



Geauga County Job & Family Services Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter December 2011



Happy Holidays! This is the time of year when we often get together with family and friends. This is also the time when nerves get frazzled, we may get stressed out and it seems that there are many who spend more time complaining, then truly enjoying the season. While the economy is still struggling, so are many of the people that we know. What are the holidays truly about? Gifts, holiday lines, Black Friday, get togethers? For each person the holidays mean many different things. It is often a time to reflect on traditions, try family recipes, get in contact with those we have lost contact with, remember those who are not here, or plan for the future.

Many opportunities are available during the holidays if we take notice of them. While there may not be extra money for gifts, there are plenty of things that can be made and given as gifts. We can also give "gifts" by donating time to a local organization. This holiday season, while dealing with all the hustle and bustle, take time to remember those that are in need. In our county, and around the state, there are children in need of a permanent family. Could that family be yours? Remember "You don't need to be perfect to be a perfect parent."

Recognize the Good

"It takes so little to let others know they are appreciated, but such acknowledgement is greatly valued. A thank you, a phone call, or a card can brighten someone's entire day.

Make a point of recognizing the good that others do and telling them about it. Showing appreciation is a great habit to develop." Anonymous

ASHLEY



Ashley is 17 years old, she needs a family that is structured, and has a lot of patience. A family with no other children would be ideal, as she thrives on attention.

HEATHER



Heather is a 16 year old that needs a family that is committed to providing her with a stable, structured home into adulthood. It would be important for her family to have some experience parenting a teen girl, in order to help her through issues in her life. This family will also need to be willing to allow contact between Heather and her brother.

JEFFREY



Jeffrey needs a family that would be willing to parent him well into

adulthood. Jeffrey has come a long way in the past year, and interested families would need to be willing to continue helping him on his upward track to becoming a productive member of society. While he is 18, he will more than likely be in school until he is 22 years old.

For more information on any of these kids, or others that may be available, please call Kelly Conroy or Rebecca Calabrese at 440-285-9141.

KAYLA



Kayla is 16 years old and is a sweet girl with a good heart. She likes to help others when she can. A family that can give her a lot of patience and attention, without other children, is really what she needs.

KALEIGH



Kaleigh is 13 years old, she needs a family that will willing to be a long term support system to her, as she is in a supportive living situation.

Community Information:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Winter Crisis Program

The Winter Crisis Program provides financial assistance to low-income households that are threatened with disconnection of their heating source; have already had service disconnected; need to establish new service or pay to transfer service; or have 25% or less of the fuel capacity in their tank.

The WCP program runs November 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Geauga County residents may make application for assistance, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**, at
Geauga County Job & Family Services
12480 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, OH 44024

To be income eligible, a household must have a total household income for the last 12 months or 90 days equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines.

To make an appointment to apply for the HEAP Winter Crisis Program
Call 440-285-9141.

Free Christmas Dinner
open to anyone in need
from 12pm to 2pm Christmas Day

Federated Family Life Center
16349 Chillicothe Road
Bainbridge

To volunteer, call Monica at
440-834-1737

Respite Poll

We are taking a poll to find out what the interest is from families that would be willing to provide respite for other families. Please complete enclosed card and return in the return envelope. If you have any further questions please call Amy Buresch at 440-285-1224.





Here are this month statements for you to decide if they are true or false. The answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1. In a certain Christmas carol, grandma got run over by a moose. True or False
2. A snowflake has 10 sides. True or False
3. Alvin the Chipmunk wants a hoola hoop for Christmas. True or False
4. Icicles most often form on the south side of buildings, True or False
5. 50 % of fresh snow is composed of air. True or False
6. On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to 5 inches of snow. True or False
7. The 1st US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday was Alabama in 1836. True or False
8. Mr. Potato Head was introduced in 1952 with plastic pieces to be placed in a real potato. True or False
9. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created as a promotion for the Macy's Department Store. True or False
10. In the original book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", the Grinch was not green. True or False

November Answers

1. Aristotle, the philosopher was adopted. **True**
2. Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady, was adopted **True**
3. Bob & Delores Hope were adoptive parents. **True**
4. Crazy Horse, Lakota war chief, was adopted. **True**
5. Walt & Lily Disney, Founder of Disneyland, were adoptive parents. **True**
6. Ed McMahon, entertainer, is an adoptive parent. **True**
7. Connie Chung, news anchor, is an adoptive parent. **True**
8. Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia from 356 to 323 B.C., was an adoptive parent. **True**
9. George Washington Carver, inventor, was adopted. **True**
10. Nancy Reagan, First Lady, was adopted. **True**



Recipes:

America Shepherd's Pie

Prep time: 25 minutes Cook Time: 35 minutes Servings: 6

Ingredients:

1T vegetable oil	¼ cup ketchup
1 onion, chopped	¾ cup tomato juice
2 cloves garlic, minced	2T Worcestershire Sauce
1 t dried thyme	2T mustard
1 t dried rosemary	1 cup frozen vegetables
1 t salt	3 cups cooked, warm, mashed potatoes
1 t pepper	2T butter
1 pound ground beef	1 clove garlic, minced
4 t flour	2/3 cup warm milk



Directions:

1. Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, thyme, rosemary, and half of the salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Crumble meat into pan and cook until brown all over. Sprinkle with flour. Stir in ketchup, tomato juice, Worcestershire sauce and mustard. Simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in mixed vegetables. Transfer to a 9 in baking dish.
3. Whip the potatoes, with the warm milk, remaining salt and pepper, butter and garlic until very fluffy. Spread potatoes evenly over meat medium. Bake for 35 minutes or until potatoes are golden.

Edible Gingerbread Forest

Ingredients:

Sugar Ice cream cones

Icing tinted green with food coloring

Red Hot candies, silver balls, holiday sprinkles, etc

Wax paper

Directions:

Place the cone upside down on a piece of wax paper. Cover the cone with green icing and press the red hots, sprinkles, etc while the frosting is wet. These look great next to a gingerbread house!

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES:

Holiday Crackers Craft:

Supplies:

Scissors

Wrapping paper

Empty cardboard tubes, trimmed

Jingle Bells (optional)

Ribbon or string

Clear tape or glue stick

Wrapped candy, toys, treats or notes



Directions:

1. Cut a piece of wrapping paper that's 6 inches longer than the tube and wide enough to wrap completely around it at least once. Center the tube along one long side of the paper and use the tape or glue to hold it in place.
2. Your child can then wrap the paper tightly around the tube and secure the seam with tape or glue. She should then twist the excess paper at one end and tie it closed with ribbon or string.
3. Fill the tube with candy and other tiny surprises, then twist and tie closed the open end.

TRAINING REMINDERS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Please remember that if there are less than 5 people signed up for training, a week prior to the training, the training will be cancelled.**
- ❖ To register for training you can call the county directly, call the Foster Parent Training Line at 1-866-294-3787 or contact [Julie Hayden](mailto:Julie.Hayden@ocwtp.com), at 330-379-1976.
- ❖ Want to know what trainings are being held by other counties? Visit the Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm>

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Tuesday, January 24, 2012: Life Books – The Gift That Keeps Giving

Trainer: Beth Cardina

Time: 6-9 pm

Tuesday, February 7, 2012: Substance Use And Abuse Among Children And Teens: Prevention Recognition And Intervention

Trainer: Stacy Simera

Time: 6-9 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2012: Dealing With The Impact Of Early Sexual Trauma

Trainer: David Zidar

Time: 6-9pm

Geauga County Job & Family Services Pre-Service Schedule

Pre-Service will be held starting February 25, 2012 on Saturdays through March 31, 2012.

**Lake County Job & Family Services
On-Going Training Schedule
440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218**

Monday, December 12, 2011: Moral Development
Trainer: David Zidar

Time: 6-9 pm

Wednesday, January 4, 2012: Pro-Social Skills
Trainer: David Zidar

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, January 26, 2012: Talk, Talk, Talk: What's Too Much? Issues of Confidentiality
Trainer: Pam Reid

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, February 16, 2012: ZZZ's To A's: Supporting Sleep For Better Functioning
Trainer: Stacy Simera

Time: 6-9 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2012: From Bullying To Befriending: Helping Youth Change The Culture Of Bullying
Trainer: Anthony President

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 22, 2012: Discipline Your Children Without Punishing Yourself
Trainer: Beth Philley

Time: 6-9 pm

**Lake County Job & Family Services
Pre-Service Training**

Pre-Service will be held starting February 4, 2012 through March 14, 2012.

**Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
On-Going Training Schedule
440-998-1811**

Tuesday, December 13, 2011: Relax, It's Only a Crisis
Trainer: David Zidar

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, January 5, 2012: Helping Children with Self Esteem
Trainer: Sr. Madeline Rybicki

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, January 26, 2012: The Emotional and Behavioral Sequel to Maltreatment
Trainer: Brian Lowrey

Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, February 2, 2012: Working with Birth Parents: Making it A Positive For Everyone
Trainer: Sherry Doherty

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, February 16, 2012: Suicide Risk Among Children And Adolescents: Recognition and Intervention
Trainer: Ruth Simera

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 15, 2012: Substance Use and Abuse Among Children And Teens: Prevention, Recognition and Intervention
Trainer: Stacy Simera

Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 22, 2012: Beauty And The Beast: Providing Trauma Sensitive Care To Children
Trainer: Kathleen Terry

Time: 6-9 pm

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

Pre-Service will be held starting March 1, 2011 on Thursdays through May 2011.



So far our hopes to have more people receive the newsletter by email has been lacking. We still would like to have at least half of the families that receive this newsletter by email instead of "snail mail." Would you be willing to be one of the first to help us with this goal? Please give your email address to Kathi Serafino, LSW or Dawn Bates at 440-285-9141, email us at serafk@odjfs.state.oh.us or batesd@odjfs.state.oh.us