



**KFCA April
Dinner Meeting**
Wednesday March 15,
6 to 8pm
@ Silverdale
Community Center

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

Dinner @ 6, Speaker @ 7pm

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
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 ; Elizabeth Griffin Hall (360) 990-9955 Donna or Shannon at Placement Desk (360) 475-3535
Questions?: Call Cherrie Druffel @ (253) 983-6235.

The "Kitsap Style" Fashion Show and Silent Auction : "Spring DREAM"

Tickets are now on sale \$7 students/youth & \$10 adults. The event will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 2PM at the Kingston High School Auditorium. The proceeds from this event go to The Dream Project which benefits Kitsap foster children. Let's get the word out to help raise funds for the foster children's little" dreams. For more information call (360) 297-6721

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!

KFCA NEWSLETTER

Kitsapfostercare.org

April 2009

Upcoming Events:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

It is that time of year again!

Caregiver Night Out! Saturday, May 9th 2009! from 5:30-9:30 PM at 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.

Swim Party

April 19, 2009

Water activities for the whole family
Registration at 12:30 Swim 1pm-5pm
Snacks provided

All kids under 15 years must complete and pass the swim license test in order to go into the deep end of the pool. Children 6 and under must have their parent or legal guardian present for the duration of the test and swim. Please contact the front desk for more info: 206-842-2302 ext 0 let them know you are with Kitsap Foster Care Association No cutoffs or shorts with rivets. Remember this is a FAMILY event—please wear appropriate swim attire.

Questions? call Phyllis Bishop 360-275-5725

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. Transportation to and from the game will be provided if requested and space is available. Sign up now to reserve your spots. Call 360.990.9995
The group is sitting section 323

Not a foster parent or KFCA member? Tickets \$11 (normally \$20) are available at www.mariners.com/WeAreFamily and enter the password: *WeAreFamily*.
Deadline for ordering is April 29th.

Caregivers: Sad News from Headquarters!

Due to the current economic conditions, the Children's Administration (CA) is suspending all conferences for 2009, except the Children's Justice Conference which is federally funded. Among those suspended are two major conferences which have been important to the administration and our stakeholders. They are the Indian Child Welfare Summit and the Foster Parent and Caregiver Conference. Our decision to suspend these conferences was difficult and not taken lightly. While CA understands this may be a disappointment to many, we determined our limited funds should be prioritized for direct services to children and families.

While we are unable to conduct these conferences this year, we are looking at alternative ways to bring CA staff, tribal staff, child welfare staff, foster parents, and caregivers together to support one another and to receive vital training. The Children's Justice Conference will be held April 6th and 7th at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington.

We maintain the safety of children as our number one goal. We appreciate your understanding and value your commitment to some of our most vulnerable children and families of Washington State.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me and thanks for all that you do!

Michael Luque MSW
Foster Care & Kinship Care Program Manager
Children's Administration
(360) 902-7986

IMPORTANT FAMLINK INFO FOR CAREGIVERS:

In Famlink, daycare authorizations only show dates that represent **one month at a time** and will automatically renew each month until someone "ends" the service in the system.

The problem: In the past our daycare providers would normally receive a social services notice authorizing three to six months of care and now that the notice only shows one month at a time, they do not think the children attending have a current authorization. For example: today is March 9th and they are looking for a March authorization that has not generated yet.

After contacting the help desk, I learned that **social services notices for the current month will generate around the second week of the month.** If they haven't received their social services notice for March yet, it should reach them soon.

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) **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**



JOIN KFCA!

You don't have to be a foster parent to join!

Are you a foster/kinship care provider interested in receiving support from & networking with other foster parents in 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

Kinship Provider

Other: _____

KFCA, PO Box 4542, Bremerton, WA 98312

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION

39th Annual Education Conference

"Focus on the Future. Love a Child"
Reno, NV - May 4 - 8, 2009

Hotel Room Reduced from \$119.00 to \$49.00*!

Groups of 5 or more receive a 10% discount for more information call: (253) 683-4246

Bowling; Movies; Motivational Workshops;

Themed luncheons; Entertainment; NFPA Exhibit Hall and NFPA Café; Cutting Edge Workshops; National Speakers

Attendees include: Foster Parents; Social Workers; caregivers and child welfare professionals

Stay at the lovely Grand Sierra Hotel 2500 East 2nd Street, Reno Nevada (800) 648-5080

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION
2313 Tacoma Avenue South—Tacoma, WA
(253) 683-4246
events@NFPAonline.org

First Aid/CPR Training 4 Foster Parents
www.keepthebeatcpr.net
Or call (253)217-1105

Training Opportunities Resource Family Training Institute

Engaging Biological Families for Change

@ DSHS Tacoma 9a to 4p

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

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

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 or 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>

Check out these helpful web sites & numbers:

www.familieslikeours.org

www.usfosterfamilies.com

www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/

24hr support line (800) 301-1868

info@safekids.org

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

info@adoptionreferralservice.com

ctboxnews@ku.edu

Educational Empowerment Workshops for Foster and Relative Parents

Treehouse believes that all children deserve a childhood and a future. In 2009, we are holding trainings for foster, relative, adoptive and birth parents to advocate for their children's educational needs. The Educational Advocacy Peer Training project will hold community-based workshops throughout Washington State. Contact Barbara Holbrook 649-0414 or Elizabeth Griffin-Hall 990-9955 for more information!

KFCA BOARD ELECTIONS

We are currently taking nominations for KFCA President and Treasurer positions. (2 Year term) See a current KFCA Board member if you would like more information.

PLEASE JOIN OUR NEW SUPPORT GROUPS IN KITSAP COUNTY!

All groups meet monthly @ the First Methodist Church in Bremerton to share stories and network strategies and together, find solutions

Educational Advocacy	3 rd Thur	6-8p	Barbara Holbrook	Yakiboo @msn.com 649-0414	Learn how to advocate for the educational needs of your child in the public school system
New Fosters & seasoned Foster Parents	3 rd Thur	6-8p	Nora Sutman	Nora Sutman 876-6520	General information, personal stories and opportunities to know other new and continuing foster parents
Relative Care Givers	3 rd Thur	6-8p	Sharon Williams	Mamalupa @gmail.com	Support for relative care givers prior to and during placements.



Understanding the Effects of Trauma on Children

Presented by: Gary Benton

Mr. Benton will talk about the emotional, cognitive & moral developmental stages of children & talk about how Trauma affects each stage.

Additional topics discussed:

- . Understanding the differences between **developmental stages** & the **impact of trauma**
- . Understanding the Differences in **effects of trauma on boys & girls**
- . Developing ways to **help children manage trauma** based on their developmental stage
- . Ways to **help Foster Parents/Care Givers manage stress** that comes from dealing with children who have been affected by trauma

*Foster Parents will be given priority in attending this Workshop; however relative caregivers, social workers, court volunteers, school personnel/day-care providers and others are welcome to register and will be included if there is space available.

***NOTE – No Day Care available...please do not bring children

Where: United Methodist Church, 1150 Marine Dr. Bremerton \ Saturday 4/9 9a-4p



Attachment Disorders—The Challenges in Foster Care—Real Tools for Caregivers

Presented By Scott Hanauer

Scott Hanauer is the clinical director of Community Youth Services in Olympia WA. He has worked with “at risk” children and their families within a residential setting for over 30 years. Scott has extensive experience dealing with children with reactive attachment disorders and other attachment and bonding issues. He has been a parent educator for the Bureau of Prisons, and has been training foster parents for over 10 years. Join us as we discuss how attachment develops, how trauma impacts attachment, and most importantly, what to do with children and adolescents who have escalating and challenging behaviors.

This training will be offered at the following times and locations

<u>Seattle</u>	<u>Kent</u>
Saturday 4/11 9a-4p	Thursday 4/23 9a-4p
2100 Building First Floor	DCFS Building Tahoma Rm.
	1313 West Meeker St.

To register E-mail: fosterparenttraining@yahoo.com **Shelly Myers, Program Manager**
DSHS/CA/Resource Family Training Institute 4045 Delridge Way SW N56-1 Seattle, WA 98106

What is Fostering a Future?

Girl Scouts Fostering a Future is specifically designed girls in foster care placements who are interested in learning new skills, and meeting girls who share similar life experiences.

Who can participate in this program?

Any girl in grades K-12 who is currently or has previously been in a foster care placement.

What does this program offer to girls and their families?

- Bi-weekly troop meetings with other girls in similar situations, lead by trained, caring staff and volunteers.
 - A traditional Girl Scouting experience with an emphasis on topics such as; independent life skills, character development, healthy relationships, self-esteem, social competence and community service, along with team-building games, arts & crafts, and occasional field trips.
 - A well-balanced meal at every meeting.
 - Transportation to and from meetings upon caregiver request.
- Exposure to a wide range of new opportunities and a chance to develop strong leadership skills.

Where are troop meetings held?

We currently serve girls in Pierce and Thurston Counties. Meetings are usually held in the early evening and are currently being held at the Spanaway Library and Portland Ave. Comm. Center. Meetings can also occur at various community locations.

Tosha Fuller - Program Coordinator • (253) 475-0307 x- 123 • Fax: (253) 473-0969 • tfuller@girlscoutsww.org

Inservice training available through Netflix!

Instructions: Request the video from Netflix, complete the worksheet for that particular movie (you can get this from your state licenser), and return the completed worksheet to your licenser. You will be given training credit for the video.

Aging Out

Credit: Two hours Level: Beginner and Advanced

Beyond F.A.T. City: A Look Back, A Look Ahead – re: learning disabled children

Credit: Two Level: Beginning and Advanced

It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Learning Disabled Child Find Social Success

Credit: Two hours Level: Beginning and Advanced

Misunderstood Minds: Searching for Success at School

Credit: Two hours Level: Beginner

Child Development

Credit: One hour Level: Beginner

Frontline: Growing Up Online

Credit: One hour Level: Beginner and Advanced

Frontline: The Meth Epidemic

Credit: One hour Level: Beginner

Girlhood.

Credit: Two hours Level: Beginning and Advanced

I Have Roots and Branches: Personal

Fun and Safety Go Hand-in-Hand at the

24th Annual Kids' Day

June 6, 2009 ~ Kitsap County President's Hall

We understand that everyone's lives get so hectic that it is easy to forget to take time out for fire and safety prevention. That's why local fire departments and community organizations are doing our part to remind kids and families that safety is everyone's responsibility.

We know that when we provide children with fire prevention and life safety information, we are able to reach the heart of families.

Join us for a **free**, fun-filled day for kids and their families on **June 6, 2009**, at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. Kids' Day is sponsored by Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue in conjunction with local organizations and businesses. Doors open to the community at 10:00 AM and the show runs until 2:30 PM. Kids' Day provides families with an opportunity to take a moment to have a good time while picking up tips and resources about ways to keep kids and families safe and healthy.

New to this year's event is a bike rodeo for kids put on by Leadership Kitsap with drawings for bike giveaways; a school bus rescue simulation sponsored by the Region One Life Safety Council; and an activity demonstrating the use of avalanche beacons in rescues by Olympic Mountain Rescue. Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue also provides live fire demonstrations and passenger vehicle extrications, along with indoor entertainment by the *Ride and Glide Stunt Team* whose daring athletes wow kids while spreading the message about bicycle safety, positive self-esteem, and healthy living. Over 45 booths provide fire and life safety information. Kids, come meet Sparky the Fire Dog and his buddies the Bloodhound Rescue Dogs.

Teens and adults are invited to practice your skills with a fire extinguisher on "real flames" at the Navy Region NW Fire and Emergency Services booth, challenge yourself to a rope rescue drill, or get fitted with a new bike helmet. Please contact Theresa MacLennan, Public Information/Public Education Officer, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue for details: 360.447.3550.

Child Safety

Credit: One hour Level: Beginner

Frontline: (The) Medicated Child

Credit: One Level: Advanced

World's Most Dangerous Drug

Credit: One hour Level: Beginning and Advanced

(The) Happiest Toddler on the Block

Credit: One hour Level: Beginning

Secret of the Wild Child

Child welfare restructuring bill moves out of the Senate

I'm writing to let you know that the Senate Bill (E2SSB 5943), which would restructure child welfare in Washington, passed out of the Senate on Wednesday night and is headed for the House.

The legislation must go through the Early Learning and Children's Services Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee before being voted on by the entire House. Anything agreed to by both the House and Senate would need to be signed by the Governor to become law.

As the bill is currently written, E2SSB 5943 would transition most child welfare services to private contractors by 2014. Children's Administration would continue to be responsible for intake, CPS investigations, and for monitoring the performance of contractors and would continue to be legally responsible for the safety of dependent children placed in the state's care.

You can read the legislation for yourself by going to the [Washington State Legislature's website](#), clicking on the "Bill Search" tab at the top of the page and then typing in 5943 in the search field.

I appreciate the concerns this legislation has raised within Children's Administration, and please keep in mind that this bill has a long way to go before it becomes law. Thank you for your work. The Leadership Team and I appreciate it very much, and we'll keep you updated as this legislation progresses.

Randy Hart - Interim Assistant Secretary

GRADUATION CELEBRATION 2009

It's that time again to gather the names of our graduating students (High School Diploma's, GED's or Vocational Training Certificate), to invite them to a celebration for "Them" to give "Them" a much deserved recognition for their accomplishments. We also want to recognize "You"; those who have helped them get there. (Foster parents, Relative Caregivers, Parents, Social Workers, ILS etc.)

Please remind your youth's social worker to fill out the application and email it to Bobbie Keys or Tewannah Johnson (360) 475-3571.

Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit

ONE UNITED VOICE FOR CHANGE

June 27 & 28, 2009 Seattle, Washington

Current and former foster youth ages 14 to 24 and their supporters will:

- Discuss the stigma related to growing up in care.
- Learn to use their voice effectively.
- Establish local youth and alumni action groups to address issues important to them.
- Identify issues to discuss with state policy makers.

Applications due April 15, 2009

If you have any questions, e-mail Kara Sanders:

kara@mockingbirdsociety.org or call

206-407-2134.

Space is limited.

Center for CHILDREN & YOUTH JUSTICE Better systems. Better lives.® Application available on-line at www.mockingbirdsociety.org

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

In Washington State, seven out of ten foster youth do not graduate from high school before they age-out of foster care. Only 25 percent of all foster youth enroll in post-secondary programs immediately after high school. There is a need for these young adults to plan for, prepare for, and go to college in much larger numbers than they do now. The College Success Foundation is addressing this need with an innovative program named Make it Happen! The College Experience.

Last summer, 107 students spent four days on the University of Puget Sound campus and learned how to apply to college, how to obtain financial aid and how to look for scholarships. They learned the differences between community colleges, technical colleges, four-year baccalaureate institutions and research universities. They talked about majors and minors, internships and work study opportunities. They learned about campus resources and how to manage their time and money. And they had fun! They played volleyball, danced, sang, read poems, and shared stories. These young people were surrounded by a community of others who had experienced life in foster care, and this atmosphere made it safe enough to trust each other, safe enough to share their stories, and safe enough to be themselves.

The young people who attended Make it Happen! left the program with new ideas and hopes for the future, a purpose in high school, plans for higher education and new friends to support their dreams. Thanks to the Stuart Foundation we will be able to continue this program for the next year.

The application must be in by April 28, 2009

contact: Lori Parrish 1-877-655-4097

makeithappen@collegesuccessfoundation.org

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/makeithappen

A message from the President:

Hello all,

Well spring has finally arrived! And boy is the KFCA a flutter with activities and events in the coming months. Check out your monthly newsletter and KFCA website (www.kitsapfostercare.org) for more information on these events and to mark your calendars.

As many, if not all, of you are aware, Children's Administration converted to a new computer system called FAMLINK (CAMIS is no longer). With this change over you will be seeing some changes in paperwork formats and how some things are done. One such thing is that child care payment authorizations are now done on a monthly basis verse for a 3 month period. They are hoping to get this changed back to a longer authorization period, but for now it is being done on a monthly basis. Also with this change over, some unexpected and unfortunate results and delays have occurred. Then payment system was found to have converted some data incorrectly. To fix the problem they had to manually go back in to correct the data in multiple screens as they did the corrections for some errors, new ones occurred compounding the problem. Why do I need to know this? Well, this has affected invoices for foster parents, guardianship, and adoption support payments. Payment invoices have reflected full, partial, and over payments as well as some not being generated at all. If you are one of these families and have not received or had an incorrect amount issued for the month, DO NOT wait, contact your caseworker right away to have it fixed. It appears that in most cases the payment problem has been corrected. If your payment is still delayed or incorrect they want to hear from you so it can be fixed with out further delay.

May is a busy month with it being Foster Parent Appreciation Month. This year the Mariner's want to help celebrate it with us. They are doing a special recognition game on Fri. May 1st. Tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate at the Mariner's website using "WEAREFAMILY" promo code. So if you were unable to get some free tickets from the KFCA, you can still join us by purchasing discounted tickets to join the festivities with us at the game. There will also be a State celebration event commemorating fostering, in Olympia and we will be having our annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner/KFCA business meeting at our monthly dinner meeting (Wed. May 20th) at the Kitsap Conference Center (RSVP with Debra at 692-1927). We also will be having a Foster Parent Date Night on Sat. May 9th (please pre-register your children the week before as space is limited).

It's a busy time right now and 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 and caregivers, it's a great opportunity for added support thru networking and socializing together with other fostering and relative care families.

Best Regards,
Debra Converse, KFCA President

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*

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Lesia LeClair, *Child Care*

childcare@kitsapfostercare.org

Debra Converse, *Education/ Training*

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Barbara Holbrook, *Newsletter*

newsletter@kitsapfostercare.org

Phyllis Bishop, *Special Events*

360.275.5725

events@kitsapfostercare.org

**Laura Marshall & Jeff Bishop
*Culinary Coordinators***

culinary@kitsapfostercare.org

Luann Vail, - *Liaison*

Liaison@kitsapfostercare.org

(360) 990-9995 cell

Bremerton DCFS 475-3516 W/TH 9-3



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

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