

## Kitsap Foster Care Association May Dinner Meeting

Wednesday May 21st—6:00pm

Caregivers—please note, in honor of Foster Care month in May, the Kitsap Foster Care Association has arranged a special treat! The dinner meeting will be a lovely sit down affair, (white tablecloths and all) at the beautiful **Kitsap Conference Center** on the waterfront in Bremerton. There will be NO COST for the dinner (but you will need to pay for parking if you choose to use the underground lot \$4.00). This is a great opportunity to teach the children in your care about proper table manners and etiquette as well as a chance to dress up; receive the excellent food and service you deserve and get to eat out somewhere that doesn't require you carry a tray and bus your own table! Social Workers and Department of Child and Family Staff will be on hand to serve the dessert and sing your praise. There will entertainment for the little ones!

There will be no speaker this month as May is the business meeting. . .

### Your KFCA NEEDS YOU!

KFCA is seeking nominations for the positions of:

Vice President  
& Secretary

Nominations will be accepted at May meeting and be voted on after dinner at the May business meeting. Step up and take a greater role in the governance of KFCA—you'll be glad you did!

# KFCA NEWSLETTER

[www.kitsapfostercare.org](http://www.kitsapfostercare.org)

## May 2008

### FOSTER CARE APPRECIATION MONTH

**MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH-  
WASHINGTON CELEBRATES MAY 6, 2008**

Each May, the nation salutes the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers. Washington will honor and recognize foster and relative caregivers in **Olympia on May 6, 2008 from 10:00 to 12:30 at Capitol Campus Legislative Building, Columbia Room**. Come join your fellow foster and relative caregivers, Children's Administration, Casey Family Programs and the community to celebrate. The agenda includes:  
Presentations by John Seals foster youth, Passion to Action youth, foster parents and other dignitaries

- Catered Lunch
- Door prizes
- ♦ Music and lots of fun

For more information contact your regional Children's Administration contact or Michael Luque, Foster Care & Kinship Care Program Manager (360) 902-7986 or [lumi300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lumi300@dshs.wa.gov).

More fun activities for foster families in honor of Foster Care Appreciation Month....

The Kitsap Foster Care Association **WANTS TO TAKE YOU and your kids OUT THE BALL GAME!**

Join us Friday May 30th for a fun family outing to see the Mariner's take on the Detroit Tigers @ Safeco Field. Relax and ride the bus with the group, or meet us there! The bus will pick up you and your family at either the East Bremerton Walmart or the Port Orchard Park and Ride.

Call Luann Vail (360) 876-5207 for the details and to reserve you spot on the bus and tickets for the game

**FREE FREE FREE FREE**

You asked for it—you get it!

Time again for. . .

## DATE NIGHT!!!

*Need time to 'Reconnect' Or maybe you would like to just grocery shop alone for a change! This is your lucky Day! KFCA is sponsoring "date night".*

*Take advantage of this opportunity for your kids to have fun in a safe and fun location— the Bremerton YMCA When, you ask?*

*Saturday May 10th, 5:30 to 9:30.*

*PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Contact Debra Converse (360) 692-1927 to reserve spaces for all of your little angels.*

*Age appropriate activities and supervision will provided to all from infants (4 weeks old) to pre-teens (12 years). Snacks (not dinner) will be provided.*

# Looking

# 4

## Summer Fun?

### Directory of Summer Camps

*For kids with special needs*

Is the resource for you!

The e-catalogue be found on the **Department of Health's** website [www.cshcn.org/resources/campca\\_lendar.cfm?intro](http://www.cshcn.org/resources/campca_lendar.cfm?intro)

This is an EXCELLENT resource for kids with a wide variety of physical; emotional or behavioral needs. Many camps off reduced or free tuition for foster youth.

There is a 'tool' on the home page to help you find just the right fit for your child from among the hundreds of camps nationwide and in your neighborhoods.

## Royal Family Kids' Camp

FOR FOSTER CHILDREN 7-11 YEARS OLD  
Sponsored by Peninsula Bible Fellowship

Is now accepting applications! Ask your social worker for the forms

**9590 Radcliff Avenue N.E.**

**Bremerton, WA 98311**

**June 23 - 27 2008**

**Remember—KFCA has free duffel bags for kids in care. Please don't ever send kids home or their next stop using bags and boxes as luggage!**

## Who to contact at CA If You need help

Children's Administration staff is committed to being responsive to the needs of foster parents and relative caregivers. Your needs are important to us and our goal is to provide you with prompt and responsive answers to your questions and concerns.

If you have a question or need assistance from your social worker, give them a call. If you don't reach them when you call, leave a message so they can follow up on your specific concerns. If you don't receive a call back within 24 hours, call their supervisor. If you still don't receive a response call from the supervisor within 24 hours, call the area administrator. It's okay to move up the chain of command so that the needs of the child in your home are met. If supervisors and administrators don't know a social worker isn't calling back, we can't intervene to help you. Remember, our goal is to get your question answered so you can provide for the child in your home.

### **In Bremerton you can contact:**

#### **Resource Unit Supervisor-**

Barb Bofinger (360) 475-3612  
boba300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Placement Desk Social Workers**

Donna Smith (360) 475-3560  
smdm300@dshs.wa.gov  
Shannon Dempewolfe (360) 475-3562  
dmps300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Foster Parent Liaison**

Teresa Walton (360) 990-9995  
tew5300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Foster Parent Association Representative**

Debra Converse (360) 692-1927  
president@kitsapfostercare.org

#### **Relative Support Program Manager**

Tewannah Johnson  
(360) 475-3571  
joht300@dshs.wa.gov

### **In Tacoma you can contact:**

#### **Resource Unit Supervisor-**

Holly Mathews (253) 983-6241  
znho300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Placement Desk Social Worker**

Heather McLellan (253) 983-6311  
[mclh300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:mclh300@dshs.wa.gov)  
Larisa Simurdak (253) 983-6212  
simu300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Foster Parent Liaison**

Sheri Novak (253) 983-6423  
nosh300@dshs.wa.gov

#### **Foster Parent Association Representative**

Lyn Okarski (253) 473-9252  
fostercareresnet@aol.com

#### **Relative Support Program**

Bobbie Keys (253) 983-6425  
Albo300@dshs.wa.

## Notice of Regional Quarterly & State Wide

### **Foster Parent Consultation Meetings**

Recently, you received a letter about the implementation of new 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

### **Region 5 Meetings**

May 19, 2008

Tacoma Office

1949 South State Street,  
Room 348—10:00 AM to noon.

June 16, 2008

Bremerton Office

3423 6th Street

Room to be announced  
10:00am to noon

### **Statewide Meetings are held at**

Casey Field Office

1123 23rd Ave Seattle, WA 98122  
(206) 322-6711 — 1:00 to 4:00 PM

You are invited to bring your issues in person or be represented by Debra Converse, the Kitsap Foster Care Association President (360) 692-1927; by Teresa Walton, Foster Parent Liaison (360) 990-9995; Donna or Shannon at the Placement Desk (360) 475-3535, or your licensor.

### **Questions?**

Contact Cherrie Druffel at (253) 983-6235



## LINKS TO RESOURCES/TOOLS AVAILABLE TO FOSTER PARENTS & RELATIVE CAREGIVERS:

### DSHS Electronic Forms Link

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

### Check out these helpful web sites:

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

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

[www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/info@safekids.org](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/info@safekids.org)

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

[info@adoptionreferralservice.com](mailto:info@adoptionreferralservice.com)

[ctboxnews@ku.edu](mailto:ctboxnews@ku.edu)

### Foundations 4 Behavior Management

**May 14 - 31st Resource Family Training Institute:**

Training for Foster Families, Adoptive & Kinship Care Providers

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

**Parenting Plus!** is a comprehensive, **30-hour** training course designed specifically for foster parents, adoptive parents and kinship providers. It is taught in a relaxed friendly manner that answers day to day questions, allowing you to share the joys and frustrations of caring for the children placed in your homes.

**Parenting Plus! topics include:**

**Child development; cultural awareness; team building; stress mgt. and self-esteem**

**This course is free of charge to relative care providers, Adoptive parents and licensed (or soon-to-be licensed) foster parents**

Contact 1-800-876-5195 or call Hildegard Stone at 1-800-423-6246 or 360-475-3586.

## Training Opportunities: May:

20th Managing High Risk Behavior 9a-4p  
DCFS Tacoma

22nd Physically Assaultive Youth 9a—4p  
DCFS Tacoma

Register w/Linda Falcocchio (253) 983-6474

[Fali300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Fali300@dshs.wa.gov)

## PRESERVICE TRAINING FOR FOSTER LICENSURE

To Enroll, contact:

**Hildegard Stone— 475-3586**

Resource Family Network Institute

All Training @ Bremerton Methodist on Marine  
View Drive

The Pre-Service trainings will take place at  
Bremerton First Methodist Church  
1150 Marine Dr., Bremerton, WA

To register, contact Hildegard Stone

475-3499 or 800-423-6246

[Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov.edu](mailto:Sthi300@dshs.wa.gov.edu)

## Grow and Go...

### Online Workshops for Foster Parents

[www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/](http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/distance/ofpe/)

**Check this website for 2008 updates!**

### First Aid/CPR Training for 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 check payable to: KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

## BOARD OF

### DIRECTORS:

**Debra Converse, *President***

president@kitsapfostercare.org

**Phyllis Bishop, *Vice President***

vicepres@kitsapfostercare.org

**Chuck Converse, *Treasurer***

treasurer@kitsapfostercare.org

**Jenny Brusco—*Secretary/Membership***

secretary@kitsapfostercare.org

**Sharon Williams, *Historian***

historian@kitsapfostercare.org

**Lesla LeClair, *Child Care***

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

**Chuck Converse, *Webmaster***

webmaster@kitsapfostercare.org

**Debra Converse, *Education/ Training***

education@kitsapfostercare.org

**Barbara Holbrook, *Newsletter***

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

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

Phone 275-5725

events@kitsapfostercare.org

**Laura Marshall, *Culinary Coordinator***

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

**Mary Jones, *Legislative Liaison***

Phone 792-0249

**Teresa Walton, *Foster Parent Liaison***

Cell (360) 990-9995

liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

**3RD Annual**  
**Tee it up for Kids GOLF**  
**TOURNAMENT!**

'Tee It Up For Kids' benefits the DREAM Project and High Five for kids!

**WHERE: HORSESHOE LAKE GOLF COURSE, 1250 SW Clubhouse Ct. Port Orchard,**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 12, 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 fees, golf cart, T-Shirt and barbecue).**

**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 provided up to \$75 towards a variety of enrichment activities!

Find the application @

[www.kitsapfostercare.org/dream.htm](http://www.kitsapfostercare.org/dream.htm)

**DUMP CAKE—sounds terrible, but is DELECIOUS!**

You will need: 1 yellow cake mix; 1 can cherry pie filling; 1 stick of butter; 1 large can of crushed pineapple; 1/2 cup chopped nuts  
Grease a 9x13x2 inch pan; dump in the pineapple—juice and all. Push it evenly over the bottom of the pan. Dump in the cherry pie filling—smooth it even over the pineapple; dump on the cake mix; sprinkle on nuts and small chunks of the butter. Bake @ 350 degrees until golden brown for about an hour and 15 minutes. ENJOY!!!

**RETRO HOLLYWOOD**

3RD ANNUAL

KITSAP STYLE FASHION SHOW

Presented by:

**LUCKY STAR**  
**CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING**  
**& PINE CONE GIFTS**

**SUNDAY MAY 4TH**  
**KINGTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS**  
**TICKETS \$10 ADULTS / \$ 7 STUDENTS**

Tickets available @ Kingston High; Lucky Star Consignment Clothing; Pine Cone Gifts; Kitsap Bank; American Marine; Bank; Liberty Bay Books

Proceeds benefit the Kitsap Foster Care Association DREAM Project

**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](mailto:newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org) or for more information contact Jim Pritchard, Passport to College Program manager @ (360) 902-8487

**KID'S DAY 2008**

KID'S DAY—June 7, 2008 10am to 2:30pm  
Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue presents KID'S DAY in the President's Hall at the Kitsap County Fairground. This FREE Fire and Life Safety Event is open to the public and full of great information. For more information about the event or to sign up for a booth space, contact Theresa MacLennan @ (360) 447-3550

Hello all,

Ok, so what's up with snow in late April? Our springs and summers are short enough as is. April showers bring May flowers... Do snow showers count? Ok, Maybe not, but I know something that does count and makes a difference. YOU DO!!

In recognition of this, May is Foster Parent Appreciation month and is filled with many activities. The following is a quick list of the May events (for more information see the newsletter highlights or web page for more specific details).

#### May Events:

Kitsap Style Fashion show May 4<sup>th</sup>

Statewide celebration in Olympia May 6<sup>th</sup>

Foster parent Night out May 10<sup>th</sup>

KFCA May dinner/Business Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>

(\*note location change to Kitsap Conference Center)

Mariner's game May 30<sup>th</sup>

I would like to take this time to extend a much deserved thank you to YOU for all the little and big things you do to support foster children in our county. THANK YOU!!! Without your loving and caring families, these children would not have the nurturing care and supportive environment in which to grow and overcome their personal tragedies. Thank you for your continued commitment to the children entrusted to your care. You truly are appreciated for opening not only your homes, but your hearts to the children of your community.

The Best to you,

Debra Converse,  
KFCA President  
president@kitsapfostercare.org

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

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