

Between Families

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May 2014

May is National Foster Parent Month *Thank You to All Our Foster Parents!*

May is National Foster parent month and TFI Family Services would like to take time and thank all of our dedicated homes for the quality care they provide to children and families. For everyone who works in some capacity with child welfare, we know how rewarding it is when a child goes home, "ages out" of the system, or finds their "forever home." As a reminder to all our homes, this quality care is only a fraction of the positive ways our TFI foster parents impact our children positively. Here are a few more ways you, our foster parents, impact children's lives:

- Day-to-day consistency and predictability through daily care, bedtime's routines, rules, and realistic expectations.
- The daily normal care and concern that parents have for their children with meals, time spent together and just being there.
- Parental concern for school achievement, volunteering at school, and involvement in the child's school work.
 - Including foster children in family activities as if, they were a birth or adopted child.
 - Spending time with the child.
 - Talking with the child about their day.
 - Praising the child.

- Taking the time to build a connection with a foster child.
- Taking the time to correct the child when they make mistakes, including implementing appropriate, loving discipline.
- Providing age appropriate boundaries and limits.



I hope all our homes take the opportunity to realize the positive impacts you are making daily with the children we serve and know how much we appreciate everything you do.

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We look forward to seeing you at the Appreciation Events that have been organized to honor the great work you are doing! Be watching your mail for information about events in your area!

Pam Richardson, Foster Care Director

TFI Family Services Giveaway

Congratulations John and Connie!

This month we want to remind you of a very special drawing that TFI Family Services foster families could be eligible for. Every quarter we draw a family for the Sam's Club Giveaway. In order to be eligible the family must be in good standing and have taken at least two placements. The family drawn then receives a \$500.00 Sam's Club gift card and a one year membership. This quarter the family drawn was John and Connie Wade. Congratulations John and Connie! Thank you for the care that you have provided to local foster children. The next drawing will take place at the end of June.



Submitted by Jessica Dutton, Recruitment Specialist

SAVE THE DATE!

Foster Parent Retreats are quickly approaching!
Save the date for the following locations!

Wichita
August 9, 2014

Overland Park
September 13, 2014



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/tfifamilyservices

Our Facebook page is a great resource for foster parents. If you like TFI Family Service's page, you'll get our posts right in your news feed. It's a great way to stay connected to what is happening in the organization and keep informed of upcoming events. Below is an example of one of our posts.



Care Provider of the Month

Michael and April Turner

Michael and April Turner have been a great addition to the TFI family. They may be relatively new to foster care but their years of experience in raising their children and working with children in their community is evident in the amount of care, patience, understanding, and professionalism they

exude. The Turners are not only great parental figures to children and families but their children are also amazing role models to the children they come into contact with.

The Turner family is a great asset to the agency as well as to our other foster families. They are always willing to lend an extra hand to anyone in need and rarely ever say "no" to helping with respites or recruitment activities. I know that whenever I or one of my families is in a bind I can call the Turner family for help and support. Their help and support is genuine and heartfelt as they do so without the intention of receiving anything in return. They provide a loving and caring environment with strong values in family and relationships. The Turners are also great teachers to the children in their home. They excel at teaching each child to find their own strength and confidence within themselves. Children love being in the Turner home and gravitate toward the Turner family. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Michael and April Turner!

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Gallaway, LMSW

Happy Anniversary

1 year

Jeffrey and Lorraine Merando
Sherry Edmiston
David and Suzie Vermetten
Afton Jones-Ruhl
Daniel and Fawn Sternberg
Scottie Cook
Jerid and Kelly Arnold
Jeff and Rachael Trachsel
Kathryn Hastings
James and Angela Endicott
Charles (Chuck) and Darlinda Harris
Daniel and Sara Simonds
Nancy Roberts
Joan Donnelly
Valeria Dolphus
James and Brenda Miller

Stephanie Keith
Robert and Wendy Cherry
Allison and Amanda Rogers/Jay
Jefferson and Jo An Barkley
Gary and Shelli Chapman/Lochner
Elmer and Velma Harding
Robert and Billie (Jayne) Burton/Johnson-Burton
Catherine Boehm
Logan and Laura Prestonback
Dustin and Brittany Schuh
Troy and Sheryl Evans
Kathleen Hauk
Robert and Angela Mathews
Brian and Courtney Carpenter

5 years

Robert and Wendy Weiss
Derek and Carol Ditmore/McCartney
Ryan and Amber Lewis

Recruitment Moment

“Soak in the sunshine,
and share it with a
local foster child!!”

Spring has approached and summer is right around the corner!! For parents and kids alike, summertime is a welcome break from the norm of the school year. It's an opportunity to just relax and soak in the fun and sunshine. Summertime is also a great time to foster. Maybe you're a family that has taken a break from fostering?? Now is the time to soak in the sunshine, and share it with a local foster child!! Blue skies, fire flies, and ice cream dreams are what these kiddos are waiting for to share with a special family. If you are one of those families, we would love to make this come true for a child this summer. Or maybe you know of a family you could refer?? If that's you or someone you know, please contact us at 1-800-279-9914 or visit www.tfifamilyservices.org

This Recruitment Moment brought to you by:
Jessica Dutton
Recruitment Specialist

After hour emergencies, please call 1(877)921-4114.

For the most current calendar for Kansas Children Alliance Training, go to: <http://childally.org/train/>

Connect with us:



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Summer is right around the corner. Here are some fun, inexpensive ways to keep a large family entertained without spending a lot of money.

- **Have a lemonade stand!** Kids can make the lemonade and signs to advertise the sale and even earn a little money while having fun.
- **Create a play in a day.** Older kids can write the script and younger ones can help find costumes and props to use.
- **Hold a yard sale.** Clean out the closets and set a few items out on a table in the yard for sale. Combine this with a lemonade stand as mentioned above and increase traffic.
- **Make a splash!** Don't have a pool? Make your own backyard waterpark by using a few

Summertime Fun on a Dime

inexpensive pool toys a hose, sprinkler and inflatable pool.

- **Free bowling!** Many local bowling centers participate in www.kidsbowlfree.com where kids can bowl two free games a day during the summer.
- **Camping in the backyard.** Camping out in the backyard can be just as fun as the real thing with the conveniences of home just steps away.
- **Plant a garden.** Gardening is a great way for the whole family to enjoy the outdoors and also serves a purpose by creating food the family can share.
- **Volunteer together.** There are many opportunities for families to volunteer together to help others in need. It's a great way to spend quality time together as a family.
- **Visit the local library.** Many local libraries have summer reading programs for kids of all ages and story time activities for the younger ones.
- **Visit local parks and nature trails.** Take the whole family on a nature hike to enjoy the outdoors. You can even pack a picnic and make a day of it.
- **Take a bike ride together.**

- **Build a kite.** There are many great resources for building a simple kite that kids can help build and fly. One such resource is: www.ehow.com
- **Head to the drive-in!** Many drive-in theatres still exist and can be an inexpensive way to see a movie on the big screen. At many theatres children get in free or at a reduced cost and you can often see two movies for the price of admission. Check to see if the theatre allows you to bring your own snacks.
- **Bubbles!** Make bubbles out of soap and water and entertain the little ones outdoors.
- **Sidewalk chalk** is great for younger kids to express their creativity on the driveway or sidewalk. Older kids may enjoy painting or drawing outside on a sketch pad.
- **Document your adventures** in a scrapbook to treasure the memories for years.

Creating summertime memories doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Get outdoors and enjoy the freedom of a more relaxed schedule and memories are sure to be made.