



### KFCA October Dinner Meeting

Wednesday the 15th—6:00—8:00pm  
HARVEST FESTIVAL; COSTUME PARTY (PRIZES FOR  
THE KIDDIES) & SILENT AUCTION

@ Silverdale Community Center

#### Scary fare:

**Monster mac and cheese**

**Chicken hearted wings—ghoulash**

**Sliced, diced and chopped salad bar**

**Green meany beanies—goober pudding**

**Marsh stacks**



### Mockingbird Network

The Mockingbird Society a state wide Seattle based non-profit with a mission of "Building a world-class foster care system through collaboration, innovation and advocacy is launching a new program called The Mockingbird Network. The Mockingbird Network is a leadership development and civic engagement program that supports trains and empowers youth and alumni (14-23) to participate in strengthening their own lives, their community and advocating for positive system reform within the foster care system.

Each DSHS region within Washington will have a Chapter that will host meetings, trainings and activities for youth members and each Chapter will have youth representation on a State Advisory Council. Pierce County Alliance is the Host Agency for the Region 5 Chapter. Planned activities include a Youth Summit in October and a Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia during the legislative session. For information you can visit the Mockingbird Society website at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org) or contact Tiffany Washington at 206-323-5437

### Foster Care Resource Network

is looking for a few good foster parents!  
2 part-time positions **LIAISON & RECRUITER** are available in Kitsap County—the ability to travel up to 100 miles, 5 years experience as a foster provider and a current license in good standing is required. Interested?

For more details call Lyn @ 253.473-9252  
Foster Care Resource Network

# KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

October2008

### YOUR INPUT IS VITAL TO KFCA!

PLEASE ATTEND; CONTRIBUTE YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE AND BE A PART OF KFCA!

Board of Directors Meetings are open to all members of the Association and visitors are welcome. The meetings are held the first Monday of every month—generally in a local restaurant from approximately 6 to 8pm. If you would like to attend please contact any board member for the exact location of the next meeting.

OCTOBER MEETING IS AT THE BAYVIEW CAFÉ IN PORT ORCHARD October 6th 6PM to 8pm or so



### Foster Care to College Mentoring Program

Is an exciting opportunity for you to meet with a youth in foster care to help them reach their educational goals. Mentors can help youth (usually high school age) with high school/GED completion; discuss college and vocational options and help with financial aid and scholarship applications.

If you are already a foster parent and would like to better help the young person in your home with his/her education, we are here to help you serve as his/her natural mentor. It's okay if you've never done anything like this before and don't have all the answers! We will train you and give you the information that you need. We are looking for people from all backgrounds and walks of life (whether or not you are a foster parent) who are willing and able to make a commitment to meet with a young person for at least 2-16 hours a month face to face with regular phone and email contact throughout each month. Some experience with youth is helpful. Mentors must be at least 21 years old and able to pass a background check.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a mentor with the Foster Care to College Mentoring Program, please contact Stephanie Dornes via email at [dornessy@p-c-a.org](mailto:dornessy@p-c-a.org) or 253.502.5435.





**DO YOU ENJOY GHOULISH, SCARY FUN?  
LOVE TO SEE KIDS HAVING FUN?**

There are many ways your talents and time could be put to good use helping the association with the production and implementation of the

**GHOST TRAIN** fundraiser!

Help with:

- Setting up & tearing down vignettes—
- Security—walking the park to see vignettes are OK
- Being a monster; ghost; ghoul or witch in a vignette
- Selling tickets \*Directing traffic
- Providing ‘relief’ to other volunteers is needed.
- Are you CREATIVE? Would you like to sponsor your very OWN VIGNETTE? Take a look at the pictures on the link below to see what was done in past years then contact Barbara 360.649.0414 to sign up—time is limited so call today!

We do great things for kids—all proceeds benefit the association.

<http://www.boardmanweb.com/ghost/photosGT.htm>

**SAFETY TIPS FOR CARPOOLING:**

**Before you load up the neighborhood preteens, set these ground rules for safe carpooling:**

Plan your route so children can enter and exit on the curb-side.

- . At each stop, check that everyone is buckled up before putting the car back in gear.
- . When dropping off children, wait till they are safely supervised before driving off.
- . Never leave children alone in the car, even for a few minutes.
- . Make it a rule that everyone under 13 rides in a back seat. This is the safest place for preteens and younger children to sit.
- . If a child under 13 must sit in a front seat, disable the air-bag if the child does not meet the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- . Every child must have a safety belt. Sharing seat belts is not safe.
- . Don't allow children to wear shoulder belts under their arm

**EXCELLENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!****Sexually Aggressive Youth-Understanding Children and Adolescents with Sexual Behavior Problems—presented by TIM KAHN**

Will be offered on two occasions in the following locations: **Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 4:00pm** at the Kent DCFS Building and **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 4:00pm** at the 2100 (Treehouse) Building in Seattle. As many of you are aware, Tim is an excellent trainer, this class is full of great, useful information!

The target audience is the foster parent/relative caregiver but anyone working with the foster care population may attend the trainings, free of charge on a space available basis. Feel free to share this with CASA's, private agency staff, teachers, etc.

To reserve your space—contact:

Shelly Myers, Program Manager  
Resource Family Training Institute  
206 923-4950

[mysh300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:mysh300@dshs.wa.gov)

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

**THE STAR CARD IS COMING SOON!**

**Look for it in the mail—good for discounts at your local merchants. For More info check the Fostering Family Connections website: [www.fosterfamilyconnections.org](http://www.fosterfamilyconnections.org)**

**KFCA has free duffel bags for kids!**

Please don't send kids off to camp; their next placement or back home w/o proper luggage. Say 'No!' to garbage bags.

Often suitcases are available too.

Contact Deb Converse for more information.  
(360) 692-1927

**Fingerprinting:** Many of you know that the Adam Walsh Act was instituted in Washington State in July 2007. This requires prospective foster parents and individuals in their homes that are 18 years of age and older to receive fingerprint based background checks. The Department chose to "grandfather in" individuals that were already foster parents at that time. However, any biological or adopted child in a foster home that turns 18 years old, or any other adult that has moved in the home since that time will be required to complete fingerprints. Children's Administration now has a contracted provider to do scanned prints, after October 1, 2008 the Department is no longer able to accept ink rolled prints. If you have any questions, please contact your licensor or private agency.

**Training Opportunities:  
Resource Family Training Institute****Orientation for Licensing:**

1st Wed of the month, 10:00a – 12, at DCFS Bremerton and offered online - free of charge!

register @ 360-475-3598

**Pride Pre-Service Training for Caregivers:**

09/25—10/4—Evenings 5:30—9:30 + 1 Saturday

11/13—11/22- Evenings

12/1—12/5—Days

**On Site Classes for Caregivers in Kitsap County:**

10/14– 10/28—Days 9a—4p + 1 Saturday

**Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth and Sexually Aggressive Youth**—no Kitsap trainings scheduled at this time. There are courses available in Tacoma or online please visit the website below for more detailed information on course availability and content:  
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

**There is no charge for classes.**

classes are at Bremerton 1st Methodist 1150 Marine Dr. Register w/ H. Stone, 360-475-3586; 800 423-6246, or [sthi300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:sthi300@dshs.wa.gov)

**FREE On-Line classes** thru Pierce College for **Foster & Relative/Kinship Caregivers**

Topics include: Online Learning, Addiction Basics; Alcohol & chemical Abuse, Behavior Management, Care-giving for children w/Extreme Behavioral Issues, Cultural Identity:

Self-Esteem, Educational Advocacy for Caregivers, Introduction to Children's Administration for Kinship Caregivers, Maintaining a Connection: Importance of Birth Families, Multiple Placements-Impact on Children, Stuck in the Middle - Guide for Kinship Caregivers, Success Beyond Foster Care, Working with Developmentally Disabled Children. Register @ <http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe>

**Useful Links 4 Relative & foster caregivers:****DSHS Electronic Forms Link**

[Http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/msa/forms/eforms.html)

**Check out these helpful web sites & numbers:**

[Www.familieslikeours.org](http://www.familieslikeours.org)

[Www.usfosterfamilies.com](http://www.usfosterfamilies.com)

**First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents**

[Www.keepthebeatcpr.net](http://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: (check all that apply)

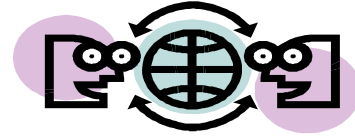
Foster Parent

Kinship Provider

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



**Debra Converse, *President***

president@kitsapfostercare.org  
692-1927

**Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President***

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

**Chuck Converse, *Treasurer & Webmaster***

treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org  
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**Jenny Brusco—*Secretary/Membership***

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**Sharon Williams, *Historian***

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**Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events  
Coordinator***

Phone 275-5725

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**Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator***

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

**Mary Jones, *Legislative Liaison***

Phone 792-0249

**Elizabeth Griffin-Hall *Foster Parent  
Liaison (temporary)*** (360) 876-7515

elizanngriffin@aol.com

September 4, 2008

## Notice of Quarterly Regional & State Wide Foster Parent Consultation Meetings

House Bill 1624 is legislation requiring Children's Administration to consult with foster parents. The goal of the legislation is to ensure foster parents participate directly or through a representative selected by foster parents, and have a meaningful opportunity to offer input at each stage of ongoing work regarding:

- Recruitment of foster homes.
- Retention of foster homes
- Effective training for foster parents
- Development of coordinated and comprehensive plans that strengthen services for the protection of children



**Quarterly Statewide Meeting  
October 13, 2008 1:30-4:30 PM  
Region 3 SPO Community Room**

You are invited to bring your issues in person, or be represented by Debra Converse, KFCA President (360) 692-1927 Donna or Shannon at the Placement Desk (360) 475-3535  
**Questions?:** Call Cherrie Druffel @ (253) 983-6235.

Hello all,

We have some exciting things happening this month with the Harvest Festival (costume party) and silent auction at our October dinner meeting on Wednesday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. So be creative with those costumes so you can win one of the prizes in the costume contest. I hope you have been saving your money for bidding on the great gift baskets and items. We are also in the process of finalizing details on a visit to the farm and corn maze for later this month and another Foster Parent Night Out for in November. We hope to have more information out soon.

Wow, what a busy month this is already and I haven't even told you about the other fundraiser we are doing, The Ghost Train. We are partnering with the Kitsap Live Steamers to put on a family Halloween event, the Ghost Train. So come join in the fun. The Ghost Train runs through the "spooky" woods of South Kitsap Regional Park in Port Orchard on Saturday, Oct 25 from 6-9PM (train rides are \$3.00 per person). The funds raised from this event will benefit the KFCA activities fund. If you would like to help or volunteer at this event contact Barbara Holbrook at 360-649.0414

Speaking of helping or volunteering, if any of you have a special skill or talent in an area that can benefit the Association let us know. KFCA can always use additional assistance or extra helping hands in several areas; with preparation, set up and clean up at events and meetings. So if you can assist us occasionally or on an ongoing basis, please contact one of the board members. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you know of a speaker or have a topic you would like to hear presented let me know so we can try to get it scheduled.

In the last several months, I've enjoyed seeing new faces as well as some long time members returning to our meetings and hope that you have taken some time to get to know and touch bases with some of these individuals too. I look forward to seeing you at the next event.

Sincerely,  
Debra Converse,

## Foster youth give generally high marks for care

Hello

Today we are releasing the results of the [2008 Survey of Youth in Foster Care in Washington State](#). I think the generally positive responses from the nearly from the nearly 700 adolescents who were in foster homes in 2007 and completed the survey interviews reflect the good work we do day in and day out.

This is the first survey of foster youth ever done for Children's Administration. It was conducted by the Social & Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University, the same organization that conducts the annual survey of foster parents. Nearly 700 foster youth, ages 15 to 18, were interviewed this spring and early summer. They were asked about everything from their outlook about the future to how satisfied they are with their current placement.

But in general, those interviewed said they were optimistic about the future, feel safe from harm in their foster home and are at least somewhat prepared to go out in the world on their own.

What I like about the survey is that it cuts through the jargon child welfare agencies sometimes use and gets to how youth in our care are doing with their lives and how satisfied they are with their placement and the services we provide. Several percentages that stood out for me were the vast majority of youth who know their social worker's name and how to get contact him or her. And of the youth surveyed, 43 percent were "very satisfied" with the quality of support they received from their social worker and another 31 percent were "somewhat satisfied."

The results of the survey weren't all positive. For example, a quarter of the youth surveyed said they ran away from their foster home at least once in 2007.

But by and large, the results were encouraging.

Given that about 1,700 adolescent youth, ages 15 to 18, are in foster care, a survey of 700 provides an accurate look at how they feel. And what their responses show is that when foster parents and social workers care about them, respect their opinions, listen to what they have to say, follow through on promises and include them in planning for the future, they have a positive foster care experience. The survey also points out something we already know and what we are striving to achieve with every child in our care: Children do their best when they have a strong and nurturing relationship with an adult, whether or not that person is a biological or foster parent or a social worker.

So I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the work you do on behalf of Washington's most vulnerable children, and for the support you provide foster youth and parents. Together we make a great team. -

*Cheryl Stephani*

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

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