



# KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

August 2006

## KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

***Remember...NO Dinner Meeting in August!***

### ***KFCA Annual Back to School Event***

Wednesday, August 9, 2006 1:00pm to 3:00pm

@ Evergreen Park, Bremerton

Pick up your school supplies and have a hot dog, chips, cookies and drinks!

### ***Change in KFCA Event Policy...***

Kitsap Foster Care Association now requires that all children attending KFCA events must be accompanied by a foster parent, respite provider, or case aide, age 21 years or older.

### ***Please sign up to help with the Black Berry Festival!***

KFCA will have a booth at the Black Berry Festival,  
September 2-4, 2006

If you are interested in working the booth in three hours shifts, please contact Phyllis Bishop @ 360-275-5725 or email (see page 2)

***Check it out...***Kitsap Foster Care Association's web site has undergone some major revision and has great updated information. <http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/>

If you have comments or suggestions for events or other KFCA related business please contact any Board Member. Additionally, if you have stories, kudos, or other information you would like to share with other foster parents, please contact Jennifer by the last day of any given month. We need your input!

## ***KFCA's Annual Summer Picnic***

***August 13, 2006!***

***12pm to 2pm  
Evergreen Park***

Join us for good food, games, the ice cream truck, and a raffle! The weather should be nice, this is a good opportunity to get out and do something with the family! Also, a good time to chat with other foster parents, network, and socialize. No dinner meeting in August due to the picnic!



### 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 Rick Williams two days prior to the meeting.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Rick Williams, *President***

president@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Jeff Bishop, *Vice President***

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Sharon Williams, *Treasurer***

Phone 876-1994 treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

### **John Vail, *Secretary/Membership/***

***Community Awareness***

Phone 876-5207

secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Luanne Vail, *Resources***

Phone 876-5207

resources@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Karen Randleman, *Dream Project***

Cell 731-9052 dreamproject@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Henry Castanares, *Historian***

Phone 692-0207

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Diane Castanares, *Child Care***

Phone 692-0207

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Debra Converse, *Education/Training***

education@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Chuck Converse, *Webmaster/Com. Awareness***

webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison***

Cell (360) 990-9995

liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Jennifer Martin, *Newsletter***

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

### **Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events Coordinator***

events@kitsapfostercare.org



## Upcoming Training

### **African American Hair Care**

Presented by DeWanda Evans  
of Anointed Hands Hair Salon & Supplies, Bremerton  
Wednesday, August 23, 2006  
6:00pm to 9:00pm  
Anointed Hands Hair Salon & Supply  
2512 6th Street, Bremerton, WA, 98312

### **Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth**

August 28-29, 2006  
9:00am to Noon  
First Methodist Church, 1150 Marine Drive  
Bremerton  
(with pretest, 12 hours credit)

### **Engaging Families for Change**

August 30-31, 2006  
9:00am to Noon  
First Methodist Church, 1150 Marine Drive  
Bremerton  
(6 hours credit)

### **PRIDE Pre-Service Training**

August 2, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS  
August 15, 17, 22, & 24, 2006 @ 9am to 445pm  
First Methodist Church, 1150 Marine Drive,  
Bremerton 98312

September 6, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS  
September 7, 8, 13, 14, & 15, 2006 530-930pm  
Also, September 9, 2006 9am to 445pm  
First Lutheran Church, 2535 Mitchell Rd.,  
Port Orchard, 98366  
(or)

September 25, 26, 27, & 28, 2006 @ 9am to 4pm  
Also, September 29, 2006 @ 9am to Noon

To register for the above, contact Hildegard Stone  
@ 475-3586 or 1-800-423-6246  
Email @ sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

### **Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents**

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

### **Check out this web site:**

[Www.familieslikeours.org](http://www.familieslikeours.org)

### **First Aid/CPR Training for Foster Parents**

The Resource Family Training Institute sponsors  
First Aid training free of charge to all currently  
licensed and perspective foster parents. For a  
complete schedule and registration please visit the  
website at:

[Www.keepthebeatcpr.net](http://www.keepthebeatcpr.net)

Or call (253)217-1105

### **2006 ANNUAL CAREGIVER CONFERENCE September 17-19, 2006**

Subcommittees have been identified and volunteers  
are needed to participate. The Subcommittees are:  
Volunteer Coordination, Workshops, Fund Raising,  
Entertainment, Regional Meetings, Food, Vendors  
and Keynote. If you would like to participate or  
know someone who would like to participate in  
any of the subcommittees , please contact  
Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or  
[boba300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:boba300@dshs.wa.gov)

The committee unanimously is recommending that  
the conference be at the Mirabeau Park and  
Convention center in the Spokane Valley.

The website if you would like to have a look is:  
[www.mirabeauparkhotel.com/](http://www.mirabeauparkhotel.com/)

### **FOSTER PARENT/CAREGIVER CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:**

July 17<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>,  
October 16<sup>th</sup> (for debriefing after the  
conference)

All meetings will be in the KENT DCFS  
Office, Federal Way 9:30 – 12:00

### **DSHS Electronic Forms Link**

[Http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html)



## 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](http://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](mailto:Sufisher@aol.com)  
\*meets @ Eagle Harbor Congregational Church; 105 N. Winslow Way, BI 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.

## Calendar of Events

### August 2006:

- 1: KFCA Board Meeting
- 9: Back to School Event
- 9: Parenting Sexually Aggressive Children
- 10: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 13: KFCA Annual Summer Picnic
- 15: PRIDE Training Begins
- 23: African American Hair Care
- 28: Parenting Physically Assaultive Children
- 30: Engaging Families

### September 2006:

- 2: Blackberry Festival Begins
- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Training Begins
- 14: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 17: Foster Parent Conference
- 25: PRIDE Training Begins
- 27: KFCA Dinner Meeting

### October 2006:

- 3: KFCA Board Meeting
- 4: PRIDE Training Begins
- 12: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 23: PRIDE Training Begins
- 25: KFCA Dinner Meeting  
Harvest Party/Silent Auction
- 31: Halloween

My name is Gina Pizano. I am the foster home developer for the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care Program. We have a very unique program that is evidence based. Our program provides 24 hour, seven days a week support for foster parents. It also has a reimbursement rate of \$1600 per month. Each child is given an individual therapist that takes the child out in the community weekly, as well as a skills trainer that works with the child twice a week. As a foster parent, I know that support is a number one concern. I would like to introduce our program to foster parents in Kitsap County. If you are interested in more information,

please call:

**Gina L. Pizano, BA**  
**MTFC Foster Home Developer**  
**Kitsap Mental Health Services**  
**360-479-4994**

### ***Aprons***

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes. Send this to those who would know, and love the story about Grandma's aprons.

**REMEMBER:**

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw

## ***Kudos Corner...***

*Kudos to Phyllis Bishop for all of her hard work and dedication to making sure KFCA's booth at Whaling Days was a success! Thank you for your time and commitment.*

*-KFCA Board*

*Kudos to all those who helped with the Horseshoe Lake Gold Tournament, it was a great success and The Dream Project benefited from this great event.*

*-KFCA Board*

### ***Put these dates on your calendar...***

*details on these events to follow in upcoming newsletters*

**October 25, 2006**

**KFCA Dinner Meeting**

**Harvest Party & Silent Auction**

Adults and children wear your costumes, prizes will be awarded to the best costumes, so think up a good one now! There will be candy bags for all, as well as games...a fishing pond, ring toss, and face painting. KFCA will be providing dinner, cold cut sandwiches, chips, drinks, cookies. There will be no training this meeting. We are in need of donations for the silent auction! If you have questions, donations, or wish to help, contact Phyllis Bishop @ 360-275-5725

**December 16, 2006 1-3pm**

**KFCA Annual Holiday Party @ Silverdale Community Center**

**December 2006**

**Foster Parent Night Out (actual date TBA)**  
This will be an opportunity for foster parents to "go out" by themselves! Childcare will be provided for 4-5 hours on a designated evening, so you can have a night out!

## Safe Kids Kitsap County Offers Camping Safety Tips

Campfires, camping gear and hiking trails present special safety considerations for families with children. While the preparations for a family camping trip should include a review of safety guidelines for outdoor recreation, water and falls, parents should also pay attention to potential hazards specific to camping and hiking.

Camping is the only situation where a family is purposely starting a fire outdoors a long way from pressurized water or the nearest fire engine. A campfire is a serious responsibility.

In addition to the danger of starting an uncontrolled brush fire, campfires — like portable stoves, heaters and fuel-burning lanterns — produce carbon monoxide, an odorless gas that can poison a child very quickly. About 30 campers each year die of carbon monoxide poisoning. If someone near a campfire or portable stove seems drowsy, disoriented or sick, move that person away from the fire immediately to get some fresh air.

In addition, Safe Kids Kitsap County and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital recommends these precautions around campfires and portable heating devices:

- Always actively supervise children near a campfire or portable stove. Follow posted rules about campfires, and do not light fires in windy or excessively dry conditions.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel near the fire at all times and extinguish the fire completely before going to sleep or leaving the site.
  - Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Never use matches, lighters or any device powered by kerosene, propane or other heating fuel inside a tent or camper.

For more information about outdoor recreation safety, call 360-692-1198 or visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). Safe Kids Kitsap County works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids Worldwide is a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury. Safe Kids Kitsap County is led by Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

New placements need to have a well-child exam with in the first 30 days of placement.  
Preferably at childs physician ( if known)

New Policy..July 1st Dental exam to be scheduled within the 1st thirty days at least one year of age or first tooth has erupted. THIS IS FOR NEW PLACEMENTS NOT FOR TRANSFER unless they have not had one in initial placement.

Just a few who accept DSHS  
Peninsula Community Health Services Dental Clinic  
Bremerton 478-2368  
Dr Brown Poulsbo 779-7115  
Dentistry for Children East Bremerton 377-3844  
ABC Dental Care- Bremerton 373-3487

It seems that we are always searching for dental care or medical resources for the children we are serving. For those of you who may not already be aware of the dental care resources available through the child health and education tracking ( CHET) screening specialist or may be able to find the childs previous dentist ( which is always preferable for continuity of care) Contact Eugenia Cooper 475-3670 Thanks

At the prodding of my friends, I am writing this story. My name is Mildred Hondorf. I am a former elementary school music teacher from Des Moines, Iowa. I've always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons-something I've done for over 30 years.

Over the years I found that children have many levels of musical ability. I've never had the pleasure of having a prodigy though I have taught some talented students. However I've also had my share of what I call "musically challenged" pupils. One such student was Robby.

Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single Mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys!) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano. So I took him as a student. Well, Robby began with his piano lessons and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavor. As much as Robby tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary pieces that I require all my students to learn.

Over the months he tried and tried while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him. At the end of each weekly lesson he'd always say, "My mom's going to hear me play someday." But it seemed hopeless. He just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled but never stopped in.

Then one day Robby stopped coming to our lessons.

I thought about calling him but assumed because of his lack of ability, that he had decided to pursue something else. I also was glad that he stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching! Several weeks later I mailed to the student's homes a flyer on the upcoming recital. To my surprise Robby (who received a flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and because he had dropped out he really did not qualify. He said that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to piano lessons but he was still practicing. "Miss Hondorf I've just got to play!" he insisted.

I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital. Maybe it was his persistence or maybe it was something inside of me saying that it would be all right. The night for the recital came. The high school gymnasium was packed with parents, friends and relatives. I put Robby up last in the program before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he would do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my "curtain closer." Well, the recital went off without a hitch. The students had been practicing and it showed.

Then Robby came up on stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked like he'd run an eggbeater through it "Why didn't he dress up like the other students?" I thought. "Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?" Robby pulled out the piano bench and he began. I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen Mozart's Concerto #21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo. From allegro to virtuoso. His suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by people his age. After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo and everyone was on their feet in wild applause.

Overcome and in tears I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy. "I've never heard you play like that Robby! How'd you do it? " Through the microphone Robby explained: "Well Miss Hondorf . . . remember I told you my Mom was sick? Well, actually she had cancer and passed away this morning. And well . she was born deaf so tonight was the first time she ever heard me play. I wanted to make it special."

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into foster care, noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy and I thought to myself how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I've never had a prodigy but that night I became a prodigy of Robby's. He was the teacher and I was the pupil. For it is he that taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself and maybe even taking a chance in someone and you don't know why. Robby was killed in the senseless bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April of 1995.

And now, a footnote to the story.

We can all make a difference. So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we act with compassion or do we pass up that opportunity and leave the world a bit colder in the process?

KFCA Newsletter  
P.O. Box 4542  
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