



# KFCA Newsletter

[www.kitsapfostercare.org](http://www.kitsapfostercare.org)

September 2006

## KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Yolanda Comparan will be speaking at the **September 27, 2006 KFCA Dinner Meeting**. Her topic of discussion will be "Helping Your Child Succeed in School".

### *Harvest Party & Silent Auction*

**October 25, 2006 KFCA Dinner Meeting**

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

**Also at the October dinner meeting**, household fire extinguishers may be inspected. As of May 6, 2004, fire extinguishers in foster homes must be inspected annually...check the WAC with the email address below!  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-148-0240>

**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!



Family Night

At

SkateLand

Sunday,

October 1, 2006

5:00 to 7:00pm

Foster parents  
and children,  
please join us for  
an evening of  
fun...

Skating, food &  
drinks included,  
friends, and  
conversation!

Have a night out  
with your family  
on Kitsap Foster  
Care Association!



### 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***  
Phone 275-5725  
events@kitsapfostercare.org



## Upcoming Training

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

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

(or)

October 4, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS

October 4, 5, 6, 12, & 13, 2006 @ 530-930pm

Also, October 14, 2006 @ 9am to 445pm

First Methodist, 1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton

(or)

October 23, 24, 25, & 26, 2006 @ 9am to 4pm

Also, October 27, 2006 @ 9am to Noon

Port Orchard, TBA

(or)

November 1, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS

November 7, 8, 9, 14, & 15, 2006 @ 530-930pm

Also, November 18, 2006 @ 9am to 445pm

First Methodist, 1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton

(or)

December 6, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS

December 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2006 @ 9am to 4pm

Also, December 8, 2006 @ 9am to Noon

First Methodist, 1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton

### **Engaging Families for Change**

October 19 & 20, 2006

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Christ the Rock Community Church

4100 Old Clifton Road, Port Orchard

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**

<http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/>

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

<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:

<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

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:

<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>



## 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 as needed, call for support
- 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

### September 2006:

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

### October 2006:

- 1: Family Night @ SkateLand
- 3: KFCA Board Meeting
- 4: PRIDE Training Begins
- 19: Engaging Families
- 23: PRIDE Training Begins
- 25: KFCA Dinner Meeting  
Harvest Party/Silent Auction  
No Training during this meeting
- 31: Halloween

### November 2006:

- 1: PRIDE Orientation
- 7: KFCA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Training Begins
- 20: KFCA Dinner Meeting
- 23: Thanksgiving

### December 2006:

- 4: PRIDE Training Begins
- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 6: PRIDE Orientation
- 9: Deadline to register kids for Holiday Party!
- 16: KFCA Annual Holiday Party  
No Dinner Meeting this month

# No. 1 Cause of Injury in Elementary School: Playground Accidents

**Kitsap County, WA** – It is time to head back to school, and in addition to ensuring your child has all the appropriate back to school essentials, it is also important to prevent accidental injuries at our schools. Playground accidents are the leading cause of injury to children in elementary school. Each year, in the United States, approximately 150,000 children ages 5 to 14 go to the emergency room with accidental injuries involving playground equipment — and 3 out of 4 playground accidents occur on public playgrounds, including school facilities, as opposed to backyard play equipment.

Most playground injuries are not fatal — about 10 children per year die from injuries involving playground equipment, mostly from strangulation when a piece of loose clothing or jewelry gets caught on equipment or the child's head gets stuck between climbing bars. Falls, however, can also cause fatal injuries or permanent disability.

“A child who falls 10 feet is at risk of spinal cord injury, paralysis and death,” says Michele Jennings, Safe Kids, Kitsap County coordinator. “Protective surface materials can make a life-and-death difference.”

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues guidelines for playground surfacing and age-appropriate warning labels on playground equipment. In 15 states, some or all of the guidelines in the CPSC's *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* are mandatory under state law.

“Nothing can take the place of active supervision, but we do need to make sure our kids are playing in safe environments in the first place,” says Michele Jennings. “The ground should be covered 12 inches deep with shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or fine sand, extending at least six feet in all directions around the equipment.”

Even with proper surfacing, teachers and playground monitors need to keep kids in sight and in reach on the playground. “Simply being in the same place as the children isn't necessarily supervising,” says Michele Jennings.

“Kids on a playground need an adult's undivided attention.”

For outdoor play, children's clothing and outerwear should be free of drawstrings and should fit snugly to minimize the risk of getting stuck in a piece of equipment. Do not allow kids to wear helmets, necklaces, purses or scarves on the playground or engage in any pushing, shoving or crowding around playground equipment.

The CPSC handbook is available at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or 800-638-2772. “Before your child goes back to school, you might want to take a look at the school playground and, if necessary, discuss the CPSC guidelines with school authorities,” says Michele Jennings.

For more information about playground safety, call 360-662-1198 or visit [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org).

Safe Kids Kitsap County works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under.

Safe Kids Kitsap County is led by Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

## KFCA Annual Holiday Party

Is quickly approaching!

Saturday, December 16, 2006 1-3:00pm

Silverdale Community Center

Now is the time for **licensed foster parents** to register the **children placed & living** in their home!

Call Luanne Vail @ 876-5207 to register...

(be prepared to give name, age, gender of child, and something they would like within a certain price range) Children must be present to receive gifts!

**Last day to register children is December 9, 2006!!!**

## **A Note concerning the Washington Federation of State Employees (AFSCME-AFL-CIO)**

Last week I met with Michael Wilmore. He is the Director of Organizing for the "union". We discussed FPAWS, the "Union and Foster Parents at great lengths.

Here are my thoughts and I encourage you to consider them. Joining the Union DOES NOT mean that there will be a new attitude or an adversarial relationship with DCFS or Social Workers or anyone else. We are not going to strike and use our kids as pawns. There will be no hostility in either direction.

Remember this point.

As Foster Parents, we have no one to represent our interests. Our interests are many things including reimbursement and rights. Only the Legislature can change anything and that is where we are. We need representation at the legislative level if we are to change or improve anything that cost money and what doesn't come with a price tag? The Union will listen and evaluate our needs and go to the legislature and try to convince them to spend in our favor.

Most in the "Department" are understanding of our situation but are concerned that by unionizing, we will hurt our kids and our relationships in DCFS. Some of you may feel the same. I say NOT True. Done correctly, all things will improve including recruitment and retention but those will take time. If you take a look, Foster Care is in crises at this very hour and something different needs to be tried.

The effort to unionize is young and you will hear more as time goes on. I would not put into print, anything that I believed would hurt our relationship with DCFS and I feel that this will not so my personal point of view is one of cautious support. I urge you to look long and hard and decide for yourself.

Rick Williams President, KFCFA

There are many new Children's Administration policy items that go into effect September 1, 2006. Here's some information on three of the policies being implemented to strengthen existing Children's Administration practice in the area of family engagement.

**Shared Planning Policy-** Consolidates staffings around key time frames: Family and community engagement in case planning is increased by inviting and encouraging parents, children/youth, extended family, caregivers, Tribes, CASA/GAL, and others identified by the family to participate in the meetings.

A foster parent's attendance at staffings is important and encouraged if you can make it. If you can't make the staffing, you can still provide information in writing or by telephone.

These are the required time frames for Shared Planning Meetings:

\*72 hours (FTDM meets this requirement)

\*30 days (Dependency case conference meets this requirement)

\*180 days (Permanency Planning staffings meet this requirement)

\*9 to 11 months

\*every 12 months thereafter until permanency is achieved.

**Permanency Planning Policy-** Provides guidance to social workers for the decision making that occurs in Shared Planning Meetings. The policy focuses on allowing family and others persons identified by the family, including foster parents, to participate in collaborative case planning that enhances permanency of children.

**Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) Policy-** Provides guidance to social workers on how to focus on a child's well-being throughout the life of Children's Administration's involvement with a family. This policy encourages the involvement of all caregivers in identifying and planning for the needs of the child placed in their home.

Hello everyone!

In addition to our normal carseat checks that occur within Kitsap County on a monthly basis, we have added an additional one on

**September 16th (Saturday) from 10am to 2pm.** We are doing this check in partnership with our Local State Farm Insurance Agency and Toys R Us. We will be receiving a generous grant from State Farm for the check on the 16th!

If you would like to help, we could use both Technician and non-technician help at our State Farm Check on the 16th. We can always use volunteers to help scribe, help with traffic control, etc. We would love to have you come if you would like to help out. In addition, I am still looking for technicians to staff the event.

As a reminder, our **Safe Kids meeting for September will be September 21, 2:00pm** (I'll keep you posted on a location). Our Kitsap County Child Passenger Team meeting will also be on September 21 at 1:00pm. I'll forward locations and agendas as we get closer to the dates. The last Safe Kids meeting of the year will be held on November 16th 2:00pm. The next two meetings will be important as we will be determining our course of action for 2007. We will also discuss the possibility of changing meeting times/days. So please plan on attending the next couple meetings so you can help us determine where Safe Kids will be headed for 2007. We will have some new and exciting changes for 2007, so I would love all your participation in determining the course!

*Michele Jennings*

Child Safety Educator,  
Center for Childhood Safety

Mary Bridge Children's Health Center -  
Silverdale

Coalition Coordinator Safe Kids, Kitsap County  
360-662-1198

***The Mission of Safe Kids is to prevent accidental childhood injury, a leading killer of children 14 and under.***

## ***From the President...***

It's about the end of summer! How long has it been since we had California visit us for this long? I have used it for two great, week long motorcycle trips and painted most of the inside of our home, put tile in the master bath and laminate flooring down in most of the house. Now the Chihuahuas run down the hall and skid around corners and make no sudden stops. Very funny to see. Most kids are back in school and there isn't a one of you that haven't rejoiced at the relief. KFCA's back to school event broke all previous records for supplying your kids with the needed back packs, paper, pens, folders rulers and so forth.

I know it helps your pocket book too. Your board members and foster parents that put this event on deserve a big pat on the back for great organization as well as all the work to bring all the resources together. Way to go! Up and coming is the Harvest/costume party. This is going to be big! In an effort to get you to not only read your newsletter but to keep it around, I'm not going to tell you anything about it. You need to read our newsletter to get the details as they are published. If you check the website, you will find info there too! I will tell you that this is all fun and there is no voodoo or anti religious messages in a Harvest party. That's old school thinking and you should toss those old notions out the window. We are starting to "think" about the Holiday Party because the "Season" is just about here. Start planning now. Shop early and enjoy the discounts as they pop up! Your kids deserve a nice holiday season.

A word about KFCA's events. Some are well attended and others could be better. It seems that summer isn't the best time to get you to attend due to all sorts of things. Now that school is back in, try to show your support by attending our (your) events or we may need to stop doing some of them. You decide. We are happy to entertain you but you gotta show up!

Big thanks as always, to KFCA's board members. How often do you see people work so hard for no money? (Almost like being a foster parent?) ahem so anyway...time to go back to work Thanks everyone!

Rick Williams President, KFCA

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