



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

January 2006

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Kitsap Foster Care Association is seeking your input and expertise...

If you are interested in participating on the Fundraising, Legislative/Advocacy, or Community Awareness Committee please call 373-7742. Additionally, we are looking for a dedicated individual or team to take charge of the Dream Project.

We believe that the individuals within our community hold a wealth of knowledge and creativity. Please share it with us, we await your call and are anxious to have new members added to our team.

As of the January 25, 2006 Dinner Meeting, the child-care room has changed due to the number of children present. Because this room is farther away from the meeting and behind the double doors, parents must sign in their children from this point forward.

Thank you for assisting us with this task.

In the week before the Holiday Recess, Senate and House negotiators worked out the differences between their respective budget cuts, agreeing on \$40 billion in cuts to programs that help children and families, including:

- \$7 billion in Medicaid cuts that would likely lead to states increasing health care co-payments on the poor and dropping preventive care.
- \$12.7 billion in student aid and loan program cuts.
- \$1.5 billion in child support enforcement cuts, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates will result in \$8.4 billion in child support payments that won't be collected over 10 years.
- \$343 million in cuts to foster care.

The House passed the Senate-House budget cuts by 212 to 206. The Senate passed the Senate-House budget by 51 to 50, with Vice President Dick Cheney casting the tie-breaking vote. (Vice President Cheney cut a trip to the Middle East short to rush back to the Capitol for the vote.)

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Please join us at the January 25, 2006 Dinner Meeting. Nancy Sutton and Dan Estes from DCFS will be the speakers. They will be discussing the Foster Care rate assessment/evaluation system and how to resolve conflicts involving the assessment.

Certificates for training hours will be available



Join Us Now!

Kitsap Foster Care Association membership is open to foster parents and others interested in foster care. Make \$15 check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

foster parent agency staff renewal?
Affiliation: _____

KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

• GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- **Where:** Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale, WA 98383
- **When:** Fourth Wednesday of each month, Dinner 6pm, Guest Speaker and Discussion 7pm.
- Free child care available on site.
- Members pay \$4 for dinner (50% off) and receive a free raffle ticket to win great prizes (additional raffle tickets may be purchased in support of KFCA).

• BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- **Where:** Changing locations, contact any board member for this month's location.
- **When:** First Tuesday of each month @ 5:30pm.
- KFCA Board Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, please contact Ron Piper two days prior to the meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Piper, President

rtpiper@comcast.net

vacant, Vice President

Sharon Williams, Treasurer

Phone 876-1994 RWILLI4786@aol.com

John Vail, Secretary/Membership/Community Awareness

Phone 876-5207 jtlvail@hotmail.com

Luanne Vail, Resources

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Teresa Walton, Foster Parent Liaison

Cell (360) 990-9995

Fosterparentliaisonkitsap@yahoo.com

Jennifer Martin, Newsletter

jjmm1@wavecable.com

Please submit items for the newsletter no later than the last day of each month. My hope is to have the newsletter ready for printing and circulation earlier in the month. Thank you!

Jennifer



Upcoming Training

Physically Aggressive Children & Youth
January 26 & 27, 2006 @ 6:00pm to 9:00pm

First Methodist Church
1150 Marine Dr., Bremerton, WA 98312
Contact Hildegard Stone to register:
475-3586

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

[Www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/](http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/)

Here is the web address for Casey Family. This is the location for families to obtain more information about the tax credit the federal government is offering to families who adopt special needs children.

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/2003FederalTaxBenefits.htm>

I also wanted to include this additional resource for families with children diagnosed with a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder:

<http://depts.washington.edu/fadu/>

And lastly as a reminder, children who qualify for Adoption Support will get medical, dental (medical coupon) and counseling (at program rates) in addition families can have up to \$1500.00 of their adoption finalization costs reimbursed (need to save receipts). Military families may wish to check into the adoption finalization benefits available to them through their branch of the military. Families **MAY** receive a subsidy however there is no guarantee. This is a negotiated item based upon family specific circumstances and the out of pocket expenses to meet the child's special needs.

We recommend families who are considering adopting a child review the adoption disclosure materials the adoption social worker provides. The review of the materials will help families plan for the child's future and it's impact upon all members of the family. The Adoption Support Program is not intended to financially support an adopted child or children but to support families with some of the challenges.

Please let me know if you have an questions. Families are welcome to email or call for additional information.

Stacy Weaver-Wee, WMS Program Manager

Federal Funding/Adoption Support/Contracted Visitation
253-983-6280

Email: west300@dshs.wa.gov

The \$40 billion in cuts to programs that help children and families are being used to pay for tax breaks to the mostly wealthy. The Senate and House must finish working out the differences out between their respective tax cut packages when Congress reconvenes, which totals over \$60 billion in the Senate and \$90 billion in the House.

"You've Got To Be Kidding"

The Senate-House budget contains a provision that will allow states to restrict benefits to nearly all of the 28 million children receiving Medicaid. Under current law, children in Medicaid programs must receive comprehensive care. The bill allows the basic benefits package to be scaled back, which could mean children will go without needed care.

Federal Child Policy Updates

Child Welfare League of America's Federal Budget Update.
Coalition on Human Needs Update.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Senate-House Budget Analysis.

What's Next

Before passing the Senate-House budget cuts, the Senate made some changes. This means that before the Senate-House budget cuts can be finalized, the House must either: 1) Approve those changes; 2) Send modifications back to the Senate; or 3) Send it all back to another conference committee. So there is still an opportunity to defeat the budget cuts!

What You Can Do to Help:

- 1) Check how your Senators and Your Representative voted.
- 2) Call your Senators and Your Representative. (You can reach your Senators and Representative by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121). If they voted against budget cuts, thank them. If they voted for budget cuts, tell them:
 - When 8.2 million children don't have health insurance, cutting Medicaid is wrong.
 - When millions of children are abused/or neglected, cutting child protection is wrong.
 - When millions of children don't have access to early childhood programs, cutting child care is wrong.
 - Cutting programs that help children and families in order to pay for more tax breaks for the wealthy is morally indefensible.

With your help, we will continue fighting to make children a political priority and send Congress the message that investing in children is essential to our long-term economic prosperity. Skimping on investments now will only lead to paying a far higher cost later.



Kitsap County Resources...

- 1) **ABRAHAM'S HOUSE (405-0488)**
*free furniture, household goods, etc.
- 2) **DR. CHARLES BROWN (779-7115)**
*children's dental care with med coupon
- 3) **FIRST** (foster intervention prevention support team) 1-800-391-2273
- 4) **GALAXY LIMOUSINE INC. (874-2565)**
(1-800-874-2565)
*offers discounts to foster families
- 5) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION**
(475-3513 or 876-1994)
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG
- 6) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety**
(360-662-1198)
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 7) **NK FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**
(206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com
*meets @ Eagle Harbor Congregational Church; 105 N. Winslow Way, Bl 98110
11:30am to 1:30pm
- 8) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY**
(1-888-885-2386)
*free pull-ups for foster children
- 9) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE**
(1-253-858-9941)
*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 10) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**
Youth Services Program
- 11) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**
*free hair cuts for foster children

Kitsap Foster Care Association is attempting to keep an ongoing list of resources in the newsletter each month. Your contributions are vital to the resource page. Please email Jennifer with additional resources you would like to share with foster parents. Thank you for taking the time to share your information.

Kudos Corner...

Kudos to all of you who helped with the KFCFA Annual Holiday Party. The afternoon was a success and ran smoothly because of your assistance and support. Thank you for all that you do!

Kitsap Foster Care Association wishes a Happy New Year to all of our local foster and relative care providers.

Calendar of Events

January 2006:

- 1: Happy New Year!
- 5: Sexually Aggressive Children
- 10: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 12: NK Foster Parent Support
- 25: KFCFA Dinner Meeting
- 26: Physically Aggressive Children

February 2006:

- 7: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 9: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 22: KFCFA Dinner Meeting

Kitsap Foster Care Association's planning meeting for the year ahead occurs in February...

Stay tuned for upcoming activities and training's. If you have ideas for speakers, please contact any Board Member.

Kudos Corner...

Kudos to the Doctors, Staff, and Patients at Silver City Chiropractic in Silverdale. Their office donated \$500 to Kitsap Foster Care Association during the holiday season. Thank you so much for your donation to our local foster families. Your kindness has made a difference.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE NOW OPEN, THROUGH THE MONTH OF MARCH. FOR THOSE INTERESTED, NOMINATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY DINNER MEMBERSHIP MEETING. NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE AT THE END OF THE MARCH DINNER MEETING. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOMINATED WILL BE EXPECTED TO SPEAK AT THE APRIL DINNER MEETING, AND THE MEMBERSHIP WILL VOTE AT THE MAY DINNER MEETING. NEW APPOINTMENTS WILL TAKE OFFICE AT THE JUNE DINNER MEETING. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INVOLVED AND ADD YOUR TOUCH TO THE KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER.

The Dream Project

The D.R.E.A.M. Project was founded by The Kitsap Foster Care Association (KFCA) and its purpose is to grant "dreams" to our children in foster and kinship care in Kitsap County. Each child in care is entitled to one request per year. These requests come from the child themselves, and can be for items such as:

Athletics, sports equipment, specialty classes and school memories (such as prom and graduation items). Dreams are granted for the actual cost of the item requested, not to exceed \$50.

The request form can be downloaded from the KFCA website at www.kitsapfostercare.org. After the form is completed, have the child's social worker sign it and forward it to

The Dream Committee @ KFCA
PO Box 4542; Bremerton, WA 98312

You know you're a foster parent when...

- **You own stock in the Ritalin Company
- **The only chance you have to drink, and the only you can drink is formula and you don't mind
- **Your neighbors don't invite you and your family to barbecues anymore
- **Your kids tell you the agency's policies and the changes to keep you informed

Kitsap Foster Care Association's Annual Mariner's Event

Friday, June 3, 2006 @ 7:05pm

The association has purchased 200 tickets and will have two buses available for transportation. Tickets may be reserved for active foster parents, relative care givers, and the children in their homes. This event is to support foster and relative placements, please do not invite friends, relatives, or have your children invite friends. Reserve your tickets and bus seats now!

To reserve your tickets and space on the bus now,

Call Luanne Vail @ 908-5572

Please join us for this fun, family event!

DO YOU HAVE A NEED FOR SUPPORT OR ADVOCACY FOR A CHILD OR YOUTH IN YOUR HOME WHO HAS FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDER (FASD FORMERLY KNOWN AS FAE/FAS)????

We have a group of caregivers and professionals who would like to put together a system in Kitsap County for support and advocacy for kids with FASD brain damage. We know it affects school, home life, the Mental Health System, the Correctional System and lots of other areas of their and their caretakers' lives. In order to put together a grant for this network within Kitsap County, we need statistics about the number of children and youth in our community who could benefit from support and advocacy. Our hope is to have a community meeting in January to talk about the needs and to have a staff person to put together a network of support for caretakers and teens and advocacy for the kids in the many systems where they run into problems. Meanwhile, we are asking your help for gathering the numbers.

Can you call Christine Njoroge at DCFS 475-3527 or Sharon Barter at 697-2462 or 440-1951, or Heidi Bigelow at 479-6055 with first names, ages, and whether or not they are diagnosed with FASD, and school districts of the kids and names, and phone number of their caregivers and their caseworkers.

The story goes that some time ago a man punished his 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became even more upset when the child pasted the gold paper so as to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her father the next morning and said,

"This is for you, Daddy." The father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty.

He spoke to her in a harsh manner

"Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was full." The Father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his little girl, and he begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it is told that the father kept that gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. And whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems he would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remembered the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given a golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family and friends. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

From the President...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2006. Time just flies by. It seems like yesterday that Tracy and I had our first placement. In remembering my upbringing and how we raised our biological children, lets just say that it was not the perfect match. Our placement was over the 4th of July weekend, a sibling group of three with head lice and bad manners. The oldest was only eight, she was a cutter and her emotional issues ran deep. After two days, we had to have her moved after she threatened bodily harm to our own children. It took a veteran foster parent and a deputy sheriff to get her to her new home. Why we continued was a mystery.

Then came our first heartbreak, a cute two year old who was placed with us for eight months. He loved playing in the dirt, watching Buzz Light-year and eating cheetos. We were sure that we would be able to adopt him right up till the day that his father returned from out of state to take him home. Watching him leave was more than we could bear. When his social worker pulled out of the driveway on that Friday morning, Tracy and I stood in the kitchen and cried. We had never felt that kind of pain before. There are not many days that I don't wonder about him and how he is doing. Again I was unsure why we should continue.

Over the past years we had over sixty-five children in our home. Some were short term, others were suppose to be short term and stayed 11 months! It was hard to see some leave, but with others, we could not wait for them to go. As bad as that sounds, we did try to make a difference in all their lives. My hope is that they are all doing well where ever they are. One thing I am wholly convinced of is there is not one child that has ever been born "bad". They are the product of their environment, their parents and their foster parents. I would encourage you to take the time to make a difference in the lives of the kids you take in. It is a tough job to look for the good in people, but it comes with a greater reward than looking for the bad. We all have a bad element and it is easy to find. Looking back over the last seven years that we have been involved in the Association, we have had some wonderful times. The picnics, Holiday parties and the monthly meetings. I have enjoyed meeting all of you and working for and with you.

You may ask why the walk down memory lane? I am taking this opportunity to let all of you know that I must step down as your president and Tracy is stepping down from Education Coordinator and DREAM Project Manager. At this month's board meeting Tracy and I submitted our letters of resignation to the board effective immediately. I discovered over the Christmas Holiday that I must undergo a radical surgery to stop the progression of a medical condition that leads to cancer. My oldest brother that passed away 5 years ago from the same condition.

It was a difficult decision to make, as we do enjoy the friendships we have and the good times we have experienced however, I must put my health first. I am confident that your board will continue to lead you in the right direction. The best direction for all of you.

May God richly bless each one of you.

Ron and Tracy Piper

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Bremerton, WA 98312

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