



Geauga County Job & Family Services Permanency Planning June & July 2010 Newsletter

May was National Foster Care Month. This year we celebrated with a dinner for our foster parents at St. Mary's in Chardon. We learned more about how the media comes into our home and how it affects teens and children. It was very interesting and if you were unable to attend, but want to attend a great training, look for the training titled "Home Invasion: Overcoming Media Madness, Anthony President." We want to extend our thanks to all of our certified families who on a regular basis go above and beyond with the families and children that they serve.

We used a movie theme for the dinner and presented awards to the families using movie award categories. Our Foster Parents of the Year received the Best Family in a Leading Role, who were the Ditto family. The Ditto's have a sibling group of four placed with them and they have taken a lead in getting the children the services they require. The one child needed extra medical attention for vision, and it was found he was almost legally blind in one eye. They have also taken a lead in advocating for therapeutic services for the oldest child of the sibling group. The Ditto's have taken an active role in finding the services and coming up with some creative ideas for the kids. We congratulate Patti and Doug for Best Family in a Leading Role.

Here is the photo of our Family of the Year!



Respite Services: This is something that many adoptive families have asked for more information about. Well, we have heard of a program that is run thru the Akron YMCA. They have what are called "Respite Weekends." Because of the title and how the program is set up we have been able to get approval thru the PASSS program for funding. The respite weekends run once a month, from Friday night thru Sunday morning. To get more information go to their website www.akronymca.org then click on camps, then click on rotary camps, then click on respite camps.

Medical Grants For Children

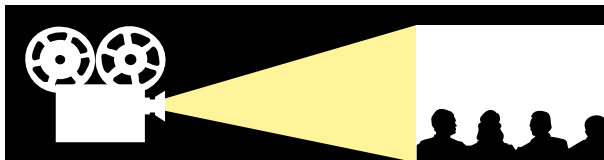
The United Healthcare Children's Foundation provides families in need with medical grants of up to \$5000 to help pay for medical services such as speech therapy, or medical equipment like hearing aids and wheelchairs. For more information or to apply go to

uhctogether.com/uhccf

Foster Parent Recruitment

Please remember to refer family, friends, or others that may be interested in assisting children that are in need. We are in desperate need of families. 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.

PARENTS! Do you have a child with disabilities over the age of 3 and in need of diapers or pull-ups? Medicaid can cover the cost of these. ActivStyle is one company that provides home delivery. For more information call 1-800-651-6223 ext. 3213 or go to www.activstylefor caregivers.com.



"Child Spotlight of the Month"

ASHLEY

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



The High Five Club is a way for foster and adoptive parents and social workers to give recognition to a child who is making progress, gotten a reward in school or community or done something that is noteworthy for that child.

These can then be put in a child's lifebook. For most kids, seeing their name in print can motivate them to continue to do better. We would like you to contact your social worker or call Kathi Serafino to let us know what the child in your home has done to be recognized. The children will be recognized only by their first name to maintain confidentiality. This is open to foster and adoptive families in our community. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with your social worker or contact Kathi Serafino at 440-285-1219.

High Five Club: We want to send out a High Five to a family that has stepped forward to provide Paul with a long-term placement.

TRAINING REMINDERS:

- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ 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 trainings 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.
- ❖ To register for a training you can either call the county directly or you can call the Regional Training Center at 1-866-294-3787.
- ❖ 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>
- ❖ **We are making some changes to the training section of the newsletter. Instead of listing all of the information for the training we are just going to list the title of the training, the time and the trainer. If you need to see the full description, you can go to Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm>**

Attention Foster Parents: If you plan on attending a training in another county please register through the Regional Training Center as trainings get filled up quickly. Their phone number is 1-866-294-3787 or you can access their website at <http://www.ocwtp.net/NEORTC.htm>

NOTICE!

NEORTC has notified the counties that the gates will only be open from 7:30am to 9:00am Monday through Friday, but will then be closed for the rest of the day. Entrance to the campus will ONLY be through the Entrance Gate at Martin & Talbot street and exit from campus will ONLY be through the Exit Gate at Clark Street. Foster parents and staff arriving on campus after 9:00am, in the evening or on the weekend will need to ring the buzzer on the reader panel to gain access to campus.

NOTICE: There are no trainings scheduled for the month of July at any of the below agencies.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Saturday, August 7, 2010: Kids Without a Conscience
Trainer: Jim Still Pepper, Time: 9am-4pm

Tuesday, August 17, 2010: Substance Abuse & Abuse Among Children and Teens: Prevention, Recognition and Intervention – 988, Trainer: Stacy Simera, Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, September 2, 2010: Turn Out The Parental Burn Out
Trainer: Anthony President, Time: 6-9pm

**Geauga County Job & Family Services
Pre-service Training Schedule
Trainers: Kathy & Brian Lowery**

We have scheduled our fall pre-service for Tuesday's and Thursday's for the month of September & October starting September 14 and ending October 21, 2010. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please have them give a worker a call to register.

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

Thursday, August 5, 2010: When A Foster Child Leaves: Managing the Hurt
Trainer: K Lowery, Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, August 25, 2010: PLEASE Don't Share! Communicable Disease and Children
Trainer: Ronna Johnson, Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, September 9, 2010: The Impact of Adoption on Birth Children in the Adoptive Home
Trainer: Ann Bagley, Time: 6-9pm

Monday, September 27, 2010: Relax, It's Only a Crisis
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9pm

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

Monday, August 2, 2010: Verbal De-escalation in Child Welfare
Trainer: Brian Lowery, Time 6-9pm

Thursday, August 5, 2010: Facts and Fallacies of Self Esteem: Building Blocks for Your Child's Happiness
Trainer: Kim Langley, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, September 14, 2010: How To End Lying, Stealing & Defiance in Children
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, September 28, 2010: Self Injury: Assessment and Interventions
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9pm



Ashley is 15 years old. She enjoys listening to music, going to the recreation center to play sports, being in the water, watching television, shopping and doing "girlie" things. Ashley is artistic and crafty. Ashley loves hugs and is very inquisitive.

Ashley finds it difficult to pay attention to something for very long and needs a lot of attention. Ashley is a sweet young lady who is very lovable though sometimes she doesn't show it. Ashley enjoys school and is a good student, she is in mainstream classes.

Ashley is sad that she cannot live with her mother but understands why she cannot. Ashley is very excited about being adopted but would like to have continued contact with her birth mother, grandmother and brother. Ashley needs a home without younger children and would love to have her own bedroom.

Agency: Geauga County JFS
Contact: Kelly Conroy
Phone: (440) 285-9141 ext. 214

