

Geauga County Job & Family Services

Permanency Planning February 2008 Newsletter



"A friend is one who knows you as you are, understands where you've been, accepts who you've become, and still invites you to grow"

February is International Friendship Month

With February being International Friendship Month what better theme for our Newsletter. The definition of friendship in the dictionary is:

1. The quality or condition of being friends.
2. A friendly relationship.
3. The state of being friends.

What does it mean to be a good Friend?
How do we know if someone is truly our friend? Can you ever have enough or too many friends? Here are some questions that you can discuss with your kids to help them decide for themselves if they are a "good" friend. (As adults we also need to keep these things in mind)

1. Are you a good listener?
2. Are you approachable?
3. Are you trustworthy?
4. Do you avoid gossiping about others?
5. Are you selfless rather than selfish?
6. Can you sensitively tell a friend what you really think?

Part of Friendship is maintaining and developing new friendships. One of the ways to develop new friendships is by having a pen pal. Pen pals help kids learn about other places whether it is here in the US or over seas. Below are some websites that you can access if your child is interested in getting one or more pen pals to communicate with and learn more about the person they are matched with.

www.pen-pal.com

www.amazing-kids.org/AKPenPals.html

www.ipfusa.com

www.internationalpenfriends.com



"A friend's hand is always there...you just have to reach out for it."

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

Books about Friendship: Courtesy of Chardon Library

PRESCHOOL

BEST, BEST FRIENDS by Margaret Chodos-Irvine
FROZEN NOSES by Jan Carr
HALF A WORLD AWAY by Libby Gleeson
RAYMOND AND NELDA by Barbara Bottner
SIMON AND MOLLY PLUS HESTER by Lisa Jahn-Clough
WHAT'S CLAUDE DOING? by Dick Gackenbach

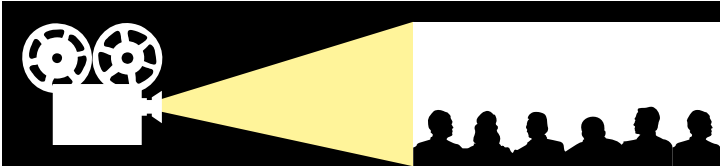


ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DEAR ICHIRO by Jean Davies Okimoto (Gr. 4-6)
FRIENDS by Elaine Scott (Gr. K-3)
HEY, NEW KID! by Betsy Duffey (Gr. 2-4)
LENNY'S SPACE by Kate Banks (Gr. 4-6)
MRS. KATZ AND TUSH by Patricia Polacco (Gr. K-3)
MY ROBOT by Eve Bunting (Gr. K-2)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ASHWATER EXPERIMENT by Amy Goldman Koss (Gr. 6-8)
SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS by Ann Brashares (Gr. 6-9)
TTYL by Lauren Myracle (Gr. 8-10)
UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP: A NOVEL OF MARY TODD LINCOLN AND ELIZABETH KECKLEY by Ann Rinaldi (Gr. 6-9)
WHEN ZACHARY BEAVER CAME TO TOWN by Kimberly Willis Holt (Gr. 6-9)



“Child Spotlight of the Month”

AXL

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 Axl is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Axl.

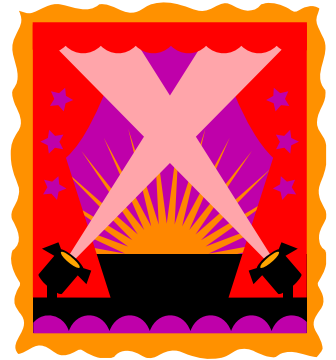
Did you know February is . .

- *National Wild Bird Feeding Month
- *Skippy Peanut Butter was created February 1, 1933
- *February 1 is Bubble Gum Day
- *February 2 is Groundhog Day
- *February 6 is International Pancake Day
- *February 14 is Valentine's Day
- *February 29 is Leap Year



"If I could give you one gift my friend, I would give you the ability to see yourself as others see you, so you would know how very special you are."

This month we are going to introduce some of JFS' front office staff who project professional performance in their ability to deal with the public and convey an impression which reflects favorably upon the agency. Their work performance has been recognized and acknowledged in our Annual Employee Awards Program.



Now Presenting: Brenda Wilkes & Bonnie Neely



Brenda Wilkes is one of the smiley faces that will greet you when you come in to the Agency for services. She has been employed with our agency over 17 years. She was our 1993 Employee of the Year, received a Special Services to a Client Award in 2001, as well as an Outstanding Performance Quarterly Award in 2004.

Bonnie Neely came to our agency five years ago and is the pleasant voice that you will hear when you call into the Agency. She has also received several employee awards during her 5 years at our Agency. She received our 2005 Employee of the Year and an Outstanding Performance Quarterly award that same year.



Foster Parent Training

In this newsletter you will find the schedule for the on-going trainings. If you would like to sign up for any of the following trainings at Geauga County JFS please contact your Permanency Planning Worker at (440) 285-9141.

Foster Parent Recruitment

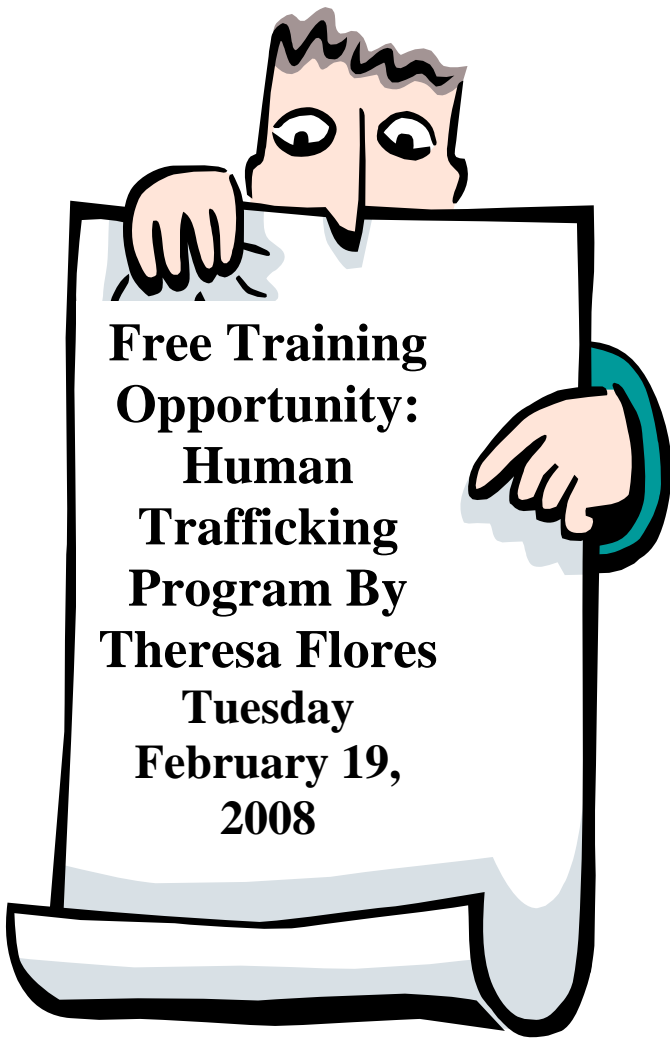
Please remember to refer family, friends, or others that may be interested in assisting children that are in need. Geauga County Job and Family Services sends out flyers prior to each information meeting. If you would like to see the flyer in your church bulletin or posted at your work site please let us know.

Just a couple reminders about trainings

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 before 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 training sessions, please excuse yourself and answer it in the lobby. Also, please be on time for all trainings. If you are more than **15 minutes** late, the front door will be locked and you will not be allowed to participate in the training.

Do you want to know what other trainings are being offered by other counties? Lost your newsletter and cannot remember when that next awesome training is going to be held? You can access the Northeast Regional Training Center website to see all the trainings that are being offered at our Agency and all over the state. Go to www.ocwtp.com for more information.

"A friend is one who know what you're thinking without even saying a word."



The Human Trafficking training has been pre-approved for ongoing foster and adoptive training hours for GCJFS families. Please remember to register for the training and to provide your PP worker with a copy of the training certificate.

Theresa Flores, an Ohio native, will share her experiences of being trafficked as a 15 year old high school student while living in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit, Michigan. She describes her two year ordeal in the recently published book, *The Sacred Bath*. Now she works as a social worker and shares her story when and where she can to help others understand that human trafficking exists in our own communities. Resources will be available to help participants identify the signs of trafficking and appropriate ways to respond.

TIME: 6:30pm—8:00pm

**WHERE: Notre Dame Educational Center
13000 Auburn Rd, Chardon, OH 44024**

For more information: Tel: 440-279-1191

E-mail: lpetelin@ndec.org

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked." - Bernard Meltzer



PLEASE NOTE:

If you are interested in signing up for a training @ Geauga Co JFS please call to register at least a week in advance so that we can accurately count the number of people attending. For most trainings we need a minimum of 6 people attending or else we have to cancel a training. So your timely registering for training will be greatly appreciated.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

TALK, TALK, TALK: FOSTER PARENTS' ETHICS - 920

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Trainer: Pam Reid

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn the definition of confidentiality.
- Foster parents will learn how to maintain the confidentiality of the foster children in their home.
- Foster parents will learn how to set up boundaries for friends and neighbors who want to know about the foster children in their home.

LEGAL ISSUES IN FOSTER CARE GIVING - 920

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Trainer: Christina Rosebrough-Schneider

Location: Geauga County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will be able to identify the roles and responsibilities of the legal team.
- Foster parents will know their basic responsibilities and obligations for children in their care.
- Foster parents will have a working knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in the courtroom or to court procedures pursuant to OH Law.

SEXUAL ABUSE - PO9

Date: ~~Thursday, March 27, 2008~~ **Wednesday, March 26, 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 in 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, March 29, 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, March 29, 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, March 1, 2008	9 - 12 PM	Orientation and Overview	PS1
Saturday, March 1, 2008	1 - 4 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Saturday, March 8, 2008	9 - 12 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Saturday, March 8, 2008	1 - 4 PM	Attachment and Separation	PS4
Saturday, March 15, 2008	9 - 12 PM	Discipline	PS5
Saturday, March 15, 2008	1 - 4 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Saturday, March 22, 2008	9 - 12 PM	Working with Primary Families	PS7
Saturday, March 22, 2008	1 - 4 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8



"Friends are like
peanut butter and
jelly; they always
stick together."



Lake County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

177 Main Street

Painesville, Ohio 44077-3402

440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218

DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS - 921

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2008

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Trainer: Tyrone White

Location: Lake County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will become aware of signs and symptoms of childhood and adolescent depression, and the relationship of depression to loss for foster children.
- Foster parents will learn the characteristics and types of depression.
- Foster parents will learn how to intervene with a depressed child and where to go to seek help.
- Foster parents will be able to recognize when depression worsens and how to seek help, including signs of suicide potential.

INTERVENTIONS WITH REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER CHILDREN-913

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2008

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Trainer: Dave Zidar

Location: Lake County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn the origin of Reactive Attachment Disorder.
- Foster parents will learn the diagnostic criteria for Reactive Attachment Disorder..
- Foster parents will learn techniques to manage behavior.

PUFF THE MAGIC DRAGON – 939

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2008

Time: 9:00-4:00 PM

Trainer: Patrick Kelly

Location: Lake County JFS

Objectives:

- Foster parents will gain an understanding of methamphetamines.
- Foster parents will learn how, where and why methamphetamines are made.
- Foster parents will learn the safety concerns regarding methamphetamines.

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

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	COURSE NO.
Monday, February 25, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care	PS1
Wednesday, February 27, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Saturday, March 1, 2008	9 - 12 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Saturday, March 1, 2008	12:30 – 3:30 PM	Attachment, Separation and Placement	PS4
Monday, March 3, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Wednesday, March 5, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Monday, March 10, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Primary Families	PS7
Wednesday, March 12, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8
Monday, March 17, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Sexual Abuse	PS9
Wednesday, March 19, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Planning for Children and Families	PS 11 & 12

"A friend is like a seatbelt, you may not always need them, but they will be there just in case!"

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

DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS - 921	
Date: Monday, February 4, 2008	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: Tyrone White	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will become aware of signs and symptoms of childhood and adolescent depression, and the relationship of depression to loss for foster children. • Foster parents will learn the characteristics and types of depression. • Foster parents will learn how to intervene with a depressed child and where to go to seek help. • Foster parents will be able to recognize when depression worsens and how to seek help, including signs of suicide potential. 	

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - 912	
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2008	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: Karla McDay	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will be able to define domestic violence. • Foster parents will gain an understanding of the effects of domestic violence on children. • Foster parents will gain an understanding of the abuse cycle. 	

DISCIPLINE IN FOSTER CARE: MANAGING OUR BEHAVIOR TO MANAGE THEIRS - F14	
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2008	Time: 9:00-4:00 PM
Trainer: Ann Bagley	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will develop sensitivity for every child's needs and right to normalization. • Foster parents will understand their parenting style and strengths and liabilities of their parenting. • Foster parents will review self-discipline influenced by developmental stages and as the desired result of behavior management. • Foster parents will learn how to be an effective teacher in order to obtain behavior management in foster children. • Foster parents will understand their responsibility to respect a child's/family's cultural background. 	

TALK, TALK, TALK: FOSTER PARENTS' ETHICS - 920 CANCELLED	
Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: Pam Reid	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn the definition of confidentiality. • Foster parents will learn how to maintain the confidentiality of the foster children in their home. • Foster parents will learn how to set up boundaries for friends and neighbors who want to know about the foster children in their home. 	

"True friendship is a gift that is given without the expectation of anything in return. Instead the reward is the friendship itself."

BUILDING HEALTHY ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: 10 FACTORS FOR SUCCESS – 962

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2008

Time: 9:00-4:00 PM

Trainer: Angie Avery

Location: Ashtabula County CSB

Objectives:

- Foster parents will learn to talk to children about adoption at a developmentally appropriate level.
- Foster parents will learn how to handle difficult information regarding the birth family.
- Foster parents will understand how a child may have conflicting feelings and other issues regarding adoption.

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

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	COURSE NO.
Tuesday, February 26, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Orientation and Overview of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care	PS1
Tuesday, March 4, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Teambuilding	PS2
Tuesday, March 11, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Abuse and Neglect and Impact on Child Development	PS3
Tuesday, March 18, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Attachment, Separation and Placement	PS4
Tuesday, March 25, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Discipline	PS5
Tuesday, April 1, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	PS6
Tuesday, April 8, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Primary Families	PS7
Tuesday, April 15, 2008	6 - 9 PM	Effects of Caregiving on the Family	PS8
Tuesday, April 22, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Sexual Abuse	PS9
Tuesday, April 29, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Children	PS 10
Tuesday, May 6, 2008	6 – 9 PM	Permanency Issues for Families	PS 11

"The best things in life aren't things...they're friends."



"A friend will ride in the Limo with you, but a real friend will ride the bus with you when then limo breaks down."