



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

The warm weather has finally arrived with the sun shining and grass growing. This newsletter is the first of our combined newsletters for our foster, adoptive and kinship families. While we understand that there may be a few things that may pertain to only one of these groups, we realized that most of the information would be helpful to all. The goal of this newsletter is to reach as many families as possible with a variety of information. We try to include information that may help you raise the children in your care or family activities that are available. We are hoping that you enjoy this newsletter.

We need your help!

We are looking for your stories about how a social worker made an impact on your life or the life of a child in your home. This is open to current and previous foster, adoptive and kinship families in the community. We are also asking that families and children, when appropriate, write what foster care, adoption or kinship care means to them. We would like to use the stories or letters or pictures for families interested in fostering, adopting or providing kinship care, as well as if appropriate to show kids that are coming into the system or waiting for a family. Having you explain in your own words what your experience was like with our Agency is often more powerful than us giving the facts about our programs. To be able to show families and kids letters and stories from "real" kids and families makes a big difference.

So get your stories written and either email or snail mail them to either your permanency planning worker, Kathi Serafino (SERAFK@odjfs.state.oh.us) or Dawn Bates (BATESD@odjfs.state.oh.us).

Do you have some time to spare? Would you like to give back to the community but not sure how?

We have some programs that are looking for volunteers. Whether you have a few hours a month or a few hours a week, we can use your help. Volunteers are needed for the following programs.

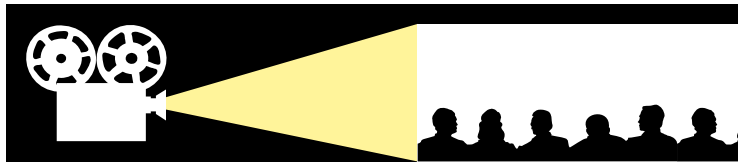
Help Me Learn Day. School supply distribution program supported by local donations.

The Friends Program: The Friends program matches children between 7 and 16 years old with an adult volunteer who is a supportive friend and positive adult role model.

NEW Volunteering Tutoring Program. This program matches volunteers with children in need of additional help in reading and math. This program was piloted at Jordak Elementary and Cardinal Intermediate School and were an overwhelming success. This fall the program will be expanding to include Burton Elementary.

Sponsor A Family. This program helps low income families with food and gifts for the holidays. The program is funded through local churches, community organizations, civic groups and individuals. Volunteers are needed during the holidays to sort and pack food and gifts.

Community Information:



"Child Spotlight of the Month"

KAYLA

Enclosed with this month's newsletter is a flyer for Kayla who 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 Kayla is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Kayla.

2nd Annual Northeast Ohio Convoy of Hope

When: July 31, 2011, 2pm to 5pm
Where: Lake County Fair Grounds
1301 Mentor Ave, Painesville

This is a free community event that provides free groceries, haircuts, kids activities, medical and dental screenings, job fair and many other community services. For more information or to volunteer go to www.neohconvoyofhope.org

Free lunches and school fees:

Families eligible for the Free Lunch Program at school no longer have to pay for school fees, instructional fees, or class dues. For more information on this program, contact your school, Ohio Benefit Bank at 1-800-648-1176, or visit: www.obb.ohio.gov

The Department on Aging announces:

60th Birthday Bash - "Concert in the Park"
for anyone 60 and over

When: August 24th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Where: West Geauga Senior Center at Patterson Fruit Farm
11411 Caves Road in Chesterland.
Cost: FREE
Entertainment: The Four Lads

Successful Co-Parenting

Seminar objectives:

- To understand the divorce process for adults
- To learn to help your child cope with your divorce (or custody sharing situations)
- To develop strategies for communicating with your ex-spouse or partner
- Recognize children's response to divorce and their needs at various ages.

When: July 19, 2011, 6:00pm until 8:30 pm
Where: 470 Center Street, Bldg. 8 meeting room, Chardon, OH 44024

Registration is required so please call the Ohio State University Ext at 440-834-4656
Pre-paid registration is \$15 or \$20 at the door

Help Me Learn Day

Need help with school supplies?

When: August 8, 2011

Where: Geauga County Job & Family Services
Or

When: August 16, 2011

Where: Chagrin Falls Park Community Center

Time: 9am to 4pm, Registration required

Identification required (Medicaid Card, Food Stamp Card or Photo ID) and demonstrate need

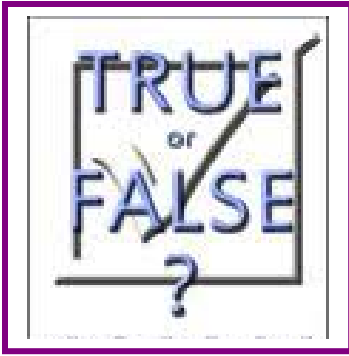
For more information or to register please contact Sara Shiningar at (440) 285-9141 Ext. 1263

Coming Soon: The Great Geauga County Fair

September 1 through September 5, 2011

8th annual Diaper Dash: September 1
This is for those children between the ages of 8 to 13 months, to crawl to victory

"Dreams are like the paints of a great artist. Your dreams are your paints; the world is your canvas. Believing is the brush that converts your dreams into a masterpiece of reality." Author Unknown



This year we will be including a section that you have to decide if the statements are true or false. The answers will be in next month's newsletter.

1. A typical lightning bolt is two to four inches wide and two miles long. True or False
2. An average ear of corn has 800 kernel, arranged in 16 rows. True or False
3. The average lifespan of a major league baseball is 50 pitches. True or False
4. The person who invented the first popsicle was 25 years old. True or False
5. Each year, Americans consume 140 million burgers. True or False
6. A bumblebee flaps its wings 200 beats per second. True or False
7. America's best selling ice cream flavor is vanilla. True or False
8. Butterflies smell with their feet. True or False
9. Only full grown male crickets can chirp. True or False
10. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball. True or False

June Answers

1. About one-tenth of the earth's surface is permanently covered with ice. **True**
2. Australia is the only country that is also a continent. **True**
3. New Hampshire, with 96, is the US state with the greatest number of hazardous waste sites. **False, New Jersey**
4. During a severe windstorm or rainstorm the Empire State Building may sway several feet to either side. **True**
5. The largest body of fresh water in the world is Lake Erie. **False, Lake Superior**
6. The Atlantic Ocean is saltier than the Pacific Ocean. **True**
7. Europe has no deserts - it is the only continent without one. **True**
8. The most abundant metal in the Earth's crust is magnesium. **False, Aluminum**
9. Ten per cent of the salt mined in the world each year is used to de-ice the roads in America. **True**
10. Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years old or older. **True**



Recipes:

Banana Split with a Twist

Ingredients:

Bananas
Whipped Cream
Watermelon
Optional: Berries, granola, nuts, cherries

Directions

1. Cut bananas in half lengthwise and place the halves on plates.
2. Top with watermelon balls formed with an ice cream scoop.
3. Add dollops of whipped cream, then sprinkle on berries, chopped nuts or granola.



Summer Squash Burritos

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 onion, chopped
3 small summer squash, sliced
salt to taste
4 (7 inch) flour tortillas
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped tomato

Directions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat; cook and stir the onion in the hot oil until fragrant, about 3 minutes. Add the squash in three batches, making sure the first has softened slightly before adding the next. Season with salt.
2. Heat the tortillas in the microwave until warm, about 10 seconds. Spoon the squash mixture into the center of the tortillas; top with the Cheddar cheese and tomato. Roll into a burrito to serve.



Grilled Packet Potatoes

Cook time: 25 minutes

Makes 8 servings

Ingredients:

8 red or russet potatoes, sliced ¼ inch thick
8 green onions, chopped with some of the green, plus more for garnish
2 cloves of garlic
4 T olive oil
Salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Prepare the grill for cooking. Place two 18-inch-long pieces of heavy-duty foil on a flat surface. Divide the potatoes, green onions, and garlic between the two pieces of foil, keeping the mixture in the center of each sheet. Drizzle the potatoes with the olive oil and season them to your liking. Gently toss the ingredients on the foil, then fold and crimp the foil along the sides to make a flat packet (make each packet a uniform thickness for even cooking).
2. Grill the packets for 15 minutes, then turn them over and grill them for 10 minutes more. The potatoes can be served directly from the foil packets, sprinkled with additional green onion.



CRAFTS:

Juice Bottle Bug Catcher

You will need:

- Empty plastic juice bottle with at least one flat side and lid
- Scissors
- Craft foam
- Hot glue gun
- Scrap piece of window screen or tulle
- Natural items like rocks, grass, twigs etc.



Directions:

1. Remove all labels from juice bottle. Wash inside and out thoroughly with warm water and mild dish soap. Rinse well and dry. Be sure to save the lid.
2. Lay bottle on its flat side and use scissors to cut an opening on the side facing up.
3. Cut a piece of screen or tulle to fit over the opening, overlapping it by about ¼" all the way around the edge.
4. Cut a piece of craft foam about ½" bigger (all the way around) than the screen or tulle you just cut out. Cut center out of foam to create a "window."
5. Hot glue the screen to the craft foam.
6. Hot glue the screen window to the opening on the bottle.
7. Place rocks, pebbles, dirt, grass, twigs, or whatever other natural items you choose inside the bottle through the opening at the top.
8. To catch bugs with your bottle, place the bottle on the ground in tall grass where the insects can climb in. Alternatively, you can catch insects on your own and place them into the bottle through the lid opening, then secure the lid.
9. If you have trouble setting an insect free, or if you need to replace the greenery inside, you can easily peel back the screen cover. To replace, simply add more hot glue and secure in place again.



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 serafk@odjfs.state.oh.us. We will then take you off the mailing list and add you to the email list for the newsletter.

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 a training, a week prior to the training, the training will be cancelled.**
- ❖ To register for a training you can either call the county directly or you can call the Foster Parent Training Line at 1-866-294-3787 or for more information contact [Julie Hayden](mailto:Julie.Hayden@ocwtp.com), at 330-379-1976.
- ❖ 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>

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Tuesday, August 9, 2011: On The Move Again – Placement Changes
Trainer: Sonji Gregory, Time: 6-9pm

Saturday, August 20, 2011: Preventing and Solving Sibling Conflict
Trainer: Jody Johnston Pawel, Time: 6-9pm

Geauga County Job & Family Services Pre Service Training Schedule

Pre Service will be held starting September 20, 2011 on Tuesdays and Thursdays through November 1, 2011

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

Thursday, August 4, 2011: Caution, Stop and Yield: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders In Children and Adolescents
Trainer: Katie Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, August 18, 2011: Behavior Management
Trainer: Brian Lowrey, Time: 6-9pm

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

Tuesday, August 9, 2011: Peeling Back the Layers: Seeing Past Our Children's Defense Mechanisms
Trainer: Beth Philley, Time 6-9pm

Tuesday, August 23, 2011: Navigating the Path to Independent Living, Part 2 – Process
Trainer: Kathleen Lowrey, Time 6-9pm

Ashtabula County Children's Services Board Pre Service Training Schedule

Pre-Service will be held starting September 8, 2011 on Mondays and Thursdays through October 31, 2011.

KAYLA

Birthdate: January 1995



Kayla is usually p
Kayla is a very sc
consistently doing well during the school day since being
placed in an all girls group home. She is able to sit nicely, stay
on task, raise her hand, stay in the program, etc. She enjoys
listening to music as well as art. Kayla's favorite sport is
volleyball, which she plays, but also enjoys basketball. Kayla
takes pride in the things she is able to cook and bake.

Kayla is on medication to help her with her depression and it
seems to be working pretty well.

Kayla would like to maintain contact with her sisters and aunts.
They have consistently been a part of her life and she would
like it to stay that way.

