# Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength of Family

Family Transitions

Spring and summer bring

you have read articles in

many changes for families

and life is no different at TFI

"Between Families" written

by Resource Family Services

(RFS) Director Curtiss Hemby.

Some of you have seen him

appreciation events and/or

office holiday parties. After

member of the TFI family,

Resources and has joined

corporate sponsor for the

annual golf tournament as

Curtiss has chosen another

at our TFI Foster Family

Retreats, foster family

16 years as a valued

career path in Human

Companies (our major

forces with Watco

Family Services, Inc. Many of

Editors

Jason Cecil

Volume 20, Issue 7 July 2012

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well as supporting holiday gifts) in Pittsburg. Curtiss will be deeply missed by all of us here at TFI as well as by the many Foster Families with whom he had developed a special relationship. We all thank Curtiss for his years of service and he will be missed.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: MIKE PATRICK

CEO of TFI FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

With every change we have potential for new gain and with that, we welcome Gaven Ludlow to our TFI Family as our new Director of RFS. Gaven comes to us from Topeka, Kansas and will be located in our Topeka TFI office. He has a Master's Degree in Social Work from University of Kansas and a Master's of Business Administration from Baker

University. His experience in Child Welfare and mental health will be valuable for our future program development. He most recently served as the Director of Adoption Services at Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) and was the Executive Group Leader with Target Retail Stores. When you see Gaven at the upcoming TFI Foster Family Retreats, please let him know who you are and welcome him to our family. We are excited about our future and what new ideas and innovations Gaven will bring to our agency.

Mike Patrick, CEO TFI Family Services, Inc.



RECRUITMENT MOMENT
BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

It's that time of year to make TWO very important announcements.

First – we are pleased to announce the TFI Foster Family Retreats will be held August 18th at the Wichita Marriott and August 25th at the Overland Park Double Tree Hotel. This year we are taking a new approach with our speakers. We will have an early bird speaker consisting of our Chief Operations Officer, Shirley Dwyer and our new Director of Resource Family Services, Gaven Ludlow. We will then have a Keynote Speaker and one speaker in the afternoon guaranteed to give you a fun filled day of training. Please be looking for your Retreat Brochures in the mail in the near future.

Second – the TFI Recruitment Department is pleased to announce that the referral incentive for foster families to refer a new home is increasing to \$500 per referral. We are challenging each of you to recruit at least one foster family this next quarter and help our already wonderful foster family base increase. We would like to thank all of you for your continued hard work and look forward to many new ventures with all of you.

Jason Cecil, MSW, Recruitment Manager



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

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#### Welcome New Resource Families

Douglas and Amanda Unruh Mildred and Stasi Norfort/Williams Steven and Catherine Kramer Shawn and Michelle Carter Kevin and Gina Clubine Keith and Belinda Egermeier Robert and Mary Richards Dustin and Bethany Reader Joshua and Michelle Mosqueda Tom and Susan Brian Walter Slocum Jeffrey and Bonnie Chockley William (Ernie) and Patricia (Patty) Miller/Katsbulas-Miller Peter and Lori MacKinney Larry and Romana Dawson Martin and Elizabeth Bell Sandra Boyd Marcella Harlan Lane and Jenifer Gregg Norvett and Lisa Jacques John and Rebecca Hurla Roland and Bridgette Darey Robert and Paula Lloyd



Dear Daisy,

I am a new foster parent and really enjoy TFI. I would love to tell my friends and family about becoming a foster parent. Since I am new I'm not real sure of the process or what I should tell them. Can you help me?

Signed,

Ready to Recruit

Dear Ready to Recruit:

First of all, let me welcome you to TFI Family Services and as a foster parent. There are a couple of ways you can let your friends and family know. First, you can tell them visit us at <a href="www.tfifamilyservices.org">www.tfifamilyservices.org</a> and there is information on our agency and being a foster parent on the site. If they would prefer not to look on line have them call one of our recruiters at 1-800-279-9914 and we will send them out some information for them to view and make an informed decision.

Again, thank you for helping the kids of Kansas and welcome to our TFI Family.

Sincerely, Daisy

#### Southeast Region Care Provider of the Month Aimee McClure

Aimee McClure has been nominated for Southeast Region Care Provider of the Month. Aimee is able to meet the basic needs of children placed in her home. She has a lot of family support and children in her home are able to get involved in community activities.

## Reminders

Bridgette Stevens

For after hour emergencies, please call 1-877-921-4114.

#### Visit TFI's website and

view Between Families newsletter online at www.tfifamilyservices.org Aimee has many friends in the community and through church. She helps her resource worker in recruiting new families. Aimee talks about TFI everywhere she goes and explains the need for foster families. Aimee works wonderfully with biological families, so that children can continue to keep that bond.

Aimee attends all support meetings and continues to keep her worker informed of anything important going on in her home and with the children she cares for. Aimee is excellent at communicating with her RFS worker.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Ruth, RFS—Pittsburg

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#### West Region Care Provider of the Month Dan and Misty Ritchers

I would like to nominate Dan and Misty Richters as the West Region Care Providers of the Month. Dan and Misty are dedicated to the foster child in their home and have worked diligently with both contract and non-contract staff in helping the teen successfully graduate high school early, and prepare for college in the fall. Dan and Misty show care and compassion for children. They willingly volunteered, at a moment's notice, to provide respite and take emergency placement for a special needs child.

Dan and Misty continue to provide support for a teenage boy that is no longer in their care, even traveling out of town to visit him. Dan and Misty facilitate visits, and welcome birth family members into their home. They do an excellent job of maintaining open communication and providing necessary paperwork.

Dan and Misty make a point to show no partiality regarding their birth children, adopted children, or foster children. A few months back their foster daughter wanted to attend a concert in Wichita. Misty and Dan took the time out of their busy schedules and travelled to Wichita and attended a "Rap Concert," with their girl!

Dan and Misty have been excellent resource parents to work with and are a true blessing for the children in their care.

Submitted by,

Sharon Burnett, RFW-Garden City

#### Northeast Region Care Provider of the month David (Dave) and Billie Jo Gerisch

I am nominating David (Dave) and Billie Jo Gerisch for the Care Providers of the Month for the Northeast Region. Dave and Billie Jo have done an amazing job working with both RFS and Reintegration Staff, and their foster children. They have been very flexible working with TFI staff, when scheduling visits, etc., and have done an excellent job of obtaining mental health and medical services for their foster children.

Their dedication to the kids and being so flexible is appreciated. They are always willing to work with us to get things done. Billie Jo is very prompt in responding to us and getting us whatever we need. They are also very easy to work with in terms of moving forward with the permanency goal. We feel like they really are the "perfect" foster parents.

One of Dave and Billie Jo's foster children wrote a school essay about her foster parents; what they have done for her, and her desire to be foster parent when she grows up because of the positive impact the Gerisch's have had on her life.

Submitted by,

Janet Hickey, RFS—Topeka

#### Green Your Barbecue

Submitted by: Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist

With summer comes barbeques. Not only is cooking out delicious; but it also allows your family to spend quality time outside and to cook without heating up the house! To better your green barbeques this summer, try these tips:



- Choose cleaner-burning propane or electric grills over one using charcoal, which contributes more to poor air quality. To be a super green go-getter, try a solar oven or stove that avoids emissions altogether.
- If you do use charcoal, look for lump brands harvested from sustainably managed forests. Switch from lighter fluid, which releases VOCs, to a chimney starter.
- Use meat and/or vegetables from local farms. If you know where your food comes from, you can feel more confident that it is healthy for you and the environment. It also reduces food transportation costs.
- Set your picnic table with reusable dishware and silverware and cloth napkins. If that's not feasible, look for biodegradable or recycled-paper table settings.
- Clean up with a natural cleaner, especially outside where chemical run-off is a concern.

Use natural insect repellents. They're better for you and the environment, and they most often have a pleasant scent!

Adapted from: http://www.sierraclub.org/tips/summer.aspx#greenbbg

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## Resource Family Anniversaries

#### "One Year"

Stephanie (Bambi)
Swayze
David and Michele
Hett
Jose and Rebeca
Munoz
Craig and Jolene
Gengler

#### "Three Years"

Mark and Elizabeth
Crismas
Caroline Negretti
Travis and Nicole
Meeks/Casey
Daniel and Jaida
Mosier
Mishal Njoku
Melissa Hebron
Christopher (Brian)
and Megan Smith

#### "Five Years"

Robert and Sharor
Bearley
Matt and Jamie
Sowers
Rusell and Linda
Groenendyk
Lovetta Poe

#### "Fifteen Years"

Ima Jean Johnson William and Nancy Weigant

### I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?



Sheila enjoys dancing, singing, listening to music, swimming. One of her favorite artists is Justin Bieber. Her favorite class in school is reading and she tries very hard to make good grades in school. She has been working on becoming more outgoing, outspoken and independent. Sheila is also very polite, sweet-natured and intelligent. She may need assistance building up her trust with the male figures in her life. She will need support in place at school in order to be successful. Sheila would like a loving family that will allow her to maintain contact with her siblings. She would enjoy a family that has pets and likes spending time outside.

For more information on Sheila, please contact Kayla Giefer at 620-231-1069.

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#### Life Skills for Independent Living

Life skills, such as maintaining employment, securing housing, meal planning and preparation, health care, healthy relationships, and money management help your teen become independent, which is the goal of parents for their young adults. Do your teens have the skills to live on their own? Often older youth feel they can take this big step without possessing all the skills they will need to succeed in the larger world. This makes the transition from home to an independent life more difficult. Having an identified supportive adult to call on for assistance makes the transition easier for the youth. Help foster youth identify who they might contact as a long term "mentor".

In case plans for foster children 14-21 years old, a tool is completed to assess how a youth and caregiver and/or the birth family perceive a youth's knowledge base in the areas of communication, daily living, home life, self-care, work and study habits, social relationships, housing and money management, career planning, and work life. This tool is called the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA), formerly called Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA).

Together, the youth and the caregiver (foster parents and/or the biological parents) complete the assessment, and with the case plan team identify the life skill strengths and needs of the youth. They identify three goals with steps to learn the life skills as well as identify who will provide the support needed to achieve these goals. A foster parent is a great resource who can provide the needed support to help youth "practice" a needed skill in order to achieve their goals.

There are many available resources to help teach the needed life skills. The case plan team can assist in locating these resources. The following are interactive internet websites or downloadable resources that target specific areas for teaching and learning independent living skills:

#### www.kansasindependence.org

**Kansas Independence** is developed for youth in care of Kansas to learn more about the challenges and possibilities of life ahead. Explore real-life stories, learn about drug abuse facts, and find information about independent living in the resources pages. Find information on employment, education, housing, finances and more that will help take steps towards living independently. It links visitors to an interactive

#### Life Skills for Independent Living Cont.

#### www.casey.org

Organizations, websites, and other resources designed to give youth ideas, information and support during time in out of home care and for the future. At the new website click in the upper right hand corner on "Help". Go to "Helpful Guides", click on "Resources to Inspire" to find:

- "Money Pals, Being Cool With Cash", Part One and Part Two; for 8-11 year olds
- "I Know where I Am going, But Will My Cash Keep Up?", Part One and Part Two; for 12-15 year olds
- "I'm Getting Ready...I Can Do It!", Interactive Workbook
- Education and Financial Aid information

#### http://kidshealth.org

Separate information areas provided for parents, kids, and teens about physical, mental and emotional health (body, mind, sexual, drugs/alcohol, etc.). Information is presented in feature articles, animations, games and additional resources.

#### www.4girls.gov

This site was created to help girls ages 10-16, learn about health, growing up, and issues they may face on handling relationships with family and friends at school and at home.

### Life Skills for Independent Living

Please use a separate answer sheet for each parent completing this training. Print name:\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: License #: Please read the enclosed article and answer the following questions for a half-hour training credit. If more than one person wishes to receive credit, he/she must use a separate piece of paper and have their own signature and legal name on that page. To receive credit, please mail your answers in a timely manner to: TFI Family Services, Attn: Barb Newman, PO Box 780086, Wichita, KS 67278 1. What life skill areas are important for youth to have knowledge in to be successfully independent? 2. What is the minimum number of independent living goals on a case plan? 3. What is the name of the tool used to identify a youth's strengths and needs for independent living? 4. Who should complete the Casey Life Skills Assessment? Why? 5. Review the website www.kansasindependence.org with the youth. Locate a resource area to investigate. What did the youth identify? List the resource and activity. 6. Review the website www.casey.org with the youth. Locate a resource area to investigate or download one of the listed resources. What did the youth identify? List the resource and activity. 7. Have a conversation with the youth to identify a committed, supportive adult that is knowledgeable in the chosen areas of investigation.

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## Children's Alliance Training Calendar July 2012 To register for trainings log onto <a href="www.childally.org">www.childally.org</a> or call Children's Alliance at (785) 235-5437 ext. 1

Date	Training Title	Begin Time	End Time	Sponsor	Street Address	City	Comments
Jan 1, 2012 to Dec 31, 2012	PS-MAPP Update Online	6:00am	10:00p m	Children's Alliance	ONLINE	ONLINE	This is a SELF-PACED Online class. You may enroll and start it any time. A copy of your final assessment will go to your caseworker or supervisor. You will receive a certificate upon completion.
Dec 14, 2011 to Dec 31, 2012	ONLINE: Ethics Self-Study	12:00a m	12:00a m	Children's Alliance	ONLINE	ONLINE	Self-Directed online course. You must have a valid email address to take this class.
Jan 1, 2012 to Dec 31, 2012	Medication Administration Online Training	12:00a m	12:00a m	Children's Alliance	ONLINE	ONLINE	Self-Directed online training. You must have a valid email address to enroll.
Jan 1, 2012 to Dec 31, 2012	Universal Precautions Online Training	12:00a m	12:00a m	Children's Alliance	ONLINE	ONLINE	Self-Directed online training. You must have a valid email address to enroll.
July 7, 2012	Understanding with Clarity and Empathy Attachment Issues of Foster Children	8:00am	1:00pm	KVC Behavioral Healthcare	Lighthouse Bible Church, 4110 NW 62 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Topeka	This training is a portion of a larger two day event. For information on attending the full event, contact Mitch Beemer at 785-267-4530.
July 9, 2012	KDHE Regulations	6:00pm	8:00pm	KVC Behavioral Healthcare	513 S. 13 <sup>th</sup> St.	Leavenworth	
July 9, 2012	American Red Cross First Aid	6:00pm	9:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	8300 College Blvd, Ste. 301	Overland Park	Room 301MAPP
July 10, 2012	Raising Your Safety Awareness	10:00a m	3:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	1013-A W. 8th St.	Junction City	Room 111
July 11, 2012	American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/A,C,I	9:00am	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	3913 SW 10 <sup>th</sup>	El Dorado	Room 116
July 12, 2012	American Red Cross First Aid Aid/CPR/A,C,I	9:00am	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	618 Commercial	Emporia	Ste. E
July 12, 2012	Strategies for Parenting Teens	6:00pm	8:00pm	KCSL	Westview Community Church, 615 Gillespie Drive	Manhattan	
July 12, 2012	Working with Families Separated by Incarceration	6:00pm	9:00pm	The Salvation Army	350 N. Market	Wichita	
July 12, 2012	Taking Care of the Caregiver	6:30pm	8:30pm	Wichita Children's Home	810 N. Holyoke	Wichita	
July 16, 2012	Discipline	6:00pm	8:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	116 S. 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Manhattan	Room 118
July 16, 2012	Anger Outburst and Issues in Children	6:00pm	8:00pm	KVC Behavioral Healthcare	Ste. 1B, 2942 Wanamaker Dr.	Topeka	
July 16, 2012	American Heart Association Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid	6:00pm	9:00pm	Youthville	4505 E. 47 <sup>th</sup> St.	Wichita	
July 17, 2012	Gang Awareness	6:30pm	8:30pm	DCCCA	1319 W. May	Wichita	
July 17, 2012	Substance Abuse and Teens	6:00pm	8:00pm	KCSL	3545 SW 5 <sup>th</sup>	Topeka	
July 17, 2012	Confidentiality for Foster and Adoptive Families	6:00pm	8:00pm	KVC Behavioral Healthcare	Ste. C, 1202 E. 23 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Lawrence	
July 17, 2012	Gangs and Youth	5:30pm	8:30pm	Associated Youth Services	803 Armstrong	Kansas City	
July 17, 2012	Suicide Prevention	6:00pm	8:00pm	KVC Behavioral Healthcare	1223 Meadowlark Lane	Kansas City	

July 18, 2012	Ansell Casey LifeSkills Training	9:00am	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	Allen Co Comm. College, 1801 N. Cottonwood	Iola	Allen Co. Comm. College, Room B49
July 18, 2012	Social Emotional Develop- ment in Young Children and Managing Behaviors	6:30pm	8:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	1709 W. 7th St.	Chanute	Room 102
July 18-19, 2012	Becoming a Love and Logic Parent	6:00pm	9:30pm	The Salvation Army	350 N. Market	Wichita	
July 20, 2012	Engagement Skills in a Family Centered Practice	9:00am	12:00p m	TFI Family Services, Inc.	102 S. Judson	Ft. Scott	Room 214
July 20, 2012	American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/A,C,I	9:00am	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	217 SE 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Topeka	Room 114
July 23, 2012	Discipline	6:00pm	9:00pm	Youthville	4505 E. 47 <sup>th</sup> St.	Wichita	
July 24, 2012	Children's Health and Safety	9:00am	12:00p m	TFI Family Services, Inc.	3101 C North Michigan	Pittsburg	Conference Room 300
July 24, 2012	Confidentiality and Ethics	1:00pm	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	817 Oregon	Hiawatha	Conference Room
July 25, 2012	Stress and Burnout	1:00pm	3:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	217 SE 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Topeka	Room 114
July 25, 2012	Life Strategies and Com- munity Resources for Older Children with Disa-	1:00pm	5:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	618 Commercial	Emporia	
July 26, 2012	Using Social Media in Foster Care	2:00pm	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	217 SE 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	Topeka	Computer Lab.
July 26, 2012	American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/A,C,I	9:00am	4:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	1333 Meadow- lark	Kansas City	Conference Room.
July 26, 2012	True Colors	6:00pm	9:00pm	The Salvation Army	350 N. Market	Wichita	
July 28, 2012	First Aid and CPR certification	9:00am	11:30a m	DCCCA	Corporate Oaks Office Bldg., 12351 W. 96 <sup>th</sup> Terrace, Ste 300	Lenexa	
July 28-Aug 4, 2012	Cognitive Behavior Training	9:00am	3:30pm	DCCCA	Corporate Oaks Office Bldg., 12451 W. 96 <sup>th</sup> Terrace, Ste.	Lenexa	Sponsored by AYS and DCCCA.
July 31, 2012	Attachment Disorder and the Impact on Parenting Foster Children	6:30pm	8:30pm	DCCCA	1319 W. May	Wichita	Childcare provided. Please RSVP for childcare to Lisa Marx at 785-841-4138X 132 or <a href="mailto:lisa.marx@dccca.org">lisa.marx@dccca.org</a> .
July 31, 2012	Social Emotional Develop- ment in Young Children and Managing Behaviors	6:30pm	8:00pm	TFI Family Services, Inc.	3101 C North Michigan	Pittsburg	Room 300

#### **July 2012 Support Meetings**

Anthony: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the MCKinley Building, 514 N. Olive, Anthony, KS. Topic: Communication.

Chanute: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS. Topic: TBA.

Concordia: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 and 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. Topic: Safety Plans. El Dorado: Thursday, July 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS. Topic: Licensing and Discipline.

Emporia: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Emporia TFI Office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. . Topic: Foster Care Placement Info./Recruitment.

Fort Scott: Monday, July 30, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. Topic: Mandating Reporting and Critical

Hutchinson: Thursday, July 5, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. Topic: Seventh Class of Love and Logic Parenting. Independence: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. Topic: Ask a Friend Night. lola: Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the lola TFI office, 1702 N. State Street, Iola, KS. Topic: Managing Children's Anger.

Leavenworth/Atchison: Monday, July 16, 2012 fr4om 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Leavenworth Public Library, 417 Spruce, Leavenworth, KS.. Topic: Redbook Training. Lawrence: Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th St. Topic: Working in Partnership with the School System.

Manhattan: Monday, July 16, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Manhattan TFI office, 116 S 4th St, Manhattan, KS. Topic: Discipline.

Overland Park: Monday, July 9, 2012 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd., Ste. 301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: 1st Aid. Parsons: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Parsons TFI office, 1906 Main St., Ste. B, Parsons, KS. Topic: Ask a Friend Night. Phillipsburg: No support meeting for the month of July.

Pittsburg: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg KS. Topic: Social and Emotional Development of Young Children and Behaviors.

Salina: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS Topic: Trust Based Parenting, Part 2. Topeka: Thursday, July 19, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. Topic: The Home Study and Adoption Process. Winfield: Monday, July 9, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Winfield TFI Office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS.. Topic: Overview of Trauma and Effects of Children. Wichita: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Wichita TFI office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS 67207 Topic: CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Program. Suggestions?

Remember, if you concern, or Family Services, Inc., your first stop Concern Line at tfifamily.org or Washington at 877-942-2239.

