



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

June 2007

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Please join us at the KFCA Dinner Meeting...

On **June 27, 2007** Linda Thomas will be speaking with us about Foster Care Rate Assessments, please bring questions!

Menu this evening will include:

Bar-B-Que Ribs, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Chips, and Strawberry Shortcake

Maureen Bissell from Life Bridges Coaching (www.lifebridgescoaching.com) will be joining us at the **July 25,**

2007 Dinner Meeting. She will present:

Conflict Resolution: Diffusing Arguments.

Please join us for these informative training sessions.

Kid's Safety Day

June 9, 2007 (10-2:30pm)

Kitsap County Fairgrounds

This event is free to attend and a good learning experience for your kids, as well as a fun outing! A poster with more details will be available at the June Dinner Meeting, as well as color sheets to enter into the free "ice cream party with firefighters" drawing!

If your foster children are in need of duffel bags to carry their belonging, please contact Rick @ 876-1994. Please don't send a child from your home or store their belongings in trash bags!

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!

Safe Kids will be hosting an outside "booth" about

Booster Seat Safety...

at Kids Day on June 9th at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. The event is from 10-2:30pm.

The new Washington State Booster Law goes into effect June 1, 2007 and we will be talking about the new "Up to 4'9" Boost 'Em Every Time" slogan for the law.

We will have our Safe Kids Van present and set up with car seats and our demonstrator seat to do the 5-point test. We will also weigh and measure kids and they will put their handprint on a nice little "take home" sheet of their height and weight and a copy of the 5-point test.

If you are willing to volunteer your time to help at this event, please let me know! We can always use more folks to help us out. I am recruiting some student volunteers to help with the handprints and weighing and measuring etc. I could use some more adult help!
Thanks!

Michele Jennings

Coalition Coordinator Safe Kids, Kitsap County
Child Safety Educator, Center for Childhood Safety
Mary Bridge Children's Health Center - Silverdale
360-662-1198



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 1988, Silverdale, WA 98383

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

Debra Converse, *President*
president@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President*
vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Treasurer*
treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

Erin Bowman, *Secretary/Membership*
secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Historian*
historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Lesa LeClair, *Child Care*
childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Webmaster*
webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/Resources*
education@kitsapfostercare.org

Jennifer Martin, *Newsletter*
newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events Coordinator*
Phone 275-5725
events@kitsapfostercare.org

Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator*
culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

Vacant, *Legislative*

Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison*
Cell (360) 990-9995
liaison@kitsapfostercare.org



Upcoming Training

PRIDE Pre-Service Training

June 7, 8, (5:30pm-9:30pm), 9, (9:00am-4:45pm),
13, 14, & 15, 2007 (5:30pm-9:30pm)

OR

July 10, 11, 12, (5:30-9:30pm), & 17, 18,
(5:30-9:30pm), & 21, 2007 (9:00-4:45pm)

OR

July 30, 31, & August 1 & 2 (9:00-4:00pm),
& August 3, 2007 (9:00-Noon)

OR

August 15, 16 (5:30-9:30pm), 18 (9:00-4:45pm),
22, 23, & 24, 2007 (5:30-9:30pm)

Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment Program

July 24, 2007

6:00-9:00pm

Engaging Biological Families for Change

July 27, 2007 9:00-4:00pm

OR

November 1& 2, 2007 6:00-9:00pm

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

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

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>

Check out this web site:

www.familieslikeours.org

KFCFA Annual Back to School Event

August 8, 2007

Noon to 2:00pm @ Evergreen Park

This event is open to all children in
foster homes, in placement
dependencies, and relative care
placements. At this event each child
enrolled in elementary, secondary, or
high school will receive age appropriate
school supplies. Each child must be
pre-registered. This event is to help the
families with some of the school
supplies needed, this is not expected to
be everything your child needs for
school. We will have bags with crayons
and color books for the preschool and
younger children.

***Deadline for registering children is
July 31, 2007 (no exceptions).*** Watch
for the registration flyer to come out
soon. Send completed registration form
to your State Social worker or mail to
KFCFA c/o Debra Converse
P.O. Box 1988
Silverdale WA 98383.

Questions call Debra at (360)692-1927.



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 Bremerton.
- 12) **Christine Njoroge (475-3527)**
*For foster/relative care providers needing support for FASD children.

Calendar of Events

June 2007:

- 1: Mariner's Event
- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 9: Kids Safety Day
- 17: Father's Day!
- 27: KFCA Dinner Meeting
(New Board takes office)

July 2007:

- 3: KFCA Board Meeting
- 4: Fourth of July! Be Safe!
- 10: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 24: Ansell-Casey Life Skills
- 25: KFCA Dinner Meeting
- 27: Engaging Biological Families
- 28: Tee it up for Kids!
- 30: PRIDE PreService Begins

August 2007:

- 7: KFCA Board Meeting
- 8: Back to School Event
- 15: PRIDE Preservice Begins



Before I was a Mom...

Before I was a Mom I never tripped over toys
or forgot words to a lullaby.

I didn't worry whether or not my plants were
poisonous.

I never thought about immunizations.

Before I was a Mom - I had never been puked
on. Pooped on. Chewed on. Peed on.

I had complete control of my mind and my
thoughts. I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom I never held down a
screaming child so doctors could
do tests. Or give shots.

I never looked into teary eyes and cried.

I never got gloriously happy over a simple
grin.

I never sat up late hours at night watching a
baby sleep.

Before I was a Mom I never held a sleeping
baby just because I didn't want to put them
down.

I never felt my heart break into a million
pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt.

I never knew that something so small could
affect my life so much.

I never knew that I could love someone so
much.

I never knew I would love being a Mom.

Before I was a Mom - I didn't know the feeling
of having my heart outside my body.

I didn't know how special it could feel to feed
a hungry baby.

I didn't know that bond between a mother and
her child.

I didn't know that something so small could
make me feel so important and happy.

Before I was a Mom - I had never gotten up in
the middle of the night

every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay.

I had never known the warmth, the joy, the
love, the heartache, the wonderment or the
satisfaction of being a Mom.

I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much
before I was a Mom.

Thank you!

Lately there has been more awareness to
Foster Care by our community and it warms
me to think that we are finally being shown that
the words are more than talk.

I was approached by Amanda Rudd who along
with her husband, owns the Morningside
Bakery in downtown Port Orchard. She said
that they were remodeling and would celebrate
that event for the week preceding Mother's
Day up to that day. She wanted to raise money
for Kitsap Foster Care Association by raffling
off a cake a day for the entire week and would
we be interested? I was all too happy to say
yes! They did everything including

picking up KFCA's logo sign which was
displayed outside on the side walk. During the
event I decided to pay a visit and I was
amazed to find an incredibly beautiful bakery
with all the sights and smells that you could
ever want. They had donuts of all kinds, fresh
breads of all kinds, pastries and things I had
never seen. It was incredible! Amanda showed
me the viewing window where you watch as
cakes are made by her husband. This man is
an artist of the highest level. There is a photo
album showing the cakes he has made and
there isn't anything he can't do with a cake.

Wedding cakes too. You must visit this bakery!
It is such a treat for the senses! Support our
local small businesses!

Back to the fund raising. Today I picked up a
check from them for \$327.64 from their raffle.

There was another check from Bay Street
Custom Picture Framing for \$25.00.

All totaled, they raised \$352.64.

I want to thank Mallory from Bay Street Picture
Framing also. I have met her when she first
started her business quite some time ago and
she does excellent work.

I would hope that we show our gratitude by
patronizing these fine establishments. They
are the kind of business that have old time
charm and quality not found in chain stores.
Kitsap Foster Care recognizes and thanks
these caring and wonderful people for their
outstanding support of our Association as well
as Foster Parents and the kids we care for.

Dear Foster Parents;
May was National Foster Care month. Across the state local recognition events were held, honoring those who touch the lives of children most directly—foster and relative caregivers. Those who dry tears, offer hugs and give love freely, who open their hearts and homes to children, who invest lots of time and lots of energy to support our greatest resource in Washington—our children.

Across the country, people just like you are helping young people in foster care and relative care build brighter futures by serving as their foster parents or relative caregivers. We want to recognize you and the work you do to support children and families.

Children and youth in foster care require safe, stable, and nurturing environments to live in until they can safely reunite with their parents or establish other permanent lifelong family relationships. Like all young people, youth in foster care need enduring, positive relationships with caring adults.

With guidance and support from nurturing adults, children and youth in foster care and relative care are capable of overcoming the effects of previous abuse and neglect or family disruption.

On behalf of everyone who works for the Children's Administration I would like to thank each one of you who dedicate yourselves to ensuring that children in care have a safe, nurturing and successful journey into adulthood.

Thank you for commitment and for accepting this calling to be a nurturing caregiver.

Nancy Sutton, Regional Administrator

On behalf of:
All DCFS Staff in Tacoma and Bremerton.

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**

From the President...

This month will be my last as Association President. Your new officers will be Debra Converse as President and Chuck Converse as Treasurer. They will no doubt share responsibilities much as Sharon and I have for many years. The joint effort is so much more efficient and simple. As you read this, you will have welcomed them with your vote as they ran unopposed but very qualified for these most important positions. I thank them for taking the helm! Your participation and attendance is very important to their success down the road. Don't fail them! Come to the meetings and events. I would go into the past accomplishments but most of you have been with us and seen the changes and to do so would be a sort of a yada yada. I think the bottom line is more important and that is we have a very healthy Association that is doing many things for you and your kids. That is all that really matters. KFCA ROCKS! Through the years, our success has been dependant on several factors. We board members, you Foster Parents and the support of the incredible people within DCFS. True story! DCFS is an unsung hero or should I say, individuals employed by the Department that have supported us, encouraged us and made sure we were funded, to say the very least! The behind the scenes events cannot be told but trust me, there were and are people that held our success in their hands. Gratitude and appreciation are incredible powers that reap huge rewards and I was a first hand witness. These people need no public recognition because they did what they did, because their hearts were in our best interests and they rest at night knowing what they do and not what they get. For me, I know them and love them for the wonderful people that they are. If you only knew the emotions that you have given to me. Chris, Cherrie, Nancy, Fred, Sophia, and a host of others. Even old Jake deserves a big thanks. If you don't know who I am thanking, they will., Thank you so dearly. My new direction is different. I will still have my wood working business, I will still work as an outside sales rep for Edensaw woods in Port Townsend but more important, I have been accepted into the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association. We will be supporting Vets and their families in many ways and I look forward to that mission as I understand what a Vet and their family endures during conflict. I hope that I can offer my hand in a way that eases their conflict in war time.

(continued next column)

(continued)

Least I forget, my wife Sharon has done much more than I for your Association. You women know what I mean when I say that we successful men are usually that way because of the women in our lives and I am an example of which I speak.

Sharon is a selfless person who has given so much of herself with no glory asked. I have been blessed to have her as my partner, friend and wife. You have been as blessed and you should know of it. Thank you Sharon, my wife and my love. Thank you all, for the years of friendships and associations. It is time to move onward!

Rick Williams

Save the Date

2nd Annual “Tee it Up for Kids” Golf Tournament!

Where: Horseshoe Lake Golf Course,
Port Orchard, WA.

When: Saturday July 28, 2007

Check-in at 7:30am, Tee-off at 8:00am

Format: 4 person scramble, modified
shotgun start, best ball

(beginners to advance players welcome)

Cost: Only \$70 per person – includes
green fee, golf cart, barbecue, FUN!!

**Don't miss out on the fabulous
prizes!**

**Proceeds raised by this tournament will
turn dreams into reality for foster
children in Kitsap County!**

Contact Nicole Edwards (360-475-3528) or
Damian Lonnee (360-475-3414) for details



KFCA Newsletter
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