

KFCA February
Dinner Meeting
Wednesday February 18,
6 to 8pm

@ Silverdale Community Center

Menu: Breakfast for Dinner!

Dinner is \$4 for members 8 and over. \$8 for non members. Membership SAVES!

Dinner @ 6, Speaker @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER: Luanne Hawley

TOPIC: FIRST Program and Documentation 101

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

It may be hard to believe with all the snow and rain but SPRING is just around the corner. That means the annual Kitsap Foster Care Association trip to see the Mariners play Safeco Field is on the horizon. This year the game on May 1st is dedicated to honoring foster and relative care providers. This event kicks off the nationally recognized FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION MONTH. Please join us in attending this special game on this special day in honor of what we do and live. Tickets are available free of charge to KFCA members and their families. Transportation to and from the game will be provided if requested and space is available. Sign up now to reserve your spots. Call Luanne Vail @ 360-876-5207

WHAT IS GEMS?

GEMS = GIRLS EXPLORING MATH & SCIENCE!
A full day of workshops and activities for girls to learn about careers that use math and science such as engineering; veterinary medicine; cosmetology and much, more. March 21 @ Olympic College! There are hands-on workshops where girls ages 8 to 15 get the chance to learn the practical side of sciences, such as how to formulate a scented lotion; what does a Vet do, what makes a permanent wave permanent. Space is limited so early reservations are recommended. To learn more contact Janet Brittain 396-4803 or email @ britjm@yahoo.com

2009 Dues are now due!

Dues are now \$20—please fill out the form on page 4 and bring it with your \$20 check for annual dues to the next event or meeting. You get a great value for your money!

KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

February 2009

Upcoming Events:

MARK YOU CALENDARS!

It is that time of year again!

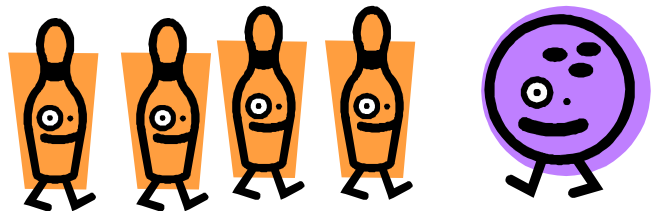
Caregiver Night Out! Saturday, Feb 14th (and May 9th 2009!) from 5:30-9:30 PM has been confirmed with the Bremerton YMCA. Registration is recommended as we have limited space. Call Debra Converse 692-1927 to register your child between age of 4 weeks to 12 yrs old. The registration deadline is one week prior to event.

DO YOU HAVE THE WINTER BLUES?

How about joining us for Bowling @ the Bremerton Lanes Sunday February 22nd from 3 to 5pm?

Enjoy nachos and a soft drink courtesy of the Kitsap Foster Care Association in conjunction with the Community and Family Services Foundation.

This event is FREE for foster families and relative care provider members of the Kitsap Foster Care Association. Not a member? No problem, simply fill out the application on page 4 of this newsletter and bring your \$20 membership fee with you to the event and then have fun!



CAN WE TALK?

All foster parents and relative caregivers are invited to join DCFS Area administrators Barb Geiger; Tom Stokes, & Linda Thomas for coffee and conversation!

This is an opportunity to get to know the decision makers; ask questions, provide suggestions & get feedback.

Where: Bremerton DCFS 3423 6th St.

When: Wednesday, April 22, 3:00—5:00

Thursday, July 30, 11:00 – 1:00

We look forward to seeing you!

ENGAGING FAMILIES FOR CHANGE

When: 02/19/09— 9a to 4p

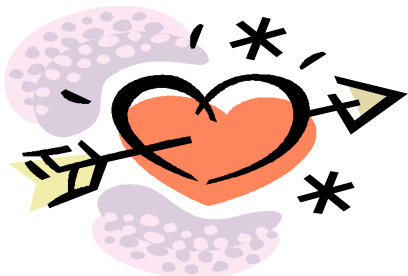
Where: DSHS 1949 S State St.
room # 195 Tacoma

As a member of the team working together to help children and their biological families, *GAL/CASA, counselor and others*), you, the foster parent, will learn strategies and tools for empowering families. This training is interactive and a commitment to come together and develop a skill of effectively establishing a relationship with children, parents, and other essential individuals for the purpose of sustaining healthy families that are safe for children.

Please join us as we:

- Identify principles for engaging families.
- Practice strategies for empowering families to engage in change.
- Understand how culture plays a role in the engagement process.
- Identify principles and practice steps for engagement,
- Practice strategies to stay engaged during times of conflict and resistance.
- Identify current resources or opportunities to engage families.

Call Linda Falcochio, MSW to register @
(253) 983-6474 Or email her @
fali300@dshs.wa.gov



Happy Valentine's Day 2009

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) 1-253-677-8122
- 4) KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG (692-1927)
- 5) MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety
(360-662-1198)
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 6) North Kitsap 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.
- 13) Center for Children with Special Needs
*www.cshcn.org
- 14) www.kidsdirectory.com
- 15) Child Care Referral 1- (800) 300-1247

Happy New Year Everyone!
I am writing because I just received a generous request from a Licensed Hairdresser in the Community to do hair for foster children. If you have a foster child that needs a hair cut or their hair done please let me know and I will make the arrangements for that to happen. Take care and thank you all for your time and attention to this matter.

***Oletha Carter-James
Foster Home Licensor
Bremerton DLR/OFCL
(360) 475-3589***

Looking for FREE Training?

Attend and Enjoy:

Video Day & Life Book Scrapping

VIDEO TRAINING WILL GIVE CAREGIVERS INFORMATION TOOLS AND SUPPORT TO WORK WITH CHILDREN IN THEIR CARE. EARN 4 CONTINUING ED CREDITS.

For all foster parent/kinship care, and adoptive families.

Hosted by Lisa Ryan, CO-Trainer. No children allowed.

Bring Pictures for Life Book scrapping for foster children & relatives in care.

DATE: Saturday February 7, 2009

TIME: 9am to 4pm

Where: DSHS 1949 S. State Street Tacoma, Room 195

Complete registration and return to:

Linda Falcocchio, MSW DSHS 1949 S. State St Tacoma WA 98405

Or Call 253-983-6474 or

e-mail fali300@dshs.wa.gov or

Sheri Humphrey 253-341-0169

I or we will attend video & Life Book training on 02/07/09 at 9am to 4pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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 or 475-3598

Pride Pre-Service Training for Caregivers:

2/2 to 2/11 Tacoma 5:30 to 9:30 + 1 Saturday 9-4

3/3 to 3/12 Tacoma 5:30 to 9:30 + 1 Saturday 9-4

Contact: Linda Falcocchio to enroll

253.983.6474 or

Fali300@dshs.wa.gov

2/3 to 2/19 —Bremerton Days 10am to 3pm

2/26 to 3/14—Bremerton Evenings 5:30 to 9:30

Contact: Hildegard Stone to enroll

360.475.475-3586 or

Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

On Site Classes for Relative Caregivers in Kitsap:

TBA 5:30—9:30 & 9a—4p Saturday

Parenting Physically Assaultive Children & Youth:

Feb. 24 & 25th, 5:30pm - 8:30pm. 8hrs. credit.

Ansell-Casey Life Skills—call or check website for date

5:30 -9:30pm. 4hrs. credit.

Engaging Biological Families for Change

February 19 @ DSHS Tacoma 9a to 4p

April 1 & 2nd, 5:30pm - 8:30pm. 6hrs. credit.

<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

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

First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents

www.keepthebeatcpr.net

Or call (253)217-1105

JOIN KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION!

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 \$20, 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

Relative Caregiver/Kinship Provider

Staff

Other: _____

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

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 chance 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 & plans that strengthen services for the protection of children

Quarterly Regional Consultation Meetings

3/16; 6/15 & 9/21 2009

Tacoma DCFS—1949 South State Street—
Room 348

Quarterly Statewide Consultation Meetings

4/8; 7/8 & 10/7 2009 1:00-4:00 PM

Tacoma DCFS 1949 South State Street—
room 291

You are invited to bring your issues in person, or be represented by Debra Converse, KFCA President (360) 692-1927 in Kitsap or

Elizabeth Griffin Hall @ (360) 990-9955

Donna or Shannon at Placement Desk (360) 475-3535

Questions?: Call Cherrie Druffel @ (253) 983-6235.

Looking for an easy recipe for a home cooked meal? Try this easy to follow recipe for a hot meal with little work!

Pizza Chicken

submitted by Luanne Vail

6 Chicken breast

1 cup Italian Bread crumbs

1 can pizza sauce

1 egg

2 tbls oil or butter

Grated Mozzarella Cheese

Dip dredged chicken breast in beaten egg and then in bread crumbs. Brown in pre-heated skillet with oil or butter.

Place chicken in the slow cooker and cover with the pizza sauce.

Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours

Serve with grated cheese

Do you have a favorite recipe to share?

Email it to: Yakiboo@msn.com

January 19, 2009—The following message was sent to all Children’s Administration Staff

Budgets, priorities, the Legislature and CA’s initiatives

Hello,

There’s so much information to cover it’s hard to know where to begin. I’ll start by telling you what I hope to accomplish during the time I’m Interim Assistant Secretary for Children’s Administration and some of the challenges we face in the coming months.

In this job, I will be relying heavily on all of you to ensure that Children’s Administration continues to meet its many obligations to children and families. We also must continue to support our partners, who share our commitment to protect and enrich the lives of the state’s most vulnerable children.

Though my appointment is interim, this is not a time when we, as an agency, can march in place. The Governor’s budget spared Children’s Administration the kind of cuts that numerous other state agencies and institutions are facing. In return, much is expected of us in terms of continuing to provide an undiminished level of service to children and their families.

Last week I testified before House and Senate committees, where legislators also made it clear that the safety of children remains a priority. Like the Governor, they expect us to continue to make progress in the areas where they have increased our funding – monthly health and safety visits, twice-monthly sibling contacts, timely CHET screens and lower social worker caseloads.

The state’s budget problems will not lessen our commitment to improving outcomes for children. We will continue to move toward compliance with Braam mandates. Solution-based casework, Family Team Decision-Making and Structured Decision-Making will continue to be the practices we use to keep children safe, empower families and reduce racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare.

That’s not to say we’re not having to make some difficult adjustments in our FY2009 budget that will impact some of our workers and our contracted service providers.

Time is our enemy right now. In order to realize necessary savings, we are reducing staff by 42 FTE’s, and we’ve rolled back the 5 percent rate increase given to contracted partners at the beginning of the fiscal year. With the exception of some non-permanent staff that were let go, all of the FTE reductions were in non-case carrying staff.

Going forward, we will continue to look for ways to save money that don’t negatively impact children. Retaining case-carrying social workers, and filling vacant social worker positions as quickly as possible will continue to be a priority. We all are going to have to be very careful and very aware so that the decisions we make do not jeopardize child safety

However, there’s no getting around the fact that these are uncertain times. The Governor’s budget was based on revenue forecasts in November, and there will be another revenue forecast in March as the Legislature works its way toward adopting its budget. As with any budget, this budget is a work in progress.

None of us know, at this moment, how it will turn out. What I can promise you is that the Leadership Team and I will keep you informed as the budget, and legislation impacting Children’s Administration, make their way through the Legislature.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Washington’s children. I look forward to working with you in the coming months. Comments? Please send them to the [Leadership Team](#).

Sincerely,

Randy Hart
Interim Assistant Secretary
Children’s Administration

The National Foster Parent Association is a non-profit, volunteer organization established in 1972 as a result of the concerns of several independent groups that felt the country needed a national organization to meet the needs of foster families in the United States.

In August 1971, the Child Welfare League of America received a three-year grant to establish a national organization for foster parents. The League immediately established a foster parent project to begin creating the organization.

Today, NFPA has grown from an original group of 926 foster parents, 210 social workers and 59 other professionals to an organization that represents thousands of foster families nationwide through foster parent affiliates.

The National Foster Parent Association is headquartered in Tacoma, Washington.

APPLY FOR NFPA SCHOLARSHIPS

The NFPA offers scholarships for foster youth, adopted youth, or biological youth of currently licensed foster parents, who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational and job training, and correspondence courses, including the GED. Foster parents must also be members of NFPA.

The following requirements apply:

1. College/University

- must be in their senior year of high school (regardless of age)
- must provide copy of high school transcript
- must provide documentation of cost from college/university
- must return application and all other requested documents by March 31, 2009
- must be accepted by an accredited college/university before receiving funding (proof of this will be a copy of school acceptance letter)
- must return unused portion or appropriate percentage if withdrawing from college/university or does not maintain grade point averages required by institution

2. Vocational/Job Training/Correspondence GED/Other Educational Pursuits

- must be at least 17 years of age (either in school or out)
- must provide documentation of cost from the school, training center, or other educational facility
- must return application and all other requested documents by March 31
- must be accepted into accredited program before receiving funding (Proof of this will be a copy of acceptance letter)
- must return unused portion or appropriate percentage if withdrawing from course/program or is unable to maintain grade point average required by the course/program

Each applicant must submit:

- A completed application form
- A minimum of two (2) letters of recommendation from: foster parent(s), social worker(s), residential center, principal/teacher/guidance counselor, employer, etc. will be required with each application.
- A typewritten statement in 300-500 words on "Why I want to further my education and why I should be considered for a National Foster Parent Association Scholarship" will also be required.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2009!

ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION & TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE MAILED TOGETHER!

Mail applications to:

NFPA Scholarship Committee
National Foster Parent Association
2313 Tacoma Ave. S.
Tacoma, WA 98402

For more information visit the National Foster Parent Association website:

<http://www.nfpaonline.org/content/?page=YOUTHSCHOLARSHIP>

A message from the President:

Hello all,

We are back in the swing of things with our monthly dinner meetings, trainings and activities for 2009. New this year, are local support groups for foster and relative caregivers. Please see the website at www.kitsapfostercare.org for more information regarding the upcoming events/support groups for 2009. If you haven't paid your membership dues for the year, please do so ASAP via the mail or at the next activity you attend. The dues are \$20.00 for the year per family. A great deal with all the benefits of the meetings, trainings and activities KFCA provides. We also request that you please take this time to update any mailing/email addresses and phone numbers as we need to keep our directory up to date. Thank you for your assistance with this necessity as we try to keep our records current.

We are very excited about several upcoming events. First, we have 2 Foster Parent Nights Out scheduled (Feb 14 and May 9). We pay for the childcare and you get time out without the kids. Please remember to pre-register to reserve your childcare slot with me (Debra) at 692-1927 as we have limited childcare space. Secondly, we are in the process of purchasing Mariner's game tickets for May 1st. Mariner tickets go fast and the buses fill up quickly, so sign up NOW for tickets with Luanne Vail at 876-5207. Remember to mark your calendar for the member meetings on the third Wednesday night of the month and the monthly KFCA family activity. This month we will be going bowling at Bremerton Lanes. We hope to see you at the planned activities and events. For the kids it's an activity or outing, but more importantly for us as adults, it's a great opportunity for added support thru networking and socializing together with other foster and relative placement families.

On the business side of KFCA, we have two Executive board positions up for election this May. We are currently accepting nominations for President and Treasurer. If you (or someone you know) are interested in or would like to be nominated for one of these positions, please let one of the current Board members know. On a similar note, if you have a special talent/skill or would like to assist the Association in a smaller way, please let a Board member know. We can always use more help with preparation, set up, and clean up for our activities and events. Your assistance can be for a specific event or on an ongoing basis. As they say, "many hands make for light work." Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

Debra Converse
KFCA President
President@kitsapfostercare.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Debra Converse, *President*

president@kitsapfostercare.org
(360) 692-1927

Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President*

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Treasurer & Webmaster*

treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org /
webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

Jenny Brusco—*Secretary/Membership*

secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Historian*

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Lesia LeClair, *Child Care*

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/ Training*

education@kitsapfostercare.org

Barbara Holbrook, *Newsletter*

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events*

(360) 275-5725
events@kitsapfostercare.org

Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator*

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

Luann Vail, *Liaison*

liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

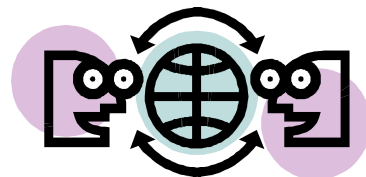
(360) 990-9995 cell

Bremerton DCFS 475-3516 Wed/Thur 9-3

Elizabeth Griffin-Hall, *Foster Parent*

Recruitment (360) 990-9955

elizanngriffin@aol.com



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

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