



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

March 2007

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Join Kitsap Foster Care Association NOW!

Kitsap Foster Care Association offers support and activities for local foster children and their foster/relative care providers. General membership meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Silverdale Community Center. Dinner is at 6pm and training at 7pm. Members pay \$4 for dinner, a 50% reduction. Childcare is available. Monthly Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at rotating locations, contact any board member for the given month's location. Annual dues are \$15 and may be paid at any membership meeting. The newsletter is available on line at www.kitsapfostercare.org on a monthly basis. If you would like it emailed to you, contact the webmaster via the website. See page 2 for more details.

Please join us at the KFCA Dinner Meeting...

On February 28, 2007, Jeffery Weist MSW, LICSW from Center for Child and Family Therapy will join us. He will be speaking with us regarding *Techniques to Diffuse Power Struggles*.

The menu includes: pasta bar, salad, drinks, & brownies

Make sure your KFCA dues are current...

Please make sure that your KFCA dues are current... if you are a member in good standing (meaning your dues are paid) then you may vote at the May dinner meeting for President and Treasurer! Deadline to join KFCA in order to vote in the May election is the February dinner meeting (Wed 28 Feb).

If you have information you would like to share with fellow foster parents, or thanks you would like to offer to someone who has gone above and beyond, please email Jennifer to add it to the newsletter!

Nominations for the positions of President and Treasurer are now open, through the month of March. For those interested, nominations can be made at any membership dinner 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. Questions? Call any Board Member.



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

Dream Project

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

March 5, 6, 7, 8, (9:00am to 4:00pm) &
March 9, 2007 (9:00am to noon)
OR

March 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, (5:30pm to 9:30pm) &
March 31, 2007 (9:00am to 4:45pm)
OR

April 16, 17, 18, 19, (9:00am to 4:00pm) &
April 20, 2007 (9:00am to noon)

The above trainings are held at
Bremerton First Methodist Church
1150 Marine Drive; Bremerton, WA 98312
Contact Hildegard Stone to pre-register @
475-3586 or 1-800-423-6246

Care-giving for Children with Extreme Behavioral & Other Mental Health Issues

March 12, 2007

Culture & Self Esteem

March 13, 2007

Multiple Placements – Impact on Children

April 9, 2007

Success Beyond Foster Care: Career, Job Search & Financial Management Skills

April 10, 2007

Working with Developmentally Disabled Children

May 4, 2007

All of these trainings are offered in Kitsap County through the Online Foster Parent Education Workshops, Grow & Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents. In addition to online classes, land-based classes are being offered locally through this Pierce College Program at no cost to foster or relative care providers. Check the website for titles, times, and locations.

For logistics, call Geton Peters @ 360-782-1113
For Program questions, call Pierce College @
1-877-353-6763 or distedu@pierce.ctc.edu

Families with Russian & Ukrainian Adoptions National Conference 2007

Local and national experts will be presenting on topics that apply to families who have adopted domestically, as well as internationally.

April 26-28, 2007
Redmond, WA
www.frua.org

Autism & Aspergers Syndrome

Saturday, May 19, 2007
9:00am to 4:00pm

DCFS (CA) Building, Tahoma Room
1313 West Meeker Street, Kent, WA 98032
To register, contact Shelly Myers @
mysh300@dshs.wa.gov

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/

Check this website for fall 2007 updates!

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html>

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
Or call (253)217-1105

Check out this web site:

www.familieslikeours.org





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) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION**
(475-3513 or 876-1994)
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG
- 5) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety**
(360-662-1198)
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 6) **NK FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**
(206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com
*meets as needed, call for support
- 7) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY**
(1-888-885-2386)
*free pull-ups for foster children
- 8) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE**
(1-253-858-9941)
*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 9) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**
*Youth Services Program
- 10) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**
*free hair cuts for foster children
- 11) **Anointed Hands Hair Care (782-2409)**
*Dewanda Evans welcomes any/all questions re: African American hair care. Located on 6th Street in Bremer-ton.
- 12) **Christine Njoroge (475-3527)**
*For foster/relative care providers needing support for FASD children.

Calendar of Events

March 2007:

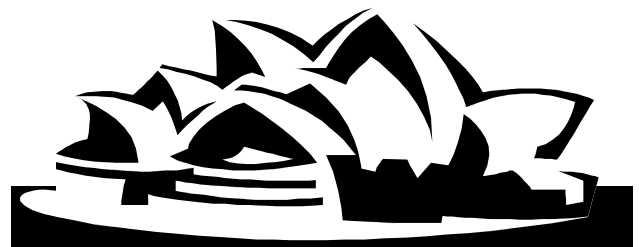
- 5: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 6: No KFCFA Board Meeting
- 12: Care-giving for Children...
- 13: Culture and Self-Esteem
- 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 21: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 28: KFCFA Dinner Meeting
(Nominations close)

April 2007:

- 3: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 9: Multiple Placements...
- 10: Success Beyond....
- 16: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 25: KFCFA Dinner Meeting
(Nominees will speak)
- 26: Families with Russian...

May 2007:

- 1: KFCFA Board Meeting
- 3: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 4: Working with...
- 13: Mother's Day!
- 16: Engaging Biological...
- 19: Autism and Aspergers...
- 21: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 23: KFCFA Dinner Meeting
(Membership votes)
- 28: Memorial Day



I realized after I left your meeting last night that I had answered one of the questions from the audience incorrectly. The man asked if the taxation of foster care payments for 10 or more children meant 10 children in a year or 10 children at a time. The correct answer is 10 children for the YEAR. However, this only applies to "Difficulty of Care Payments". The actual wording of the law states:

"In the case of any foster home, difficulty of care payments for any period to which such payments relate shall not be excludable from gross income under subsection (a) to the extent such payments are made for more than--

(A) 10 qualified foster individuals who have not attained age 19, and

(B) 5 qualified foster individuals not described in subparagraph (A)."

[IRC Sec. 131(c)(2)].

This probably does not apply to anyone in your group, but please pass this on immediately to anyone you think needs this information. If possible, please post this correction in your next newsletter or e-mail to members.

I do not want to mislead anyone!

I enjoyed talking with you. Good luck and keep up your good work!

Please pass this message on to any 11th grade African American student interested in engineering. This is an opportunity for 11th grade students to attend a FREE engineering camp at the University of Houston from June 3 - 15, 2007. African-American student participation is very much needed.

Please have your student to fill out the application and mail it to the address listed on the brochure. If you need further information please contact John Matthews, 713-743-4226. Students that participate in this camp have been known to gain summer jobs.

This camp helps students to develop good study habits and learn about engineering careers. Currently MESET need at least 15 more students to apply. The deadline is April 15, 2007. Students are encouraged to apply from anywhere in the United States. Transportation is not provided. However, the camp is free. As a courtesy, staff members will pick up and return out of town students to the bus station, train station or airport for free.

<http://www.egr.uh.edu/promes/pubs/meset2006.pdf>

RESPITE PROVIDER & CASE AIDE NEEDED

Respite provider needed for up to 2 weekends (4 nights) per month. Case Aide needed for up to 20-hours per week. Fees paid directly by private agency. Respite provider must have a current foster license, and be up-to-date on trainings/certifications. Case Aide should be at least 21 years of age, have required trainings and be comfortable working with behavioral challenges.

Foster parents are a same-sex male couple living in West Bremerton. We have been KFCA members for 3+ years. Our child is 11-years old, outgoing, athletic, generally well-behaved & good with younger kids. If interested, please contact: Van-John or George at 360-377-6178 or via e-mail: vanjohnsf@comcast.net.

WEEKEND FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Families are needed to provide care to foster children and teens for one or more weekends a month. Families receive a reimbursement to cover their expenses and sacrifice of time of \$50/day. Training and support provided by 24 hour on call support line.

We are currently looking for homes to care for all kinds of kids from younger children, to teens. We need both full time care homes and weekend care homes. You decide how you can participate in a child's life.

Join our team if you would like to explore another way to help children heal through treatment foster care. The process is easy.

**Call Kristine Clay Welch
Intensive Children's Services
Specialized Family Care
Kitsap Mental Health Services
at 360-479-4994**

3,000 Toddlers Per Year Injured by TVs Tipping Over

Safe Kids Kitsap County Urges Parents to Anchor Unstable Furniture to Wall or Floor; Parents Also Cautioned About Confined Spaces

Kitsap County — Each year, nationwide, an estimated 3,000 children ages 5 and under go to the emergency room with injuries caused by TV sets falling or tipping over, and at least 100 people — mostly young children — have been killed since 2000 by falling TVs or other furniture, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. “Kids try to climb and reach the controls on a TV, or they pull on hanging cords, and they can pull a TV off a stand or pull the stand itself down on top of themselves,” explained Michele Jennings, coordinator of Safe Kids Kitsap County. “In some cases, kids have been fatally crushed this way, and even nonfatal injuries to the head and neck can be devastating.”

Safe Kids Kitsap County recommends these precautions to prevent furniture tipovers:

- Make sure TV stands, tables, dressers and other pieces of furniture are stable and not top-heavy. Drawers and shelves should be loaded with heavier contents near the bottom and less weight near the top.
- Furniture that kids might be tempted to climb — such as bookcases, dressers or anything holding electronics — should be anchored to a wall or floor with angle brackets.
- Tie electrical cords out of reach of children.
- Don't keep remote controls, candy or other tempting items on unstable stands or tables.

In response to several child fatalities from furniture-related head injuries, Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.), James McGovern (D-Mass.) and Danny Davis (D-Ill.) introduced legislation in the 109th Congress to require that any furniture in danger of tipping over carry a warning label and be sold with anchoring devices and instructions. The legislation will most likely be reintroduced in the 110th Congress.

Kids are also in danger of suffocation if they become accidentally trapped in a cabinet, toy chest or laundry machine; there are also at least 45 known cases since 1975 in which a child has been trapped and strangled under the lid of a toy chest. Always supervise children around any confined space and keep the doors closed and locked.

Toy chests that meet voluntary standards set by the CPSC are equipped with lid supports that hold the lid open in any position. The standards also call for ventilation holes to prevent suffocation. “If you have a toy chest with a lid that doesn't stay open, the CPSC recommends you remove the lid or install a spring-loaded lid support,” said Jennings.

“These are not hazards that kill thousands of children every year, like vehicle crashes or drowning, but they are so easy to prevent and the consequences can be so severe,” said Jennings. “Don't underestimate the possibility of a small child being crushed by unsteady furniture.”

For more information about home safety and childproofing, visit 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.

From the President...

Hi Everyone,
I figured that I had better get this page done or Jennifer is gonna get me because I seem to have trouble meeting deadline but that can be attributed to old age and at 58, I'm getting there pretty fast. Okay, so you have heard about the restructure (how I have grown to hate that word) of our dues schedule but you must agree that it makes it simple for everyone all around. Pay once a year in January and call it good! As to the newsletter being online instead of in print. Well that didn't set to well with the Department. They want it in ink and sent to each of you by snail mail. It boils down to money which is getting tighter each year. I suppose we could cut down on an event or two but the board didn't feel that was best for you. The other issue is our mailing list. It seems that the Attorney General in this state (a few years ago) decided that your addresses were confidential and that we confidential foster parents running this board were not confidential enough to have access to your addresses. I guess only telemarketers can have that kind of information. Anyway, unless you signed a release of confidentiality to us, we couldn't have it so our mailing list has been shrinking. As a matter of fact, the number of foster parents is shrinking at an all time high. Go figure why. Anyway, we are working with the Department to work around this round-about and you may again be getting the newsletter in the mail. We will see. The next major news is elections. Sharon and I are stepping aside as President and Treasurer. Also Henry and Dianna are used up as well as Luanne Vail. John will finish out his term until next year. He is a wealth of knowledge and guidance. Sharon and I will be available for any help required by the new office holders. Henry and Dianna have had two wonderful people that have stepped in to fill their positions. Phyllis will probably fill the Vice President's position and she is a great person for that job.

(see next column)

(continued)

The Presidency and Treasurer's position has two nominated board members ready to step up and continue our great work. Debra and Chuck Converse are the two candidates and in the interest of fairness, I will say that they are the only candidates at this time. The turnover is huge but with somewhere around 10 years for me and longer for the others, we are ready for a break. Whom ever takes the helm with have fresh ideas, perspectives and greater energy and I urge your support to them! Those that give of their selves are truly interested in others more than of themselves. This month will be our retreat to plan the next year assuming our budget supports those plans. Wish us luck and please remember that without your participation in this Association, it will falter and be no more so come out! Support us! Get involved and help us succeed for you as well as others.

Rick Williams, your President

Are you interested in becoming involved with the Kitsap Foster Care Association???

*Nominations for President and Treasurer are now open. (see page 1)

*We are in need of someone to fill the positions of Historian and Child Care as soon as possible.

*The positions of Fund Raising, Community Awareness, and Legislative/Advocacy are open and awaiting prospective leaders.

*If you have suggestions for dinner meeting training topics, please contact Debra Converse. (see page 2)

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