



KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

June 2008

June

KFCA

Dinner Meeting

Wednesday the 18th—6:00—8:00pm

ALL AMERICAN BARBECUE

Menu:

Barbecue ribs and chicken
Potato and macaroni salad
Corn on the cob and chips
Baked beans
Strawberry shortcake

Guest Speaker: **Stephanie Dornes**, Foster-care to College Coordinator for the "Foster Care to College Mentoring Program" through Pierce County Alliance. Learn how to access the program to best support the youth in your home so they can get the best education and make informed career choices.

June activity: Bowling! Sunday, June 22nd at Bremerton Lanes from 2 to 4 PM. Come join us and have a ball and a spare a strike!

Welcome to Spring, the June edition of the KFCA newsletter; and to spice things up, a new monthly feature news item—"Agency Focus". AF is a new item dedicated to give each private agency in the area a chance for us to get to know them. It is the intent of KFCA to hear from ALL the private agencies in time. The agencies are invited to submit a short article about themselves including such information as mission, size, employees, number of homes, history or even some fun facts, so that we may be better acquainted and in an effort to be as inclusive and representative as possible in the association's membership.

In addition to AF we have added a 'In Step With ...' This month we will hear from Laura Thompson, a new CWS supervisor in the Bremerton office. It is our hope that 'getting to know one another' will break down the communication barriers that can often be road blocks to best practice.

You will find the article on page 6.

"Agency Focus"

a few words from & about. . .

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Youth for Christ West Puget Sound is a Child Placing Agency that provides high quality loving Christian homes to foster kids. We are a supportive agency for those parents who look on foster care as a Christian ministry. YFC has homes throughout Kitsap County and works with level 1 through 3 children of every age until they are able to return home. Some YFC foster parents choose to adopt their children if they cannot return home. Aftercare services are offered when needed. Youth for Christ prides itself on high quality, supportive case management and the ability to partner cooperatively with the State for the benefit of the child.

Youth for Christ is the sole Independent Living and Transitional Living contracted provider for foster children ages 15-21 in Kitsap County.

Our very special **THANKS** to everyone who worked so hard to present the Third Annual "Kitsap Style" Fashion Show hosted by Lucky Star Consignment Clothing and Kingston High School Key Club sponsored by the Kitsap Credit Union. Over \$3000 was raised for the Dream Project! Sponsors include:

Kitsap Credit Union; Lucky Star Consignment; Kingston High School Key Club; Kitsap Bank; Liberty Bay Books; America Marine Bank; Pine Cone Gifts; Interior Design Connection; Muscle Works; Kingston Kids Salon; Bank of America; Thriftway; Sunny Morris M Salon; Liberty Bay; Dance Works

& EMU Topsoil. **THANK YOU!!!!!!!**

BANANA SPLIT PIE



Crust:

- 2 Cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 stick melted butter

Mix all ingredients and press into a 9"x13" pan
Set aside

Filling:

- 8 oz cream cheese—softened at room temp
- 2 eggs—egg beaters work well too!
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups powdered sugar

Mix until smooth and pour over crumb crust

Topping:

- 20 Oz crushed pineapple—well drained
- 4—5 ripe bananas—sliced
- 1 tub of cool whip

walnuts and maraschino cherries for garnish

Spread pineapple over crème filling, add banana slices over that and then spread the cool whip on top—garnish with cherries and nuts.

Refrigerate overnight—yields about 16 servings

Are you a

NATURAL BORN RECRUITER?

If your answer is yes, you can earn \$100 for every family you refer to the FOSTER CARE RESOURCE NETWORK who licenses with DCFS. Contact Lyn @ fostercareresnet@aol.com

Kudos to the Day Care Staff! - these folks tirelessly watch our little ones while we enjoy the trainings offered at the monthly dinner meetings. They do a great job and deserve our thanks.

Do you know what you could do for them to make their time a little bit better and a lot more pleasant? Please, take your little ones 'potty' before dropping them off. Wipe their little noses, change their adorable little diapers on your way upstairs. The kids will be happy, you will be happy and the day care staff will breath fresh air at last.

Please note, there have been complaints from community center visitors.

Teens are wandering the building and the neighborhood. This is not OK. The kids all need to be with their parents & appropriately supervised while visiting the community center.



FOSTER CARE TO COLLEGE!

The Pierce County Alliance is looking for referrals on youth for their **Foster Care To College Program** (FCTC) They work with Kitsap kids too! Seminars are available to foster youth 6th through 12th grade and their caregivers. Mentors are available to foster youth and alumni age 16 through 21 who are interested in post secondary education. Educational mentors support youth with graduating high school or GED completion. They help students gain access to **vocational, 2-year and 4 year colleges**. FCTC team members are also there to assist with career planning, educational goals and community resources. The contact person for the program is Ms. Stephanie Dormes @ (253) 502-5435.

Additional information about foster care to college and more opportunities and resources for foster youth can be found online at :

<http://www.independence.wa.gov/>



FOSTER CARE TO 21

Is accepting applications for youth who are nearly 18 and wish to stay in care to participate in a program of post secondary education. Whether it is college; university or technical school youth pursuing their educational goals are welcome to apply. First contact is the youth's assigned social worker or social worker supervisor to receive forms. Forms can also be forwarded to you if you contact newsletter@Kitsapfostercare.org or for more information contact Jim Pritchard, Passport to College Program manager @ (360) 902-8487

3rd Annual Foster Youth & Alumni Leadership Summit

The **LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** is a skill-building opportunity for current and former foster youth and their allies. This is an all inclusive two day retreat at the Cedarbrook Leadership Center in Seattle—a beautiful facility near the SeaTac Airport. Foster youth who are interested in sustaining local foster youth and alumni chapters can elevate their voice and unique perspective to create change in their lives and the lives of others who have experienced foster care. All travel expenses and participation costs will be paid.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

A member or interested in joining your local foster youth and alumni chapter

Currently one of the following:

A foster youth age 14 or older

A former foster youth age 24 or younger

Participants will learn how to use their voice effectively to get their needs met in and out of the system. Participants will meet with other current and former foster youth, identify issues important to them, and express their ideas to state policy makers.

Applications must be sent (or postmarked) by Friday, August 29, 2008

Mailing Address: **Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit**
Attention: Kara Sanders
2100 24th Ave S, Suite 240
Seattle, WA 98144

Fun and Safety Go Hand-in-Hand at the 23rd Annual Kids' Day

Here at CKFR we understand that peoples' lives get so hectic that it is easy to forget to take time out for fire and safety prevention. We're doing our part to remind kids and families that safety is everyone's responsibility.

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue and community partners know that when we provide children with fire prevention and life safety information, we are able to reach the heart of families.

Join us for a **free**, fun-filled day for kids and their families on **June 7, 2008**, at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. This year Kids' Day is sponsored by Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue in conjunction with local organizations and businesses. Doors open for the community at 10:00 AM and the show runs until 2:30 PM. Kids' Day is a **free**, fun-filled event that provides families with an opportunity to take a moment to have a good time while picking up tips and resources about ways to keep kids and families safe and healthy.

In addition to live fire demonstrations and vehicle extrications, the event will feature the *Ride and Glide Stunt Team* whose daring athletes engage kids while spreading the message about bicycle safety, positive self-esteem, and healthy living. Over 45 booths will provide fire and life safety information. Kids, come meet Sparky the Fire Dog and his buddies the Bloodhound Rescue Dogs. Everyone is invited to practice your skills with a fire extinguisher on "real flames", challenge yourself to a game of Frisbee golf, or get fitted with a new bike helmet. There'll be lots to do and see at Kids' Day 2008!

Please contact Theresa MacLennan, Public Information/Public Education Officer for Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue for details: 360.447.3550.

KFCA IS ACCEPTING DREAM APPLICATIONS!

Do the kids in your care have dreams of playing sports or taking music lessons? The KFCA would like to encourage you to apply on behalf of your kids. The Dream Project provides up to \$75 towards a variety of enrichment activities! You will find the application at www.kitsapfostercare.org

LINKS TO FOSTER PARENTS &
RELATIVE CAREGIVERS:

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

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

Check out these helpful web sites:

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

www.independence.wa.gov

www.familieslikeours.org

www.safekids.org

This site offers information on recalls related to child specific items as well as other kid related issues.

3RD Annual
Tee it up for Kids GOLF
TOURNAMENT!

**WHERE: HORSESHOE LAKE GOLF COURSE,
1250 SW Clubhouse**

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008 Arrive 7:30 am for tee assignments

**FORMAT: 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE:
Rules will be provided on the day of the event.**

**START TIME: Tee-off at 8:00 a.m.
SHARP If your team is late you will forfeit your tee time.**

COST: Only \$75.00 PER PERSON (this includes greens fee, golf cart, and barbecue)

**For more info call Barbara Bofinger
983-6445**

Proceeds of this fun event benefit the Kitsap Foster Association's DREAM Project and Pierce County Foster Care Association's High Five for Kids!

KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION

Kitsap Foster Care Association (KFCA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1991. We are dedicated to the foster care system, foster parents, relative care providers and children placed in out of home care living in Kitsap County. Our membership is strictly voluntary and is made up of relatives caring for children placed with them; foster parents licensed by the State of Washington and other local, private, agencies. We exist to support relatives, new foster families with first time placements and seasoned foster parents.

Training Opportunities:

**PRESERVICE TRAINING
FOR FOSTER LICENSURE**

June: 11, 12, 13, 18, 19th, 5:30- 9:30pm &
Saturday, June 21st, 9:00am - 4:45pm.

July: 1, 3, 8, 10th, 9:00am - 4:00pm &
15th, 9:00am - noon

August: 5, 6, 7, 13, 14th, 5:30 - 9:30pm &
Saturday, Aug. 16th, 9:00am - 4:45pm

Early Learning & Interventions

June 10am—12:30

Engaging Biological Families for Change

To help caregivers to relate with biological families; examining values & providing A communications model.

July 17 & 18th, 6:00pm - 9:00pm.

Parenting Sexually Aggressive Children & Youth

August 1st, 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth

August 22nd, 9:00am - 4:00pm.

To Enroll, contact:

Hildegard Stone— 475-3586 or 800-423-6246
Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

Resource Family Network Institute

All Training @ Bremerton Methodist

1150 Marine Dr., Bremerton, WA 98312

Grow and Go...

Online Workshops for Foster Parents

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

Check this website for 2008 updates!

First Aid/CPR Training for Foster Parents

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105



Join KFCA!

Are you a foster/kinship care provider interested in receiving support from & networking with other foster parents our community OR interested in offering support to local foster parents??

Kitsap Foster Care Association Membership is open to all foster/kinship care providers, as well as others interested in youth and foster care!

Annual dues of \$15, entitle you to a monthly dinner/training meeting;
Annual events, such as:
The Back to School Event & Holiday Party as well as the monthly newsletters; other fun activities supportive of foster families, ample opportunity to network with and provide/receive support while parenting local children in need!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Are You: (circle all that apply)

Foster Parent

Kinship Provider

Other: _____

Make check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



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president@kitsapfostercare.org

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Phone 792-0249

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

In Step with CWS Unit 7

New Kids on the BLOCK! Unit 7 Child and Family Welfare Services (CFWS)

Did you know that in November 2006 a new CFWS unit was forming in the Bremerton office? Yeppers, the new unit has the capacity to work with children ages birth to 18. I, Laura Thompson, have the privilege of supervising six Social Worker 2, 3's and one Social Worker 1. My social workers carry a caseload of approximately 18-20 children, which includes multiple parents, foster parents, and relative caregivers. We specialize in working with families with large sibling groups and I have one social worker that focuses on working with Native American families.

I HEART my social workers. I have two seasoned social workers, one who is on the brink of being seasoned and one new social worker and one new social worker who will start July 1, 2008. They are all here to serve families and to ensure that the children we serve grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. My social worker 1 has a lot of experience in working with families involved with the agency and is motivated to provide helpful and quality assistance to the team of social workers she interacts with. They are the reason that I come to work each day. They strive to provide the best possible services to all that touch the lives of the children they serve. They are truly dedicated to doing what is in the best interest of the children on their caseloads. They are kind hearted, strength based and professional in all that they do. I am impressed with their dedication to do the work that they do in spite of the trauma that they experience in working with abuse and neglect. It truly takes a special person to do the job they do. Unit 7 ROCKS!

Kirsten Erceg	475-3519
Kalissa Fagin-Debar	
Candy Fitzpatrick	475-3517
Shiaulin Jou	475-3642
Nancy Kucklick	475-3588
Tiffani Luman	475-3698
Laura Thompson	475-3502

If you need us....We will be there!

KFCA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The newsletter is to inform and educate. It is for us by us. Your ideas and input are extremely welcome and encouraged. I would very much like to hear from you about ideas for articles; community resources you think would be of benefit to the members; upcoming events that may be of interest to the members; strategies that really work for you in teaching children needed daily skills or ways you diffuse tough situations in your home. Healthy recipes, fun parks or activities you like to visit with the family; poems; success stories relating to working with kids you would like to share. Suggestions for trainings or speakers would be appreciated. Any aspect of the laws around fostering or state policies you don't understand and would like to see clarified in the newsletter could be something we could address as well.

It is our hope the newsletter is something you forward to receiving and reading monthly and feel positive about. A couple of ideas we have come up with are short articles featuring a private agency each month and a monthly feature about a person or state entity we think you may enjoy learning more about, and a recipe.

Please feel free to send your thoughts and ideal about newsletter content to newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org Please include your full name, daytime & evening phone number. For various reasons, the newsletter reserves the right to edit and if necessary abbreviate or expand on issues and submissions. The deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Are you Curious...?

What other states reimburse foster parents?
Type: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/policy/hndbook%20fce/E070/NationalRates.htm> into your browser to see the complete reimbursement schedule across the entire United States.

School is almost out, here are 10 FUN, KID FRIENDLY MATH WEBSITES to help you help your kids to keep up their skills over the summer break!

1. Algebra Antics - PowerPoint: <http://www.mathbits.com/MathBits/PPT/Algebra.html>
2. Algebra Review - PowerPoint: <http://boston.k12.ma.us/teach/technology/select/resources/rivkinJeopardy.ppt>
3. Algebra Review - Regents: <http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/math/ALGEBRA/games/Jeopardy/ALGEBRAJeopardy.htm>
4. Math A Mania - Regents: <http://www.mathbits.com/MathBits/PPT/mathA2F2.html>
5. Math Trivia: <http://www.quia.com/cb/22904.html>
6. Jeopardy - University of Michigan, "Go Blue!": <http://www.umd.umich.edu/mitten/aburke/mitten%20files/Geometry%20Jeopardy.ppt>
7. Jeopardy - Geometry - Regents: <http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/math/games/jeopardygame/MathAJeopardy.htm>
8. Pre-Algebra Super Challenge: <http://www.quia.com/cb/173353.html>
9. <http://www.CoolMath.com> —fun math problems and games for all ages and skill levels
10. <http://www.hotmath.com> — math problems and solutions—best for grades 6—high school

Hello all,

May has been a busy month with many celebrations and events. The KFCA FP date night was a hit with many foster families as we had 30 kids dropped off for childcare. Missed it this time? Well, you're in luck; the Association has future plans for another FP night out (a.k.a. free childcare for you). We'll let you know when the date is set so you can make your plans. Foster Appreciation celebrations at both the state level and locally were well attended. At the statewide celebration in Olympia, they kicked off the new "Foster Parenting, you can too" slogan and recruitment campaign. This is the new statewide branding message for fostering. Speaking of new programs we also have the FP Star Card coming soon (anticipated arrival fall 2008) to foster families. The FP Star Card is a discount card for Region 5 foster families to use at local businesses. This is another way the State is trying to assist and appreciate you thru creating business partnerships in our local communities to benefit the fostering community. Watch for more information and details as fall approaches.

The third annual "Kitsap Style" Fashion show put on by Lucky Star Consignment Clothing and Kingston High School Key Club (title sponsor Kitsap Credit Union) was a resounding success. Over \$3000 was raised for the Dream Project. Way to go!! We want to extend a huge Thank You to our business sponsors and the community for supporting "our kids" in care of Kitsap County thru the Dream Project.

Reminder to mark your calendar for the upcoming events: Bowling, Sunday, June 22nd at Bremerton Lanes from 2 to 4 PM and June member meeting on Wednesday, June 18th, be prepared to "shop" for clothes as we will have lots of items for you. See you there.

Debra Converse,
KFCA President

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
1949 South State Street, N27-1- Tacoma, Washington 98405-2850

May 19, 2008

Dear Foster or Relative Caregiver,

I would like to personally thank you for making your family available for children in our community. Foster and relative care families provide the most valuable service we have to offer children in the child welfare system and I want to support your efforts to provide protection, stability and nurturance to children in your home.

Caregivers are part of a team which includes the child, the birth family, our agency, other service providers and the entire community as partners, all working together to develop and implement a plan that aims for the permanent placement in the best possible situation for the child. Our collective goal is to become reunification partners, supporting and maintaining the child's connection with the birth family. Your expertise with the children placed in your home will be invaluable to this process.

As a caregiver, it is important for us to have your participation in our decision making process. Family Team Decision Making Meetings are held for children each time placement decisions need to be made. This means that you will be invited to attend a meeting any time a child in your care is being considered for a move to another substitute placement or to be reunited with his/her parents. We know that your commitment to the child's welfare and safety will assist us in making a decision that will best meet the needs of the child.

If a child is at risk of disrupting from your home:

We want to determine if additional supports and/or services to the child or you might stabilize and maintain the placement. We will need your input to make this decision.

If the child must move to another placement:

We want to have your assistance in ensuring that we have all the information about why a move is needed and how to make the change with as little trauma for the child as possible. We want to minimize the number of moves that a child ever has to make before their permanent plan is achieved.

If a child is returning to their birth family or is moving to a relative or an adoptive family:

We have a meeting to make a solid plan for that transition. We again need your involvement.

Thank you for demonstrating a strong dedication to children. We look forward to working with you to build a child-focused, family strengthening, community-based approach to child safety and welfare.

Sincerely,

Linda Thomas, MSW
Centralized Services Area Administrator
253.983.6324

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

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