



Geauga County Job & Family Services Permanency Planning November 2009 Newsletter

November is National Adoption Month. This year the Public Service announcements are again “You don’t have to be perfect to be a perfect parent.” This year in addition to new public service announcements, AdoptUsKids has teamed up with Twentieth Century Fox with their movie “Ice Age Dawn of the Dinosaurs.” This movie shows how Sid, a prospective adoptive parent of three, faces the challenges of parenthood as well as the rewards that accompany being a parent.

When people hear about adoption or the number of kids available there are some myths that need to be dispelled:

Myth

- *I am single
- *I am too old
- *I live in an apartment
- *I am not wealthy
- *There are only teens available
- *There are only kids in wheelchairs or with some physical handicap available

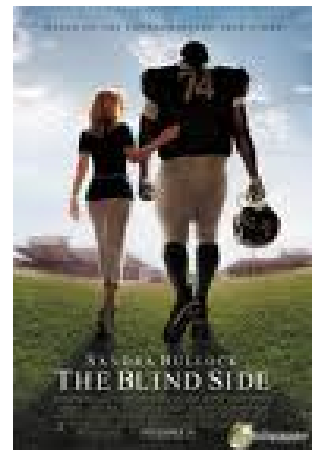
Fact

- *You can be single, married or cohabitating
- *You have to be over the age of 21
- *You can own or rent
- *You need sufficient income to meet your household needs
- *There are children of all ages, including teens looking for a family
- *There are children with all types of abilities available



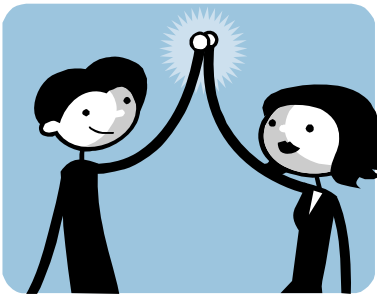
When you look at the kids that are available for adoption, they are as varied in their needs and interests as the families that are needed to provide a home. Just because one family finds the behavior of one child challenging, in other family that same child will thrive. So take a look at yourself, your family and those you know (or have just met) to see who you know that may make a great parent or family to a child that is waiting for an adoptive home. And remember “You Don’t Have To Be Perfect To Be Perfect Parent.”

***Coming November 20th to local theaters. "The Blind Side"** depicts the remarkable true story of Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential. At the same time, Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own. Living in his new environment, the teen faces a completely different set of challenges to overcome. As a football player and a student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle. In the latest chapter of his inspiring story, Oher was a First Round draft pick in the 2009 NFL Draft, selected by the Baltimore Ravens. The Touhys were there to share the moment with him.



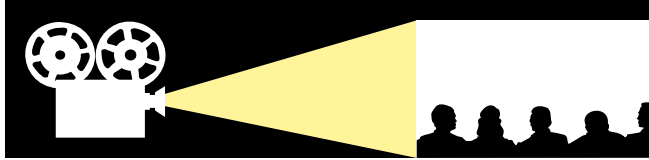
Websites for more foster and adoption information:

- www.adoptionclubhouse.org this site has good information for children who have been adopted and their parents.
- www.adoptuskids.org This site gives information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, as well as stories from foster and adoptive families and children. This site also has a photolisting of children available around the country.
- www.adoption.com This website is full of information about the different types of adoption, resources for foster and adoptive parents and lots of links to other information.
- www.adopting.org This website has information for all members of the adoption triad.
- www.childwelfare.gov This is a clearing house site that has links to lots of information about foster care, adoption, child abuse and neglect and mentoring.
- www.adoptionchildwelfarelaw.org This website contains information that is a free service of the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy at Capital University Law School. This website is partnered with The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.
- www.adopt.org This is a National website that has links to adoption information.



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, has 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 have no names this month so get your child's high five story in for next month.



“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.

Happenings in History in November

- 11-2-2000, International Space Station becomes permanently staffed
- 11-4-1939, first air conditioned car (Packard) exhibited in Chicago, Il
- 11-10-1969, Sesame Street premier on PBS-TV
- 11-14-1896, Power plant at Niagara Falls begins operation
- 11-15-1969, Wendy's hamburgers opens
- 11-16-1946, First TV magazine Show Launches
- 11-18-1928, Mickey Mouse Debuts
- 11-19-1965, Kellogg's Pop Tarts created
- 11-23-1936, First issue of Life Magazine is published
- 11-26-1941, FDR establishes Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11-29-1948, Kukla, Fran and Ollie debuts

Community Info:



BREATHE Special Needs Respite provides a fun, safe evening out for families with special needs kids. **BREATHE** takes place monthly (except during December) at Fellowship Bible Church in Chagrin Falls.

At **BREATHE**, kids enjoy an evening of food, games and fun while parents and caregivers get a well-deserved break. Each child attending is paired up with a trained volunteer for the evening. The best part? **BREATHE is FREE!**

All children 0-18 years of age are welcome, along with their siblings. Each guest may participate in as many activities as they wish. A quiet room is also available for kids who prefer peaceful activities with few transitions. All special dietary concerns are accommodated, including gluten free/casein free, color/dye sensitivities, and standard food allergies.

Contact Candy Baroni at 216-299-1669 or **REGISTER ONLINE.** www.breathefellowship.com

Sponsor-A-Family. This is a program that is coordinated from our offices to provide food and gifts to children in the custody of the agency as well as families in need in the community. If you know of someone, group or organization that would be interested in sponsoring a family, a child or donating time or needed items please give Sara Shininga a call at 440-285-1263.



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.

Attention Foster Parents: If you plan on attending a training in another county please register through the Regional Training Center as we are sure trainings will 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>

**Foster parents, this is a reminder that when a child is placed into your home, it is very important that you remember to turn your foster care billing form in at the end of every month. This allows us to pay you in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact your Permanency Planning worker.

We are still 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 foster and adoptive families as well as previous foster and adoptive families in the community. We are also still asking that families and children, when appropriate write what foster care and adoption means to them. We would like to use the stories or letters or pictures for families interested in fostering or adopting as well as if appropriate to show kids that are coming into the system or waiting for a family. To be able to show families and kids letters and stories from "real" kids and families makes a big difference.

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>



What you need to know about upcoming changes regarding caregiver training sponsored by NEORTC.

In preparation for E-Track, an internet-based data system coming in 2010, starting October 1, 2009 some important changes are taking place with regards to training sponsored by NEORTC.

First of all, when you arrive at your training site to sign in for your workshop (now referred to as a “session”), the sign in sheets will ask you to list your User ID rather than the first five digits of your social security number. The user ID for sign in sheets will be 10 characters and will include:

- The first two characters are your two digit birth month
- Characters three and four are your two digit birth day
- The fifth character is the first letter of your legal first name
- The last 6 characters are the first five letters of your legal last name
- I.e. 0422JSMITH

At the end of the session (excluding Pre-Service Sessions 1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11) you will be given a hard copy survey (formerly called an evaluation) to provide your feedback. You will be asked to fill in your E-Track user ID (see above), which does mean that your feedback is **not** 100% anonymous. However, this is a temporary situation that will change as soon as E-Track is functioning and you will be able to complete your surveys online.

Once you complete your survey, training certificates will be distributed. Please make sure you provide a copy of your certificate to the designated person at your county as this will be one of the only ways to verify your training attendance during this interim period.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Training Coordinator Jodie Hembree, 330-379-1867 or Manager Jeanne Bennett at 330-379-2003.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

WHAT FAMILY TREE? SCHOOL ISSUES AND THE ADOPTED CHILD - 994	
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2009	Time: 6:00 -9:00 PM
Trainer: Regina Kupecky	Location: Geauga County JFS
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster parents will learn how and when to share information and their child's life with teachers and school personnel.• Foster parents will also learn strategies for dealing with peers and school assignment while being an adopted child.	
GANGS, CLIQUES AND CREWS: UNDERSTANDING GANGS AND YOUTH - 984	
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009	Time: 6:00 -9:00 PM
Trainer: Anthony President	Location: Geauga County JFS
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster parents will explore the proliferation of gang culture among the spectrum of members from hardcore to “posers.”• Foster parents will discuss why kids join gangs, the profile of the gang member and the pathos of gangs.• Foster parents will identify prevention strategies to keep kids out of gangs.	
POSITIVE WAYS TO BLEND CHILDREN INTO FAMILIES – 947	
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009	Time: 9:00 AM -4:00 PM
Trainer: Jordana Shakoor Anderson	Location: Geauga County JFS
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster parents will learn how to celebrate diversity in their family.• Foster parents will learn how to positively raise children from different backgrounds, ethnic groups and races.	

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

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	MEETS RULE
Saturday, February 20, 2010	9AM-12 PM	Orientation and Overview of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care	901
Saturday, February 20, 2010	1 -4 PM	The Child Protection Team	902
Saturday, February 27, 2010	9AM-12PM	The Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect on Child Development	903
Saturday, February 27, 2010	1- 4 PM	Attachment, Separation and Placement	904
Saturday, March 6, 2010	9AM-12 PM	Managing Behavior	905
Saturday, March 6, 2010	1 - 4 PM	Preventing and De-escalating Crisis	906
Saturday, March 13, 2010	9AM-12PM	Cultural Issues in Placement	907
Saturday, March 13, 2010	1 - 4 PM	Understanding Primary Families	908
Saturday, March 20, 2010	9AM-12PM	Children who Have Been Sexually Abused	909
Saturday, March 20, 2010	1 - 4 PM	The Effects of Caregiving on the Caregiving Family	910
Saturday, March 27, 2010	9AM-12PM	Permanency For Children	911
Saturday, March 27, 2010	1 - 4 PM	Permanency for Families	912

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

INTERVENTIONS WITH REACTIVE ATTACHEMENT DISORDER CHILDREN – 942	
Date: Monday, November 16, 2009	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: David Zidar	Location: Lake County JFS
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn the origins of Reactive Attachment Disorder. • Foster parents will learn the diagnostic criteria for Reactive Attachment Disorder. • Foster parents will learn the techniques to manage behavior. 	

OPENING THE DOOR TO INDEPENDENT LIVING - 941	
Date: Monday, December 14, 2009	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: Brian Lowery	Location: Lake County JFS
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn how to prepare youth for independent living and the concrete methods for moving foster children toward independence. • Foster parents will learn how to lessen barriers foster children face in obtaining employment. 	



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

INTERVENTIONS WITH REACTIVE ATTACHEMENT DISORDER CHILDREN – 913	
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: David Zidar	Location: Ashtabula County JFS
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will learn the origins of Reactive Attachment Disorder. • Foster parents will learn the diagnostic criteria for Reactive Attachment Disorder. • Foster parents will learn the techniques to manage behavior. 	

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: PROVIDING TRAUMA SENSITIVE CARE TO CHILDREN - 942	
Date: Monday, November 16, 2009	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Trainer: Katie Terry	Location: Ashtabula County CSB
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parents will understand the different theories of attachment and bonding. • Foster parents will have a basic understanding of brain development, neurotransmitters, and how trauma can affect brain development. • Foster parents will understand some basic steps to take to minimize trauma and successfully parent foster children. 	

Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
Pre-Service Training Schedule
Trainer: Ann Bagley

DATE	TIME	PRE-SERVICE TOPIC	MEETS RULE
Tuesday, November 3, 2009	6 – 9 PM	Children who Have Been Sexually Abused	909
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	6 – 9 PM	The Effects of Caregiving on the Caregiving Family	910
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	6 – 9 PM	Permanency For Children	911
Tuesday, November 24, 2009	6 – 9 PM	Permanency for Families	912





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

