



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

June 2006

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Upcoming Dinner Meeting Training Topics...

Join us at the KFCA Dinner Meetings for updated information and training topics...**June 28, 2006**, Renee Arcement, from the Youth Suicide Prevention Program, will speak about Stress and Depression including the warning signs of suicide and what caregivers can do to intervene. The menu on June 28th sloppy joes, fried chicken, corn dogs, salad bar, dessert, and drinks.

July 26, 2006, TBA.

Attention Foster Parents!!! Before monthly dinner meetings, please talk with your children about following the direction of the childcare providers. Teens and children cannot be outside while supervised by the childcare providers and younger children requiring sign in/sign out must remain in their designated area until they are signed out. Thank you!

***Congratulations to our newly elected Vice President, Jeff Bishop, and Secretary, John Vail!** We are pleased to add Jeff to our team and have John continue on the team for another term.*

Thank you for your commitment to Kitsap Foster Care Association!

KFCA's Annual Summer Picnic is August 12, 2006!

12pm to 2pm @ Evergreen Park

Put it on your calendar, and look for more details to come...

Check it out...Kitsap Foster Care Association's web site has undergone some major revision and has great updated information. [Http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/](http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/)

Family Bowling Night

@

Bremerton Lanes

June 25, 2006

3-6:00pm

Please join us at Bremerton Lanes for an evening of bowling with your family. Kids and adults alike can enjoy bowling and chatting with friends. The bowling will be free, sponsored by Kitsap Foster Care Association. Community & Family Services Foundation will provide drinks. Families will be responsible to purchase their own food. Please join us...we'll see you there.



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 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

Rick Williams, *President*

president@kitsapfostercare.org

Jeff Bishop, *Vice President*

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

Sharon Williams, *Treasurer*

Phone 876-1994 treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

John Vail, *Secretary/Membership/Community Awareness*

Phone 876-5207

secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Luanne Vail, *Resources*

Phone 876-5207

resources@kitsapfostercare.org

Karen Randleman, *Dream Project*

Cell 731-9052 dreamproject@kitsapfostercare.org

Henry Castanares, *Historian*

Phone 692-0207

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Diane Castanares, *Child Care*

Phone 692-0207

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Debra Converse, *Education/Training*

training@kitsapfostercare.org

Chuck Converse, *Webmaster*

webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison*

Cell (360) 990-9995

liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

Jennifer Martin, *Newsletter*

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events Coordinator*

events@kitsapfostercare.org



Upcoming Training

PRIDE Pre-Service Classes

June 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 2006

5:30pm to 9:30pm

Orientation: June 7, 2006 @ 9:00am to noon

Location, Port Orchard, TBA

First Methodist Church

1150 Marine Dr., Bremerton, WA 98312

Orientation @ Bremerton DCFS Office

To register, contact Hildegard Stone

1-800-423-6246

Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

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

Check out this web site:

www.familieslikeours.org

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

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

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

Training opportunities typically drop off a bit in the summer...this is the perfect time to utilize online training sites!

Multiple placements-Impact on Children With Dinah Martin (item #5775)

June 10, 2006 @ 9:00am to 4:00pm

Pierce College

Pre-registration is required

Space is limited to 30 people. Fax or mail your registration to Pierce. Forms will be available through your trainer or online at:

<http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/Distance/ofpe/index.php3>

2006 ANNUAL CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

September 17-19, 2006

Subcommittees have been identified and volunteers are needed to participate. The Subcommittees are: Volunteer Coordination, Workshops, Fund Raising, Entertainment, Regional Meetings, Food, Vendors and Keynote. If you would like to participate or know someone who would like to participate in any of the subcommittees, please contact Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or boba300@dshs.wa.gov

The committee unanimously is recommending that the conference be at the Mirabeau Park and Convention center in the Spokane Valley. The website if you would like to have a look is: www.mirabeauparkhotel.com/

**FOSTER PARENT/CAREGIVER
CONFERENCE PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:**

June 19th, July 17th, August 21st,
September 18th, October 16th (for debriefing
after the conference)

All meetings will be in the KENT DCFS
Office, Federal Way 9:30 – 12:00

If you have information on valuable trainings to share with fellow foster parents, please contact Jennifer...



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) **GALAXY LIMOUSINE INC. (874-2565)**
(1-800-874-2565)
*offers discounts to foster families
- 5) **KITSAP FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION**
(475-3513 or 876-1994)
*free duffel bags for foster children
WWW.KITSAPFOSTERCARE.ORG
- 6) **MARY BRIDGE Center for Child Safety**
(360-662-1198)
*Free child safety seat checks, bicycle helmet sales & fitting, free loaner life jackets
- 7) **NK FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**
(206-842-2362) or Sufisher@aol.com
*meets @ Eagle Harbor Congregational Church; 105 N. Winslow Way, BI 98110
11:30am to 1:30pm
- 8) **NORTHWEST ENTERAL SUPPLY**
(1-888-885-2386)
*free pull-ups for foster children
- 9) **OLYMPIC PHARMACY & HEALTH CARE**
(1-253-858-9941)
*free delivery of diapers, medical supplies
- 10) **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (337-4738)**
Youth Services Program
- 11) **SKILLS CENTER (478-5168)**
*free hair cuts for foster children

Kitsap Foster Care Association is attempting to keep an ongoing list of resources in the newsletter each month. Your contributions are vital to the resource page. Please email Jennifer with additional resources you would like to share with foster parents. Thank you for taking the time to share your information.

Calendar of Events

June 2006:

- 2: KFCA Mariner's Event
- 2: PRIDE PreService Training
- 6: KFCA Board Meeting
- 8: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 10: Multiple Placements...
- 14: PRIDE PreService Training
- 25: Bowling @ Bremerton Lanes
- 28: KFCA Dinner Meeting

July 2006:

- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 13: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 16: Miniature Golf @ Wagga Way
- 26: KFCA Dinner Meeting
- 28: Whaling Days Begins

August 2006:

- 1: KFCA Board Meeting
- 10: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 12: KFCA Annual Summer Picnic
* Back to School Event will be held in August, date TBA.

September 2006:

- 2: Blackberry Festival Begins
- 5: KFCA Board Meeting
- 14: NK Foster Parent Support Meeting
- 17: Foster Parent Conference
- 27: KFCA Dinner Meeting

Kudos Corner...

Kudos to Lucky Star Consignment Clothing in Kingston...Benefits from the "Kitsap Style" Fashion Show were generously donated to Kitsap Foster Care Association's Dream Project!

Also a special thanks to Design Connection, Coastal Coffee, Bodywize Massage Therapy, Kingston Mail & Print, Roving Players, Jennifer English, Steve & Sally Heacock, Pine Cone Gifts, John & Luanne Vail, Emu Topsoil, Indianola Clubhouse, Diane Young, Indianola General Store, Kristine Brown, Angie Morgan, and Soks Bukoski. All of these contributors made "Kitsap Style" possible!

Thank you so much!

-Kitsap Foster Care Association

EVERY DAY COUNTS

You are already making a difference in the lives of children.

Intensive Children's Service-Specialized Family Care is a private agency serving many of these children affected by abuse, loss and trauma by offering them case management, therapy, case aid time, 24 hour after hours staff who knows you and your child, regular respite and trainings specific to the needs of your foster child. ICS-SFC professional foster parents are a vital part of the treatment team and an important advocate for the child they know so well.

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 or Samantha at 360-479-4994

Thank you to all who participated in the KFCA Annual Mariner's Event!

Approximately 65 people who signed up did not show up or call to cancel their reservations. This cost KFCA approximately \$650 in tickets that could have been returned.

If you are unable to attend a "reserved" event in the future, please call to cancel. Next year we will be purchasing fewer Mariners tickets as a result.

Put these dates on your calendar...

details on these events to follow in upcoming newsletters

July 16, 2006 3pm

Putt Putt Golf/Rock Climbing @
Wagga Way Golf Course
Cookies/drinks provided

August 12, 2006 12-2pm

KFCA Annual Picnic @ Evergreen Park
Join us for good food, games, the ice cream truck, and a raffle! The weather should be nice, this is a good opportunity to get out and do something with the family! No dinner meeting this month!

August 2006 (date TBA)

KFCA Annual Back to School Event

December 16, 2006 1-3pm

KFCA Annual Holiday Party @ Silverdale
Community Center

Summer & December 2006

Foster Parent Night Out (actual dates TBA)
This will be an opportunity for foster parents to "go out" by themselves! Childcare will be provided for 4-5 hours on a designated evening, so you can have a night out! Details in next months' newsletter!

We, the Board of the Foster Parents Association of Washington State, are writing to inform you that we are taking an important and historic step for our organization and for the Foster Parents and Children of Washington State. We are seeking to organize a collective voice in our relationship with the state. We will work toward a foster care system in which Foster Parents are supported and valued for the important work they do, and in which Foster Children have a future of positive outcomes and productive lives.

The **Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS)** has been the principal advocate and support group for foster care providers statewide since 1973. The **Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE)** is the largest and strongest union representing state agency employees in our state, with a proud history of advocating effectively in government, organizing for positive change and representing its members' interests as employees and citizens. In 2006, our two organizations are coming together – establishing joint membership, coordinating our efforts and combining our strengths.

Why do we feel this is necessary? Like many Foster Care systems around the country, Washington State's is in crisis. Children placed in the Foster Care system have increasingly serious behavioral issues and turnover among frontline Social Workers and Foster Parents is too high. Recruitment and retention of Foster Parents has been a focus of state funded programs, but it has remained difficult, at best. Foster Parents leave the system in Washington every day because they feel unprepared and unsupported. A tremendous amount of funding has been put into finding new Foster Parents, and while the system has been able to function and keep its head above water, it is not sustainable. Each year, the state loses almost 50% of its Foster Parents. The situation has become critical. Without a sufficiently large, stable base of Foster Parents, foster children continue to suffer multiple placements (leading to severe mental health issues), separation from their siblings, and inappropriate placements. If the system does not soon effect positive change, we are concerned that Washington State will suffer the fate of other failed Foster Care systems, including privatization, loss of accountability, and resultant decline of quality care for the state's most vulnerable children. We feel there is hope if we can change the basic relationship between the State and Foster Parents. There are many highly skilled and highly trained Foster Parents in Washington State who have dedicated their lives to raising the state's most at-risk children. These Foster Parents have been able to improve outcomes for youth whose futures at one time looked bleak. As you likely know, our state's current system of funding for foster children actually offers disincentives for children to learn positive and functional behavior. We feel the state needs to work with Foster Parents to establish a substantial core of highly trained, highly skilled Foster Parents to care for children with serious behavioral issues. Foster Parents must be compensated appropriately and rewarded, not punished, for the positive outcomes of the children in their care. Furthermore, many important mandates of the Braam Lawsuit settlement which could improve the state system and life for Foster Parents and Foster Children, remain unfulfilled. While we have seen some progress in systemic changes, including current promised increases in staffing levels for frontline social workers, we also see the need to further integrate Foster Parents into the state system. The experience and wisdom Foster Parents could bring to the ongoing reforms would be sure to bring increased possibility for success. The Foster Children of the State of Washington cannot wait. Foster children quickly grow up to be citizens of our state. Their lives are in all of our hands. Foster Parents are choosing to work collectively and actively toward a new day for Foster Families in the State of Washington. We hope you will understand our choice and work with us toward a better future.

Sincerely,

The FPAWS Board of Directors

Steve Baxter , Daniele Baxter , Beth Canfield, Mike Canfield

Tess Thomas, Mary McGauhey, Ginger Schutt, Daryl Daugs

Shelley Znamenacek, Tim Znamenacek, Susan Moore

The **Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS)** is an all-volunteer organization and needs your membership and support. Our toll-free adoption / kinship / foster family support number is **1-800-391-CARE** and our web address is: www.fpaws.org

The Pink Dress

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park.

Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad.

Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there.

Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday,
and still with the same sad look in her eyes.

Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl.

For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone.

As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress.

It was grotesquely shaped.

I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and,

heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different.

As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare.

As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly.

She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was OK;

I was there to help, to talk.

I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, "Hello."

The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a "hi", after a long stare into my eyes.

I smiled and she shyly smiled back.

We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty.

I asked the girl why she was so sad.

The little girl looked at me with a sad face said, "Because, I'm different."

I immediately said, "That you are!", and smiled. The little girl acted even sadder and said, "I know."

"Little girl," I said, "You remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent."

She looked at me and smiled then slowly she got to her feet and said, "Really?"

"Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all people walking by."

She nodded her head yes, and smiled.

With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread, then she said "I am."

"I'm your Guardian Angel," with a twinkle in her eye.

I was speechless -- sure I was seeing things.

She said, "For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done".

I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an angel?"

She looked at me, smiled, and said, "You're the only one that could see me," and then she was gone. And with that, my life was changed dramatically.

So, when you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.

Like the story says, we all need someone...

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P.O. Box 4542
Bremerton, WA 98312

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