



KFCA Newsletter

www.kitsapfostercare.org

November 2006

KFCA CURRENT EVENTS

Foster parents...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, November 18, 2006 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Christian Life Center Church
1780 Lincoln Ave.
Port Orchard, WA

This event is open to current members of KFCA only. Children with sexual offending behavior will not be able to attend. A minimum of 20 children must be present or event will be cancelled.

**Register with Luanne Vail by 11/12/06
876-5207**

At the **November 15, 2006** dinner meeting we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our fellow foster parents. The speaker that evening will be Barbara Holbrook, MSW, for Treehouse and Educational Advocacy Coordinator for Region 5. She will be speaking to us about educational advocacy. Please join us on November 15, 2006.

Thank you to all who helped with the Harvest Party and Silent Auction in October. The party was a great hit! The kids had fun and the costumes were great. There were many items for the silent auction and great food as well. Thanks again for your support, donations, and time in preparing for such a fun event!

If you have information you would like to share with fellow foster parents, or thanks you would like to offer to someone who has gone above and beyond, please email Jennifer to add it to the newsletter!

KFCA Annual Holiday Party

Is quickly
approaching!

Saturday,

December 16, 2006

1-3:00pm

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
present to receive
gifts!

**Last day to register
children is
December 9, 2006!!!**



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: _____

Phone Number: _____

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*
Phone 876-5207
secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

Luanne Vail, *Resources*
Phone 876-5207
resources@kitsapfostercare.org

Henry Castanares, *Historian*
Phone 692-0207
historian@kitsapfostercare.org

Diane Castanares, *Child Care*
Phone 692-0207
childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/Training*
education@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*
Phone 275-5725
events@kitsapfostercare.org

Vacant, *Legislative/Advocacy, Fund Raising, Community Awareness*



Upcoming Training

PRIDE Pre-Service Training

December 6, 2006 @ 5pm Orientation @ DCFS
 December 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2006 @ 9am to 4pm
 Also, December 8, 2006 @ 9am to Noon
 First Methodist, 1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton

The Casey Life Skills Program

This four hours workshop will introduce foster parents and other professionals to the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Program.

November 21, 2006 @ 9am to 1pm
 DCFS; room 195

1949 S. State Street, Tacoma, WA

To register, contact Linda Falcochio @ 1-253-983-6474
 (or)

November 29, 2006 @ 9am to 1pm
 Bremerton First Methodist Church

1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton, WA 98312

To register, contact Hildegard Stone @ 1-800-423-6246

Working with Your Foster Child's School

Friday, December 1, 2006

9:00am to 4:00pm

Bremerton First Methodist Church

1150 Marine Drive, Bremerton, WA 98312

To register, contact Hildegard Stone @ 1-800-423-6246

Autism & Aspergers Syndrome

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

9:00am to 4:00pm

2100 24th Ave. South, First Floor
 Seattle, WA 98144

(or)

Saturday, May 19, 2007

9:00am to 4:00pm

DCFS (CA) Building, Tahoma Room
 1313 West Meeker Street, Kent, WA 98032

To register, contact Shelly Myers @
 mysh300@dshs.wa.gov

Grow and Go...Online Workshops for Foster Parents

<http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/>
Check this website for fall 2006 updates!

Disruptive Behavior Disorders

Wednesday, January 17, 2006

9:00am to 4:00pm

2100 24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144

To register, contact Shelly Myers @
 mysh300@dshs.wa.gov

Families with Russian & Ukrainian Adoptions National Conference 2007

Local and national experts will be presenting on topics that apply to families who have adopted domestically, as well as internationally.

April 26-28, 2007

Redmond, WA

<http://www.frua.org>

DSHS Electronic Forms Link

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

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:

<http://www.keepthebeatcpr.net>

Or call (253)217-1105

I AM STARTING BACK UP A
 SUPPORT GROUP FOR
 CAREGIVERS OF FASD KIDS. THE
 FIRST MEETING WILL BE ON
 THURSDAY 10-26-06 FROM 10AM TO
 12PM IN EITHER 309 OR 308. ANY
 FOSTER PARENTS, ADOPTIVE
 PARENTS OR KIN WHO ARE HAVING
 ISSUES WITH OR CONCERNS
 ABOUT THEIR FASD KIDS ARE
 WELCOME. THEY CAN CALL ME
 WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
 AT 475-3527.
 CHRISTINE NJOROGÉ



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 as needed, call for support
- 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
- 12) **Anointed Hands Hair Care (782-2409)**
*Dewanda Evans welcomes any/all questions re: African American hair care. Located on 6th Street in Bremer-ton.

Calendar of Events

November 2006:

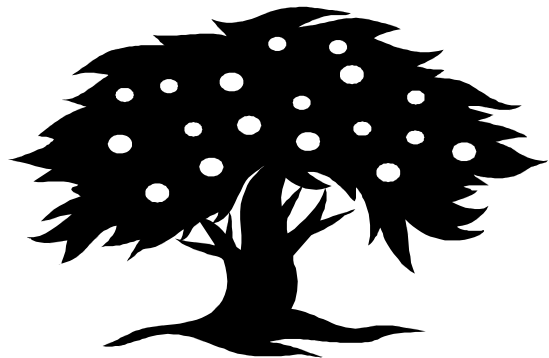
- 1: PRIDE Orientation
- 7: KFCA Board Meeting
- 7: PRIDE Training Begins
- 18: Foster Parent Day Out!
- 15: KFCA Dinner Meeting
- 21: Casey Life Skills Program
- 23: Thanksgiving
- 29: Casey Life Skills Program

December 2006:

- 1: Your Foster Child's School
- 4: PRIDE Training Begins
- 4: KFCA Board Meeting
- 6: PRIDE Orientation
- 9: Deadline to register kids for Holiday Party!
- 13: Autism & Aspergers Syn.
- 16: KFCA Annual Holiday Party
No Dinner Meeting this month
- 25: Christmas

January 2007:

- 1: Happy New Year!
- 2: KFCA Board Meeting
- 17: Disruptive Behavior Disorder
- 24: KFCA Dinner Meeting



Carbon Monoxide: Invisible Winter Hazard

Safe Kids Kitsap County recommends home CO detectors Kitsap County, WA

As colder weather approaches, Safe Kids Kitsap County reminds parents and caregivers that space heaters can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to build up in the home. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, invisible gas that can build up near fuel-burning appliances such as ovens, generators and supplemental heaters.

“We all know it’s essential to have working smoke alarms in every sleeping area, but what about **carbon monoxide** detectors?” says Michele Jennings, Safe Kids coordinator.

“Carbon monoxide can kill, and it can make a child seriously ill in small doses that might not noticeably affect an adult.”

Each year, in the United States, nearly 4,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for CO exposure — not counting fire-related cases — and nine die. Half of all CO poisoning deaths could be prevented by CO detectors. CO detectors are available at hardware stores for about \$20, a small price to pay to help detect odorless, poisonous gases in the home.

Safe Kids Kitsap County also recommends these precautions against CO poisoning:

- Prevent CO buildup in the first place — make sure heating appliances are in good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas.
- Don’t run a car engine in the garage, even to warm it up; move the car outside first.
- Install a CO detector approximately 15 feet from every fuel-burning appliance and outside every sleeping area. Check the batteries monthly (when you check your smoke alarm batteries).
- Remember that cigarette smoke is another source of carbon monoxide.

If someone who has been in a poorly ventilated room with a fuel-burning appliance begins to feel nauseous, drowsy or confused, or complains of a headache, move the victim to fresh air and call 911. If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a CO alarm goes off, get everyone outside immediately and call the fire department from a pre-arranged meeting place.

For more information about carbon monoxide poisoning, visit <http://www.safekids.org>.

Safe Kids Kitsap County works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids is a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury. Safe Kids, Kitsap County is led by Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital and Health Center, Silverdale.

**Thank you to the following local
business’ for contributions to our
Silent Auction last month!**

Spiros Pizza

Oasis Salon

Pheasant Fields Farm

Westbay Auto Parts/Bremerton

The Toad House Pizza & Pub

Sizzler

Finchers Aire Force

Olympic Cinemas

Minder Farm Corn Maze

Eye Candy Collectibles & Gifts

Hollywood Video/Bremerton

Regal Cinemas

RESPITE PROVIDER & CASE AIDE NEEDED

Respite provider needed for up to 2 weekends (4 nights) per month. Case Aide needed for up to 20-hours per week. Fees paid directly by private agency. Respite provider must have a current foster license, and be up-to-date on trainings/certifications. Case Aide should be at least 21 years of age, have required trainings and be comfortable working with behavioral challenges.

Foster parents are a same-sex male couple living in West Bremerton. We have been KFCA members for 3+ years. Our child is 11-years old, outgoing, athletic, generally well-behaved & good with younger kids. If interested, please contact: Van-John or George at 360-377-6178 or via e-mail: vanjohnsf@comcast.net.

Fostering a Future

For foster youth, dreams of college are often put on hold—or seem too grand to achieve—in a life marked by upheaval and uncertainty. That's about to change for seven exceptional young people, who will take the first step toward fulfilling their dreams of higher education and a better life as Seattle University students beginning this fall.

By Tina Potterf
August 11, 2006

Manpreet Kaur envisions a career in law—specifically, working in child advocacy. Tommy Dunn set his sights on the field of medicine, while Deyadra Blye is considering a profession that draws on her dual interests in accounting and political science. A couple of years back, such goals were seemingly unattainable for Kaur, Dunn and Blye, who've spent a good chunk of their young lives in and out of foster care. Today, their aspirations are not only within reach but also more clearly in focus. They and four additional Seattle-area foster youth will attend SU on full-tuition scholarships as part of the inaugural Fostering Scholars program. “Seattle University's Fostering Scholars program is the opportunity of a lifetime for these foster youth...” In the fall, the seven will be among the crop of first-year students at SU. But their individual journey to campus has been no ordinary one. It's a story of perseverance and triumph in spite of the tumult and adversity they've faced as foster youth, from family struggles to moving to changing schools frequently. Yet even when their lives were continually upended and uprooted, these youth committed to doing well in school: they kept their grades up, scored well on the SATs, and spent many afternoons working with mentors and tutors. Fostering Scholars—initiated by Marta and Lucio Dalla Gasperina, foster youth advocates and parents of two SU students—will provide full tuition, year-round housing, individualized mentorship, meals and work-study opportunities to four freshmen and three transfer students with proven records of academic success and drive. The scholarships are awarded for up to five years of full-time enrollment (or two to three years for transfer students). Although the initial idea for Fostering Scholars came to Marta in a dream a year ago, it became real with the help of Treehouse, a nonprofit agency that serves foster youth in King County, and Seattle University. Through their work with Treehouse, the Dalla Gasperinas saw firsthand the need that exists for young people in foster care who want to attend college but are unable to because of limited resources or a lack of support. “We've been big supporters of Treehouse for about 10 years. We realized how difficult it was for these kids to attain a college education,” Marta says. “We want these kids to have the same opportunities other students have.” With the establishment of the Fostering Scholars Endowment and the Adopt-a-Scholar Fund, the Dalla Gasperinas hope to award scholarships to a minimum of four students each year over the next four years. In addition to contributing to the endowment, donors can sponsor one of the Fostering Scholars through the Adopt-a-Scholar Fund. The goal is a commitment of \$18,000 a year for four years to support a student who enters as a freshman, or \$6,000 to \$9,000 a year for two years for transfer students. The funding offsets costs not covered through scholarships, grants or additional sources. (The cost of tuition and year-round room and board, food, books and other necessities for each foster youth is roughly \$36,000 a year.) In addition to covering housing and health care, the scholarship program makes it possible for—and strongly encourages—students to engage in social activities and experiences such as studying abroad to get a well-rounded education. “The scholarship means way more to me than I could ever articulate,” says Blye, a graduate of Cleveland High School. “It means that the gateway to achieving my other goals has been broken open. It means that I will be able to uplift my future, my family's future and be able to one day help uplift my community and future kids who are in my situation.” While the road leading here was at times difficult to travel, Blye never doubted she'd attend a university one day. It's a desire she's carried with her since elementary school, and even in the most trying of circumstances, the 19-year-old never lost sight of it. She will transfer to SU from Seattle Central Community College as a sophomore. At SU she plans to major in Global African Studies, with a second major in accounting or political science.

Team Effort

“Seattle University's Fostering Scholars program is the opportunity of a lifetime for these foster youth,” says Janis Avery, executive director of Treehouse. “There is no doubt the financial and emotional support they'll receive while attending SU will allow them to concentrate on their academic achievements without the worries that so many youth face after aging out of foster care.” The scholars will enrich SU's campus and overall learning experience, says Rob Kelly, vice president for Student Development. “They have a great deal to teach us. As a Jesuit school, especially a school like Seattle University, this is exactly in line with what we do.” The scholarship recipients were selected based on an application process developed in partnership with Treehouse and in adherence with the university's standard admission requirements. The students learned of the program through their involvement with Treehouse's Coaching-to-College program. In Coaching-to-College, foster youth are matched with mentors who work with them through high school graduation and in navigating the labyrinth of higher education, from the application process to applying for scholarships and financial aid. Coaching-to-College volunteer Jackie Liao is Blye's coach. In addition to offering practical advice to help Blye make a smooth transition to SU, Liao also serves as a role model and friend. “For Deyadra, I'm someone to walk with through the tedious process of applying to college, and I can also offer practical knowledge,” says Liao, manager of International Community Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility for Starbucks.

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Continued from page 6

"I think Deyadra sees what an incredible opportunity this is for her. She'll get such a wealth of experience and involvement at SU." The program also provides a foundation of support and stability that will carry the students beyond college. "This [program] targets foster youth who really need it and feel that they don't have anyone in their corner or any way out of their current situation," Blye says.

Breaking the Cycle

Not only are the scholarship recipients beating the odds, but also defying statistics. According to the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, by Casey Family Programs, less than two percent of foster youth in the region will earn a bachelor's degree. "The kids who make it this far really want to make it in the world," says Lucio Dalla Gasperina, a co-founder of the Tommy Bahama clothing line. "They may not know where their next meal is, but they applied themselves to get where they are today and to succeed. The foster youth are absolutely remarkable. They are beyond special." Like Blye, Tommy Dunn comes to SU from Seattle Central Community College, which he attended as a Running Start student at Rainier Beach High School. "I wish to show everyone who knows that I am a foster kid that I am not predestined to fail," Dunn says. Initially, Dunn was reluctant to apply for the scholarship. "I thought it was out of my range," he says. That mindset changed when he applied and then got word that he'd be attending SU on a full scholarship. "I was totally shocked. I still don't think it's hit me. It won't hit me until I get here." The university wants to ensure that the foster youth assimilate well with the campus community and feel at home. That sense of community along with an environment that values individuality are inviting to Kaur, who's been in foster care on and off since she was 13. Now 18, she's ready to start the next phase of her life. "The program helps change statistics," says Kaur, a graduate of Chief Sealth High School. "Here are foster youth going to Seattle University and succeeding. Being in the foster care system doesn't have to define the rest of your life." Just as the students are appreciative of the opportunity to attend SU, the university welcomes what they will bring to the campus community. "The foster care youth have already shown tremendous leadership in their young lives, including leadership from within to overcome formidable obstacles," says Sarah Finney, vice president of Development in University Advancement. "We have no doubt these students will be powerful contributors to our community in the future." For more information about the Fostering Scholars program or to contribute to the endowment or Adopt-a-Scholar Fund, contact Sarah Finney at (206) 296-6390.

From the President...

By now, you should all be pretty soggy. Incredible is the only word to describe so much rain at one time and it seems as if it will stay this way for some time. Incredible is the destruction to roads, parks and peoples homes. Whole lives washed away with no warning as Mother Nature changes the course of rivers and streams overnight. My heart goes out to those that have lost their homes. We here in Kitsap have been fortunate, so far. Check your own property and look for problems that you can easily fix now. Left unchecked, you too may suffer losses. You know the saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" or something like that.

Here at KFCA, the budget keeps getting tighter and we continue to offer the supportive events that we have for many years. In trying to keep up financially, we have been successful with fund raising with Phyllis and Debra doing the brunt of the effort. These girls are making it possible to offer things such as a very successful silent auction at the Halloween Party. A lot of nifty items went out the door for very good prices and that helped our pocket book. Look for more auctions in the future and a BIG thanks to those girls!

Did I mention how much fun the Halloween/ Costume Party was? There were a couple of rough edges but overall, it was a hoot! Next year we will make it even bigger and better. Too bad for you AND your kids if you miss our events. Free fun is hard to find these days. Free food, candy and prizes are even harder to find.

I'm not sure if this will get out in time but the second attempt to have a Foster Parent Night Out will occur on the 18th from 1 to 5 pm. You will be able to drop your kid off and get out alone for a few hours. The last time, we had less than 20 folks sign up so it was cancelled. We need at least 20 to make it worth the money we will spend. I would have thought we would be overrun with kids but we were wrong. At this writing we are close so let's hope.

The Holiday Party, (Christmas for many) is coming and the number of you signing up your kids is down at this point. Often, (to our dismay) you wait until the last moment to do so and our shoppers have to bust their butt to get out there in the crowds and higher prices to make sure your kids have a decent gift. Please don't do this. Sign up now. Try to help us out.

Every month, I ask that you carefully read your newsletter and keep it for reference. I am asking again because there are many things for you in it.

I am asking for prayers for John Vail who has been undergoing chemo and radiation treatment for cancer for several months. He gets very sick and weak and I know that the prayers will help. He still manages to drag himself to most of our meetings. Such is his commitment to you and KFCA. Now it's your turn. Thank you.

We are going to make some changes for the next year. One will be WHEN you pay your dues. Instead of attempting to keep track when you last paid or joined, we will ask that you pay in January. There will be some overlap or underlap but we will let you know the details later. This will make everything a whole lot easier! It will be fair and prorated so stay tuned.

We are also considering putting our newsletter on line as it is now and no longer sending out a printed one. We will send out announcements for our events and any other items as we feel necessary. This will save paper, printing costs and postage and a piece of a tree. Stay tuned down the road as we work all of this out.

I think this is it for the month. The holidays are upon us so try to be cheery and shop early!

Your President, Rick Williams

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

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Per # 0015
Bremerton, WA

