



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

November 2007

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

November 7, 2007 Dinner Meeting...

Please note, this is earlier than usual to avoid the Thanksgiving Holiday. Also, there will be no training this month. Instead, we will be having an informal business meeting after dinner, your attendance and input is appreciated as we have several issues to address. The menu includes: Turkey & Ham, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes/gravy, Vegetables, Salad Bar, Roll, and Pumpkin Somethin or another.

Treat yourselves to an afternoon without kids! Kitsap Foster Care Association will provide four hours of childcare at a designated location, drinks and snacks for the kids, and you can spend a few hours on your own!

This is an opportunity for FREE childcare for YOU!

Foster Parent Day Out!

Saturday, December 8, 2007 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Christian Life Center Church

1780 Lincoln Ave., Port Orchard, WA

This event is open to current KFCA members only. Feel free to join KFCA as you register your children for this event. Children with sexual offending behavior will not be able to attend.

Register with Debra Converse @ 692-1927 by November 30, 2007

KFCA Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 1, 2007

1:00 to 3:00pm

Silverdale Community Center

Now is the time for **licensed foster parents, relative, and kinship caregivers** 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 registered and present to receive gifts! Last day to register children is November 23, 2007!!!**

HOLIDAY MAGIC UPDATE

710 KIRO Foster Child Holiday Magic in partnership with

Treehouse will deliver gifts directly into the hands of foster kids this holiday season. A new

streamlined registration process and simplified

gift-delivery system

make it easier than ever

to participate in the program.

· Each child registered will receive one premium holiday gift

· Each child will choose a gift they want AND the gift will be delivered right to their home

Children's

Administration, in collaboration with

Treehouse and the 710 KIRO Foster Child

Holiday Magic program, is helping to make the

holiday season bright for foster kids across

Western Washington.

For more information:

Barb Bofinger, (360) 475-3612, BOBA300 @

dshs.wa.gov



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 Monday of each month @ 6:00pm.
- KFCA Board Meetings are open, and all are welcome to attend. If you'd like to add an item to the agenda, please contact Debra Converse 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/Training*
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

November 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 (5:30-9:30pm), & 17,
2007 (9:00-4:45pm)
OR

November 29, 30, December 5, 6 (9:00-4:00pm), &
7, 2007 (9:00-noon)

Engaging Biological Families for Change

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

PRIDE Pre-Service Training

November 19, 26, 28 & December 3, 2007
9:00am to 4:00pm

Harbor Covenant Church
5601 Gustafson Drive NW, Gig Harbor, 98335

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Friday, November 2, 2007
9:00am to 4:00pm

Puyallup Tribe Spirit House
Kwawachee Counseling Center
2209 E. 32nd Street, Tacoma, WA 98404

Contact Tanya Coats to register @ 253-680-5532

Ansel-Casey Life Skills Assessment

November 20, 2007
9:00am to 1:00pm

DCFS room 195, 1949 South State Street
Tacoma, WA
To register for the above training, contact Linda
Falcocchio at 1-253-983-6474

**Brain Gym: Enhancing Effectiveness
Through Movement and Play**
Saturday, November 3 & 10, 2007
HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

Bully Prevention Training

Saturday, November 10, 2007
9:00am to 4:00pm

2100 Bldg. 1st floor, 2100 24th Ave. South
Seattle, WA

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!

First Aid/CPR Training for Foster Parents

www.keepthebeatcpr.net
Or call (253)217-1105

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html

Check out these web sites:

www.familieslikeours.org

www.usfosterfamilies.com

www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/

Info@safekids.org

(for information on recalls related to child specific
items, as well as other issues)

Info@adoptionreferralservice.com

Ctboxnews@ku.edu

(The Community Tool Box has a new look! With
over 7,000 pages of free material on essential skills
for building healthy communities, we heard from
users that the website has been very useful. Now,
with feedback from many users, we have made the
CTB even better)





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 (692-1927)**
*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.
- 13) **Center for Children with Special Needs**
*www.cshcn.org
- 14) www.kidsdirectory.com

Calendar of Events

November 2007:

- 1: Engaging Biological...
- 2: FASD Training
- 3: Brain Gym-CANCELLED!
- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Preservice Begins
- 7: KFCA Dinner Meeting & Business Meeting.
- 10: Bully Prevention Training
- 12: Veterans Day Observed
- 19: PRIDE Preservice: Pierce
- 20: Ansel-Casey Life Skills
- 22: Happy Thanksgiving!
- 23: Deadline to register for KFCA Holiday Party!
- 29: PRIDE Preservice Begins

December 2007:

- 1: KFCA Holiday Party
No Dinner Meeting!
- 3: KFCA Board Meeting
- 8: Foster Parent Day Out!
- 25: Merry Christmas!



The purpose of the **D.R.E.A.M. Project** is to grant “dreams” to our children in foster and kinship care in Kitsap County. Each child 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 \$75.

The request form can be downloaded from <http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/>

Forward to:

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



With the onset of the region’s fall and winter storm season, I encourage you to take a moment this evening, when you get home, to check your readiness for potential storm problems. Please make sure you have adequate emergency supplies of food, water and batteries.

We learned last year that these storms can produce road closures, power outages, downed trees and flooding. We all should take steps to be prepared for these situations and lessen their impact on our families.

And, please, remember the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning from charcoal grills and generators. These devices must remain outside of homes or deadly carbon monoxide can build up and kill building occupants.

Preparedness material is available in multiple languages on the state Department of Health web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/handbook.htm> Emergency preparedness information is available on the Washington Red Cross web site at <http://www.redcrosswashington.org/> and the Washington Emergency Management Division web site at <http://www.emd.wa.gov/>.

Stay safe, Gov. Christine Gregoire

Simplicity's Recall Hotline: (888) 593-9274 CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772 CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908 Simplicity Media Contact: (713) 301-0733 About 1 Million Simplicity Cribs Recalled Due To Failures Resulting in Infant Deaths

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is announcing today a voluntary recall with Simplicity Inc., of Reading, Pa., of about 1 million cribs. The drop-side can detach from the crib, which can create a dangerous gap and lead to the entrapment and suffocation of infants. CPSC is aware of two deaths in Simplicity manufactured cribs with older style hardware, including a 9-month-old child and a 6-month-old child, where the drop-side was installed upside down. CPSC is also aware of seven infant entrapments and 55 incidents in these cribs.

CPSC is also investigating the death of a 1-year-old child in a Simplicity crib with newer style hardware, in which the drop-side was installed upside down. CPSC is warning parents and caregivers to check all Simplicity cribs to make sure the drop-side is installed right side up.

The drop-side failures result from both the hardware and crib design, which allow consumers to unintentionally install the drop-side upside down. This, in turn, can weaken the hardware and cause the drop-side to detach from the crib. When the drop-side detaches, it creates a gap in which infants can become entrapped.

CPSC is also aware of two incidents that occurred when the drop-side was correctly installed with older style hardware, though the upside down installation greatly increases the risk of failure.

Consumers should check to see if their crib contains the recalled hardware. Recalled hardware has a flexible tab at the bottom of the lower tracks and the top of the lower tracks are open. Newer hardware, which is not subject to the recall, has the flexible tab located at the top of the lower track, and a permanent stop at the bottom.

Consumers who have a crib with older style hardware can receive a free repair by immediately contacting Simplicity toll-free at (888) 593-9274 between 8:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Friday, and between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, or by visiting the firm's Web site at www.simplicityforchildren.com

Consumers who have a crib with newer style hardware and have installed the drop-side upside down or have broken hardware, should also contact Simplicity immediately.

KFCA Survey 2007

In attempt to improve our services, better serve our membership, and plan for the upcoming year, Kitsap Foster Care Association is conducting a survey. Your opinions, ideas, and suggestions are important to us. To participate, please answer the questions below and return to KFCA by turning it in to your favorite board member at a KFCA event, e-mailing to president@kitsapfostercare.org, or mailing to:

Kitsap Foster Care Association,
PO Box 4542,
Bremerton, WA 98310.

What about the Kitsap Foster Care Association benefits you the most?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Clothing donations | <input type="radio"/> Dream Project |
| <input type="radio"/> Monthly events | <input type="radio"/> Networking with other Foster Care Association members |
| <input type="radio"/> Newsletter | <input type="radio"/> Training opportunities |
| <input type="radio"/> Website | <input type="radio"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |

What is the best way to notify you of upcoming events?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Newsletter | <input type="radio"/> Website | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Electronic mail | <input type="radio"/> Special mailing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> Phone Tree? |

How did you first hear about Kitsap Foster Care Association?

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Word of mouth | <input type="radio"/> Pre-Service Training | <input type="radio"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="radio"/> Website | <input type="radio"/> Booth at Blackberry Festival | |
| <input type="radio"/> Booth at Whaling Days | <input type="radio"/> Other (Please specify) _____ | |

What other support, services, or events would you like to see?

What support, services, or events should we eliminate?

Do you have any suggestions for trainers we should invite or training topics we should cover at future trainings?

Do you have suggestions to improve the Newsletter or Website?

How would you feel about adding advertisements to the website or newsletter to help cover the costs?

When planning for KFCA events, what days/times work best for your schedule?

Are you an association member? If so, what convinced you to join? If not, what would help convince you?

Do you have suggestions for future meal items to add or avoid?

Does KFCA meet your needs/expectations?

How can we serve you better?

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

*Foster parent & caregivers conference....
An inside point of view!*

Wow, this was great. It was the first time I had gone and I really enjoyed it. Saturday was the first Education Conference and it was outstanding. There are many opportunities for our kids to go to college or technical schools. We are not just shoving them out the door when they graduate from high school. I received a lot of information and instead of keeping it in a drawer, I gave it to the high school counselor. She was really glad to get some updated materials. She really liked all the scholarships our kids are eligible for.

I met lots of people from all over the State during the rest of the conference. So many caring people. I heard the changes our state is making for our kids. I think we are heading in the right direction for our kids. I feel very blessed to be part of the foster care "Family".

The most important thing I learned about was House Bill 1624. This bill requires Children's Administration to "consult" with foster parents, including representatives of Foster Parent Association of Washington State, every three months at the regional and statewide levels. The purpose of this legislation is to improve communication between foster parents and Children's Administration centered on recruitment and retention of foster homes and effective foster parent training. I attended Region 6's session and found it to be very informative. I plan on attending the first statewide session on November 6, in Lacey. If interested you can contact Cherrie Druffle at 253-983-6235 or drch300@dshs.wa.gov

Phyllis Bishop, Vice-President KFCA



From the President...

Chuck and I welcomed our newest daughter into our family on Oct 8th. Lillian Mae weighed in at a whopping 10# 13 oz. and was 20.8 inches. Mom and baby are doing well. With our new bundle of joy and responsibility it has turned into another busy month.

We are looking forward to the KFCA foster parent night out on Nov 17 from 1-5 PM to take a short break for the two of us to catch a movie or to start some holiday shopping. Hope that you too will take advantage of this KFCA sponsored "respite" hours for a short pre-holiday break. Don't forget to pre-register for this event! I can be contacted at 692-1927 or at president@kitsapfostercare.org.

Speaking of the holidays, Gift registration for the KIRO Holiday magic program has begun. So please do not delay in signing up your foster children for this holiday gift program. Also, if you are planning on attending the KFCA holiday party on Dec 1st, from 1-3 PM please contact Luanne at 876-5207 to register your children's gift wish so that Santa has time to get it ready for the party.

Nov 7th is the KFCA Holiday Dinner meal for November. In lieu of the training we will be having an informal business meeting to address some business items that have come to our attention. Please also note in this newsletter a member survey. At this dinner meeting we plan on taking a survey to gather feedback on how we are doing and what would you like to see the Association do or the focus of the association to be. Please take time to think about this for your feedback is important to us. As we try to improve and build on what the Association currently does in the way of support and activities for KFCA members and Kitsap County foster families. Your input and feedback is greatly appreciated as we once again start the planning process for future events.

We and the Board want to wish you a great Thanksgiving Holiday filled with fond memories, bountiful food and time to reflect on all of your blessings.

Sincerely,
Debra Converse, KFCA President
President@kitsapfostercare.org

KFCA Newsletter
P.O. Box 4542
Bremerton, WA 98312

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