so everyone gets off to a good start:

- \*What is the policy on late work? How will it affect the students grade?
- \*How do absences affect the grade?
- \*How do I teach my son or daughter to gain independence in middle school?
- \*What are the expectations for your classroom?
- \*How can I check on my son or daughter's progress in school? Do you give weekly progress reports?
- \*How do I know what the homework is? Is there an online homework calendar?
- \*Should I call or email the teacher?
- \*Are there field trips?
- \*How can I check on detentions or behavior issues?
- \*Is there anything you would like me to do?





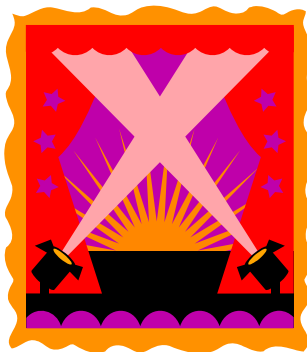
“Child Spotlight of the Month”

## JEFF

Enclosed with this month’s newsletter is a flyer for a child that is looking for an adoptive family. Could that family be you? Or do you know someone who might be able to provide the forever family that Jeff is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Jeff.

## Did you know August . .

- National Inventor’s Month
- 3-9: National Clown Week
- 17-23: National Aviation Week
- 25-29: National Safe At Home Week
- 1 is Respect for Parents Day
- 1 is Spiderman Day
- 3 is Friendship Day
- 8-10 is Kool Aid Day
- 10 is S’mores Day
- 12 International Youth Day
- 15 Best Friends Day
- 15 National Relaxation Day
- 16 Sandcastle Day
- 30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day



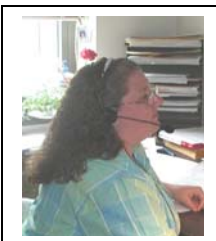
This month we are introducing two more important staff of the Agency that you may have contact with.

**Now Presenting:** Dawn Bates & Kathi Serafino

Dawn has been facilitating the Kinship Navigator Program for nearly six years. Prior to filling this role, Dawn worked as a Permanency Planning Worker for one and one half years and as a Family Preservation Worker for almost one year. Although Dawn is a member of the Permanency Planning Team and acts as a backup to the other team members, she specializes in providing services to



kinship caregivers, families who are caring for a relative child or a non-relative child with a close bond. Kinship families have similar needs to a foster caregiver which makes the program a perfect fit to this team.



Kathi has worked at Geauga County for over 12 years. Prior to working for Geauga County she worked for Cuyahoga County DJFS as an ongoing Social Worker. Kathi handles much of the behind the scenes programs that involves payments for foster parents & adoption subsidies for families who adopt children.

## Angel Food Ministries

Unless you have been living under a rock, everyone is aware of the fact that the cost of everything is going up. As the price of gas goes up so does the cost of everything that needs to be transported. We have learned of a program that is available to everyone without regard to income. The program is called Angel Food Ministries. This is a National Program that is able to buy food at substantial discounts because they purchase in volume. They are able to provide families with approximately \$65 worth of food for \$30. Since the food is purchased from National suppliers it is not out of date or inferior products. You can go to the following website [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) to obtain more information about the program, view this month’s menu and locate a host site closest to you. The menu of foods of the main box changes monthly and each month there are add on special you can add that also change monthly.

## **Classic Car Show/Family Fun Day, Sunday August 10, 2008 from 12:30 to 4:30.**

The Chardon Community Action Team (CCAT) is sponsoring the annual Classic Car Show and Family Day. There will be lots of county agencies and organizations with displays and activities for kids. We will be there with information about foster care and adoption so if you know of someone who wants more information tell them to come on out, to have a good time and get some info. We hope to see you there!

## **TRAINING REMINDERS:**

- ❖ Remember training sessions are for adults only. Unfortunately there is no child care available to families at training sessions, please make child care arrangements for your children prior to coming to training.
- ❖ Please set all cell phones and pagers to vibrate before the training begins. If you are going to take a call during the training sessions, please excuse yourself and answer it in the lobby.
- ❖ Please be on time for all trainings. There is a state **15 minute** rule that we all must adhere to. If you miss more than 15 minutes of a training then you cannot get credit for it. This includes arriving late, leaving early, coming back from breaks late, or taking a call during the training.
- ❖ If you are interested in signing up for trainings @ Geauga County JFS please call to register at least a week in advance so that we can accurately count the number of people attending. For most training we need a minimum of 6 people attending or else we have to cancel the training. Timely registration is greatly appreciated.  
Even if you are not currently a certified foster or adoptive family with us, you are still welcome to attend our trainings. All we ask is that you call to register.
- ❖ Want to know what other trainings are being held by other counties? Visit the Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm> .



**As we all try to preserve the environment, if you would rather have the monthly newsletter sent to you via email please let either your permanency planning worker know or contact Kathi Serafino, LSW at 440-285-9141 or [griffk@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:griffk@odjfs.state.oh.us). We will then take you off the mailing list and add you to the email list for the newsletter.**

November is National Adoption Month and we would like to be able to use some our own families stories about foster care and adoption for activities for the month. If you are your child could write or email us your story with the understanding that it will be used in Newsletters and possibly in the newspaper. We want our community to hear from real families in our community that have adopted or been adopted what it has meant to them. Often the only stories that the community hears are the negatives and we would like to be able to give the community some of the great adoption stories that have taken place. If you do not want your name(s) used please note that and we will not use names. If your child writes a story , if you do not want their name used please just include their age.

Here are some ideas to get started on your story:

### Families:

- \*What were your fears about becoming a foster or adoptive parent?
- \*What impact did you have on the life of a child?
- \*What are the rewards of opening your home to children?
- \*What do you wish you would have known then that you know now?
- \*What impact did the children who were “placed” in your home have on you?
- \*Why should people consider adopting?

### Children (current or former)

- \*What were your fears about being placed into a Foster home?
- \*What was it really like for you being an adopted child?
- \*What do you wish you would have known before you were “placed”?
- \*What do you want other people to know about children who are in foster care?
- \*What are the benefits of being adopted?

# Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

<b>SUCCESSFUL TRANS-CULTURAL PARENTING: DEALING WITH THE DYNAMICS OF DIFFERENCE – 937</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Saturday, August 9, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 - 4:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Angie Avery	<b>Location:</b> Geauga County JFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn practical strategies to empower successful families who have adopted or are fostering trans-culturally.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn how to enhance cultural connections.</li> </ul>	

<b>INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS – 928</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, August 12, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Bert Nero	<b>Location:</b> Geauga County JFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn how to assist teens in assessing community resources.</li> <li>• Foster parents will understand the barriers facing independent living for teens.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn concrete methods for helping teens move towards independence.</li> </ul>	

<b>DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS OF FOSTER CHILDREN – 929</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, August 28, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Cynthia Wallis	<b>Location:</b> Geauga County JFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will review the primary stages and milestones of normal physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development in children.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn the potential negative effects of abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse on children’s development and will recognize indicators of developmental delays or problems.</li> </ul>	

<b>THE IMPACT OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT ON NORMAL DEVELOPMENT – 912</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, September 3, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> David Zidar	<b>Location:</b> Geauga County JFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn the role of abuse on child development.</li> <li>• Foster parents will have a brief review of legal definitions of abuse and neglect.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn methods to help children learn new positive memories.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn the skills needed to better integrate with the treating therapist.</li> </ul>	

<b>THIRD PARTY INVESTIGATIONS – 920</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, September 11, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Janice Lilac-Powell	<b>Location:</b> Geauga County JFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn about the increased potential for allegations.</li> <li>• Foster parents will become familiar with the investigation process.</li> <li>• Foster parents will explore the difference between a rule violation and a third party investigation.</li> </ul>	



**BEFORE YOU TAKE THE FIRST DRINK: PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN – 939**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 11, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM

**Trainer:** Katie Terry

**Location:** Geauga County JFS

**Objectives:**

- Foster parents will understand some of the basic models of prevention and treatment of substance abuse.
- Foster parents will have a basic understanding of how to set up the home environment to prevent problems with alcohol or other drugs.
- Foster parents will understand some basic steps to teach children how to refuse alcohol or drugs when offered.

**SEXUAL ABUSE - PO9 \***

**Date:** Wednesday, October 1, 2008

**Time:** 6:00-9:00pm

**Trainer:** Ann Bagley

**Location:** Geauga County JFS

**Objectives:**

- Foster parents will be prepared to care for children who have been sexually abused and to become familiar with the effects of sexual abuse on children.
- Foster parents will learn appropriate sexual behavior.
- Foster parents will learn how to construct their family system to incorporate the placement of a sexually abused child to ensure the child's safety and success.

**PERMANENCY ISSUES FOR CHILDREN – P11\***

**Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2008

**Time:** 9:00-12:00 PM

**Trainer:** Ann Bagley

**Location:** Geauga County JFS

**Objectives:**

- Foster parents will understand the three common parental responses to the difference between adoption parenting and birth parenting, and know the potential outcomes of each response.
- Foster parents will recognize common post adoption issues for both the parent and the child, including loss, identity, control and divided loyalties.
- Foster parents will understand the values of supportive services from the placing agency, or a post placement service provider, during the childhood and early adulthood of the adoptive child.

**PERMANENCY ISSUES FOR FAMILIES – P12\***

**Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2008

**Time:** 1:00-4:00 PM

**Trainer:** Ann Bagley

**Location:** Geauga County JFS

**Objectives:**

- Foster parents will become aware of post adoption issues for both parent and child, including loss, identity, control and divided loyalties.
- Foster parents will learn the importance of talking to the child about adoption in a developmentally appropriate way, and handling difficult information regarding the birth family in a positive manner.
- Foster parents will become aware of resources such as adoption subsidies, and/or SSI, that provide material to the child in the adoptive family.

**\*The above three trainings (Sexual Abuse, Permanency Issues for Children, and Permanency Issues for Families) are required for pre-approved adoptive homes. Some counties require these trainings in pre-service. Please check with your county agency to see if you have already completed this training, and can earn hours toward your re-certification.**



**Geauga County Job & Family Services  
Pre-Service Training Schedule  
Trainer: Ann Bagley**

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	COURSE NO.
Saturday, September 6, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview	PS1
Saturday, September 6, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Saturday, September 13, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Saturday, September 13, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Attachment and Separation	PS4
Saturday, September 20, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Saturday, September 20, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Saturday, September 27, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Working with Primary Families	PS7
Saturday, September 27, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8

**Lake County Job & Family Services  
On-Going Training Schedule  
177 Main Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077-3402  
440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218**

**OPENING THE DOOR TO INDEPENDENT LIVING - 928**

<b>Date:</b> Thursday, August 28, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Brian Lowery	<b>Location:</b> Lake County DJFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn to prepare youth for independent living.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn about barriers foster children face in obtaining employment.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn to use concrete methods for moving foster children toward independence.</li> </ul>	

**BEYOND TIME OUT: MANAGING BEHAVIOR OF MALTREATED  
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN - 925**

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, September 10, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Brian Lowery	<b>Location:</b> Lake County DJFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn the physical, cognitive and psychological development of preschoolers.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn the effects of maltreatment during this stage of development.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn positive parenting strategies for this stage of development.</li> </ul>	

**MANAGING AND HEALING TRAUMA BASED CHILDREN - 921**

<b>Date:</b> Saturday, September 20, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 - 4:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Beverly Richards	<b>Location:</b> Lake County DJFS
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will understand the "Stress Model" of behavior.</li> <li>• Foster parents will be able to understand and intervene effectively with children's disruptive behavior.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn how to create a healing environment for children to thrive and grow.</li> </ul>	

**Ashtabula County Children's Services Board**  
**On-Going Training Schedule**  
 3814 C Court  
 Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-1175  
 440-998-1811

<b>BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT I: HANDLING SURFACE BEHAVIORS WITH OPPOSITIONAL AND ACTING OUT CHILDREN - 914</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Monday, August 11, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Brian Lowery	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will understand the dynamics of separation.</li> <li>• Foster parents will explore components of a therapeutic household, including modifying the environment, importance of routines, roles and attitudes of household members.</li> <li>• Foster parents will understand the ABC's of behavioral theory.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn 10 teaching techniques for handling surface behaviors.</li> </ul>	

<b>TOOLBOX FOR CHANGE: ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - 921</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Monday, August 18, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Katie Terry	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will understand the importance of a psychological/psychiatric assessment.</li> <li>• Foster parents will gain a basic understanding of the five classifications of psychotropic medications.</li> <li>• Foster parents will understand the uses of therapies and their efficacy in treating mental health issues.</li> </ul>	

<b>OPENING THE DOOR TO INDEPENDENT LIVING - 928</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Monday, August 25, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Brian Lowery	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn to prepare youth for independent living.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn about barriers foster children face in obtaining employment.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn to use concrete methods for moving foster children toward independence.</li> </ul>	

<b>CARAMELS ARE ESSENTIAL: ATTACHMENT AND EARLY BRAIN TRAUMA - 912</b>	
<b>Date:</b> Saturday, September 6, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 - 4:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Francesca Muscari	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn about brain development of a traumatized child.</li> <li>• Foster parents will understand the impact of trauma, separation, loss and grief on a child.</li> <li>• Foster parents will understand what the "cycle of need" is and how it is important in the first two years of life.</li> </ul>	



**CULTURE AND DIVERSITY ISSUES IN FOSTER CARE - 937**

<b>Date:</b> Monday, September 22, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Brian Lowery	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will be introduced to the concept of cultural sensitivity.</li> <li>• Foster parents will be challenged to examine their own values and codes of conduct making an effort to learn more about these issues.</li> <li>• Foster parents will begin to recognize the unique opportunities inherent in a diverse foster family experience.</li> </ul>	

**PREVENTING AND DE-ESCALATING CRISIS – P6A**

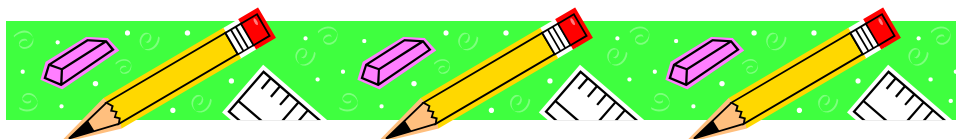
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, September 25, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Emily Wetherill	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will become aware of the reasons children may have negative behavior.</li> <li>• Foster parents will become aware of the difference between punishment and discipline.</li> <li>• Foster parents will become familiar with non-physical discipline techniques, including natural and logical consequences and rewarding positive behavior.</li> </ul>	

**SHAPING SELF-CONCEPT - 914**

<b>Date:</b> Monday, September 29, 2008	<b>Time:</b> 6:00 - 9:00 PM
<b>Trainer:</b> Francesca Muscari	<b>Location:</b> Ashtabula County CSB
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster parents will learn win-win strategies for discipline.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn techniques for repairing damaged self-esteem.</li> <li>• Foster parents will learn ways to assist children in their own problem-solving abilities.</li> </ul>	

**Ashtabula County Children’s Services Board  
Pre Service Training Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PRE-SERVICE TOPIC</b>	<b>COURSE NO.</b>
Monday, August 4, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care	PS1
Thursday, August 7, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Monday, August 11, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Thursday, August 14, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Attachment, Separation and Placement	PS4
Monday, August 18, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Thursday, August 21, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Monday, August 25, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Working with Primary Families	PS7
Thursday, April 28, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8
Monday, September 15, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Sexual Abuse	PS9
Thursday, September 18, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Children	PS 11
Monday, September 22, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Families	PS 12





# JEFF



DOB: 5-4-92

Jeff describes himself as fun, energetic, outgoing, caring, kind, loving and says that he gets along well with others.

Jeff enjoys playing basketball, football, baseball and racing motor-cross. He also enjoys going on vacation. Jeff has been to eight states and one country besides the US. He hopes to continue traveling so he can add to his list.

Jeff likes animals. He really likes doing anything that involves the outdoors. Such as hunting and fishing. Jeff also likes farming and wouldn't mind finding a home that is in the country.

His hobbies include building model cars and planes, as well as, collecting hot wheels and football, baseball and Nascar cards.

When he grows up Jeff would like to be an architect and eventually go back to school to be a meteorologist. He really wants to be a storm chaser.

When asked if there's anything he doesn't like, Jeff stated, "I don't like to walk".

Jeff is a truly likeable kid. He would like to be matched with a two parent family that are caring and loving. He feels a home with no kids under 16 would best suit him. Jeff would like to live in a nice house in a good neighborhood.

Jeff would like to maintain contact with his birth family.

If you are interested in being a permanent home for Jeff please contact Geauga County Job and Family Services.

Agency: Geauga County JFS  
Contact: Rebecca Calabrese  
Telephone: (440) 285-1265