

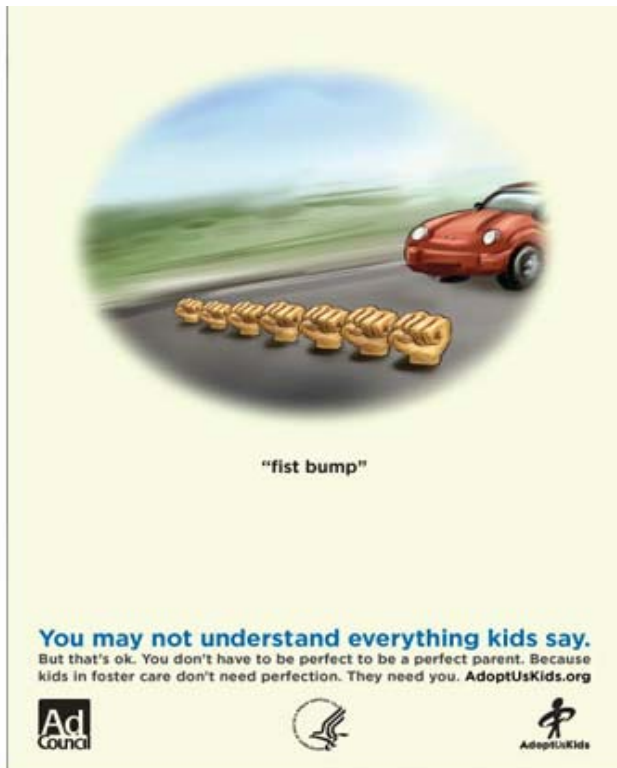


Geauga County Job & Family Services

Permanency Planning

November 2010 Newsletter

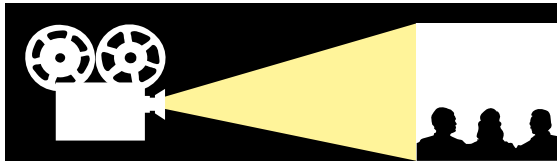
November is National Adoption Month. The month is set aside to raise awareness about adopting children and youth from foster care. The theme this year is "You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent."



Geauga County, like most counties, are in need of families that are willing to step forward to help families and children in our community. This month we are focusing on the need for families to become foster and adoptive parents. Right now there are 115,000 children that are waiting for an adoptive family across the United States. In the state of Ohio we have over 3,000 children waiting for a forever family.

National Adoption Awareness Month, observed annually since 1990, works to increase the number of families willing to provide unique opportunities to change a child's life and to celebrate the lives of the families that welcome them. There are movies that portray adoption stories. Some of these include Annie, Tarzan, Elf, Babe, Snow Dogs, Stuart Little, The Blind Side, Ice Age 3, Superman, Dinosaur, Hotel For Dogs, Angels in the Outfield, the Tigger Movie, G Force, Matilda, Martian Child, Benjamin Button & Juno.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away.
--- Unknown



“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, 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. 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: Sabrina’s family wishes to send out a high five for her many accomplishments this year! She is in fifth grade, started playing piano and clarinet, played basketball, soccer, and helped her soft ball team win the championship with a triple hit! On her tenth birthday she bravely went for her first motorcycle and airplane ride. Her biggest and best choice this year was to let us be her permanent family! Way to go Sabrina!

Fruit Gobbler

Ingredients:

- *Bosc Pear or sweet potato (head)
- *Melon (pumpkin, or other melon) (body)
- *Red Pepper or red fruit roll ups (snood, feet and side feathers)
- *Raisins or cranberries (eyes)
- *Grapes, pineapple chunks, peppers, cherry tomatoes, cubed salami, celery, blueberries, strawberries (any combo can be used for tail feathers, cheese was in original recipe, but dries out quickly and often crumbles)
- *Bamboo skewers
- *toothpicks



Instructions:

1. Stabilize the melon body by cutting a shallow slice off the rind to form a flat base. Using a section of bamboo skewer, attach the head to the melon.
2. Cut a triangle of pineapple, cheese or other fruit for beak and red pepper snood. Attach both, along with raisin or cranberry eyes, to the head with sections of toothpicks.
3. Cut red pepper for feet and set them in place. Others have used red fruit roll ups for feet. For tail feathers, skewer your choice of fruits, meats, and veggies, then insert the skewers into the melon. Pin pepper side feathers in place with toothpicks.
4. This can be served with it sitting on pretzels (to look like hay). It also can be served with extra skewers on the side and dips for dipping. It does not transport well, so put final touches on when you get to your destination.

Pizza Pinwheels

Serves 8

Ingredients:

- (1) 8 oz can of crescent rolls
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella
- 24 slices of pepperoni
- (1) 14 oz can of pizza sauce

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375
2. On large baking sheet, pinch the 8 crescent roll triangles in to 4 rectangles. Layer each rectangle with 6 slices of pepperoni, and even amounts of mozzarella cheese. Roll tightly lengthwise and slice into 4 or more pieces.
3. bake in preheated oven until golden brown about 12 minutes. Serve with pizza sauce for dipping

Sometimes meals can be like pulling teeth to get kids to talk about things going on. Here are some conversation starters that can be used anytime to encourage kids and adults to communicate during a meal (or anytime):

- *What was or is your favorite toy growing up?
- *What is or was your favorite game growing up?
- *What is your least favorite chore?
- *Who do you look up to?
- *Who is your hero?
- *Give the person next to you a compliment.
- *What is your favorite season and why?
- *What is your favorite animal and why?
- *If you could be any animal what would it be and why?
- *If you could visit anywhere where would it be and why?
- *What is your favorite food?
- *Where do you like to go or do on vacation?
- *If you could be a superhero, what special powers would you like to have if you could only choose one?



Below is a memo from the Director of Geauga County Job & Family Services, Tim Taylor.

Geauga County's Adoptive Families Supported by Local Funds

On September 17th Children's Services staff at Geauga County Job and Family Services were notified that the federal share of subsidies to adoptive families would be reduced effective January 1, 2011. It is estimated that the reduction in the federal funding for these subsidies will total approximately four thousand two hundred and eight seven dollars annually. Children's Services will use local funds from the county's Children's Services Levy to offset the loss of these federal funds in order to maintain negotiated subsidies to adoptive parents of children with special needs. This will bring the estimated total amount of local funding for the subsidies to \$43,845 per year.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 provided the first federal subsidies to encourage the adoption of children from the nation's foster care system. These subsidies, known as adoption assistance, serve to minimize the financial obstacles to adoption. Adoption assistance serves to remove barriers and contribute to an increase in adoption of children with special needs.

Ongoing adoption assistance provides funds that may be used for any identifiable need of the child. These usually take the form of monthly payments to the parents of eligible children. The maximum payment amount may not exceed the amount that would have been paid if the child had remained in a foster home in that State. Payments can continue until the child reaches age 18 (or until age 21 where the State determines that the child has a physical, mental, or emotional disability), and these payments continue even if the family moves to another State.

Since the implementation of this act, state and local agencies have been required to match the federal funding available for these subsidies. However, the federal portion of these subsidies will be decreasing during the next twelve months and state funds will not be available to make up the difference. This means the local child protective services agency – Geauga County Job and Family Services – must make up the difference from local funds in order to maintain the negotiated subsidies.

Geauga County Children's Services will also be receiving less federal reimbursement for the cost of foster care for children in the custody of the agency. Based upon 2010 foster care expenditures, this is estimated to be a loss of federal funding of \$14,322. Job and Family Services will rely on local levy funds and alternative placement strategies to adjust for this loss.



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>

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.

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Please note the following two trainings must be both attended to get credit. If you cannot commit to both days do not sign up.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely –Part One
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, November 16, 2010: Defusing Crisis Situations Safely and Sanely –Part Two
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, 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 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

Tuesday, November 2, 2010: Promoting Self-Esteem and Well Being in Children
Trainer: Lonnie Helton, Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, November 10, 2010: Successfully Blending Foster Families
Trainer: Sonji Gregory, Time: 6-9pm

Wednesday, December 8, 2010: Caution, Stop and Yield: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders In Children and Adolescents
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9pm

**Lake County Job & Family Services
Pre-service Training Schedule
Trainer: Anthony President**

They have scheduled the fall pre-service training starting October 4 and going thru November 17, 2010.

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

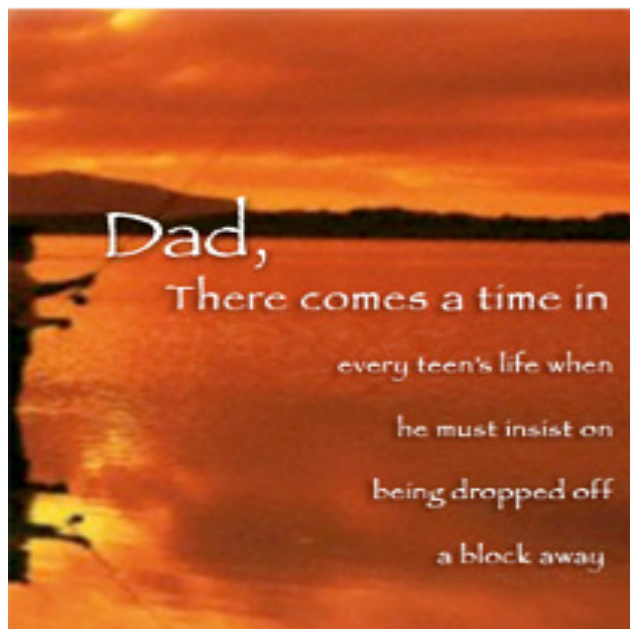
Tuesday, November 2, 2010: When Love is Not Enough –Session 5-Creating a Heart to Heart Connection (Building Bonding and Trust)
Trainer: Kathleen Terry, Time: 6-9 pm

Monday, November 15, 2010: Dealing With the Impact of Early Sexual Trauma
Trainer: David Zidar, Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, December 2, 2010: The Openness Puzzle: 3-2-1 Contact
Trainer: Ann Bagley, Time: 6-9pm

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

They have scheduled the fall pre-service training for Tuesday nights from 6-9 starting September 14 and going thru November 30, 2010.





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

