

Between Families

Our Mission

TFI Family Services, Inc. is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services.

Editors

Curtiss Hemby
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TFI Family Services, Inc. is licensed by the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a Child Placing Agency. License No. 766.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER BY: JASON CECIL RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Holiday Season Reflections

It's that time of year again, when children laugh with glee as they race to find what's for them underneath the tree. Their joyous laughter fills the homes, as their smiles warm the hearts of those who are around.

Outside the snow falls gently, adding to the pristine layer that is already on the ground. Icicles hang from the trees shimmering with beauty.

As trees sparkle with the new falling snow, children laugh and play with abandon. Holiday cheer is all around, carolers singing door to door. Lights reflecting on the snow in a rainbow of color.

Trees all decorated with garland of greens and reds. Ornaments gathered and hung from their dusty boxes. The angel placed so carefully a top the tree, to watch over the festivities. Presents wrapped so gaily with brightly colored bows; cute name tags to show with whom they will belong.

Traveling from home to home, neighbors sharing with neighbors, and friends renewing old ties.

This Holiday season has once again come to fill our hearts with joy, laughter, and cheer. As we gather our family and friends closer for yet another year.

With the Holidays upon us it is time to reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for over the last year. Those of us with many blessings in our life that bring us joy should share these blessings with others around us. No matter how you might celebrate the season, please enjoy your Holidays and have a Happy New Year on behalf of TFI Family Services, Inc.

Jason Cecil, MSW
Recruitment Manager



RECRUITMENT MOMENT BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

This is the time of year many people pause to count their blessings and are grateful for the good things in their lives. Looking around at the rest of the world makes it very easy to be thankful for those things...most importantly, our family. However, there are many children across the world, the United States, and right here in our own community who do not have a stable family to be thankful for.

This is where you can all help out. Take some time this holiday season to share the blessings you have as a Foster / Adoptive Parent. Talk to your family, friends, church members or anybody that would like to help. We need foster parents across the state in every community, as well as adoptive parents, to provide homes for youth in need.

Have them call our toll free 1-800-279-9914 information line or visit us at www.tifamilyservices.org. As always you will receive a \$300 incentive for referring a family that becomes a licensed home for TFI Family Services. Thank you and have a great Christmas and Happy New Year from the TFI Recruitment Department.

Jason Cecil, MSW
Recruitment Manager

**Welcome
New Resource
Families**

- David and Tonnie Martinez
- Charles and Ambria Wimsatt
- Robert and Kimberlie Pempin
- Christopher and Kimberly Whitaker
- Hector and Emily Serna
- John "Darin" and Kimberly Pote
- Bruce and Amanda Vaughn
- Faissal and Carol Abou-Faissal
- Dwight and Connie Billings/Campbell
- Helena Chavez
- Josh and Autumn Opper/Carmicheal Braack
- Lawrence and Karen Roberts
- Cameron and Jennifer Magnall
- Sarah Hicks
- Wayne and Lisa Goodall
- Todd and Kelli Weaver

Reminders

TFI Family Services, Inc will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2011 in observance of the holiday season.

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

Visit TFI's updated website and view this *Between Families* newsletter online at www.tfifamilyservices.org

Dear Daisy 

Dear Daisy,

I have been a foster parent for about three years and have wondered what my responsibility is concerning providing gifts for the children placed in my home. Each year the number of gifts from TFI has been a different and varying value for each child. Could you explain how TFI determines what the children get?

Holiday Wonder

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Dear Holiday Wonder,

This is a question that comes up often around events such as birthdays and holidays such as Christmas. While the agency does not provide a stipend exclusively for gift giving to resource parents, most of TFI's offices work diligently during the holiday season to obtain donations in the form of gifts for children not only in licensed resource homes, but also our children who are placed with relatives or in facilities. The type and number of gifts we can provide for the children in our resource homes depends largely upon the generosity of contributions from the various communities, resulting in differences from one area to the next. While TFI does make efforts to provide gifts of some sort during the holidays, it is not the intent that the agency be the sole provider of gifts to children in resource homes. The daily reimbursement rate that families receive is intended to be used to provide for the day-to-day care of children in your home, which includes events such as birthdays and holidays. If you have more specific questions about gifts, your Resource Family Worker should be able to help you. We wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season.

Daisy

**SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
DAVID AND SUE USRY**

David and Sue Usry have been nominated as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the month. David and Sue have been a foster family for over 20 years. They specialize in caring for children who have special needs. Sue is a retired nurse, and David works on their farm. He shows the children how to work the farm doing various activities and teaching various skills. Sue is an education advocate for foster children in their home and foster children in other foster parents' care. David and Sue also assist in recruiting other adults to be foster and adoptive parents and are actively involved in various agencies working with the children.

The Usry's have provided permanent placements for many children from various backgrounds while being foster parents. They also enjoy caring for foster children, helping them adjust to life in foster care and helping transition from foster care into caring, compassionate young adults.

I have enjoyed working with this family and have learned different ways to get different services children with special needs require.

The Usry family was recognized at the Governor's Conference in Topeka, KS by Four County Mental Health Center. A plaque was given to the family and they were described as "dedicated, exceptional foster parents". It is an honor for one of our homes to receive such recognition by another agency.

They were also given a plaque on October 20, 2011 through a collaboration of CDDO agencies in Topeka, KS. Interhab recognized them as "Inspirational Family of the Year".

Congratulations David and Sue!

Submitted by,

Danika Foster, RFW—Independence

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
GARY AND CARLA COCHRUN*

I would like to nominate Gary and Carla Cochrun as the West Region Care Provider of the Month. They have been providing Foster Care for around 6 years. Within those 6 years, the Cochrun's have added 4 children to their family by adopting a sibling group of 4. They enjoy seeing their children grow and learn. We can always count on the Cochrun's for last minute respite. They rarely say no. Carla goes above and beyond when supporting TFI. She has helped with recruitment events and hanging poster around town. The Cochrun's have referred family members and friends to foster care. Those homes are now licensed and providing exceptional care to the children in their home. Carla recently became a TFI Transporter. She has developed wonderful relationships with the children she transports. I have had numerous kids say that they hope Carla is the one who transports them. I want to say thank you for all you do for TFI and the children you serve.

Submitted by,

Michelle Millan, RFW—Phillipsburg

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
CHRIS AND DIANA PAINE*

I would like to nominate Chris and Diana Paine for the Northeast Region Care Provider of the Month. The family has been fostering since 2008, particularly working with sibling groups. Chris and Diana are easily able to engage children and make them feel comfortable and safe in their home. Although the family is very busy with work, family life, and children's activities, they are always willing to help out when needed. Chris and Diana understand that children placed in their home will experience moments of grief, confusion, and anger. They continue to be committed to the foster children to help them through the difficult times as well as the fun and happy moments. Chris and Diana are a wonderful resource family and great partners to work with.

Submitted by,

Shellie Simmons, RFW—Overland Park



An Homage to Our Grandparents

Submitted by: Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist

We often assume that being green is a new movement, a “bettering” of our society. Some will even point fingers at previous generations for *not* being green. In today's green tip, I would like to recognize just one of many of older generations' green practices (before green was even a “thing”).

For the last few decades, beverages and preserved foods have come almost exclusively in plastic, aluminum, or cardboard containers. Sure, plastic and aluminum *can* be recycled and cardboard *is* from renewable sources, but nothing tops good, old-fashioned glass-- the super material of green living. Glass is always BPA free because it is natural, not petroleum based. Glass containers are also easily reused. The ability to simply sanitize and reuse glass bottles is giving them a comeback in the dairy industry. Did you know that this is not just green, but that tinted glass containers also provide the longest shelf life for milk?

Because glass is formed from simply melting naturally found minerals, it is easily recycled! Just re-melt and re-form! Our parents, grandparents, and older generations understood that glass was priceless because of its ability to be reused and the simplicity of its make-up. This is just one instance where going back to the basics is good for our pockets and our environment! What other green practices of the past can you think of?

Resource Family Anniversaries

"One Year"

Arin Turey Evans

Vicki Bell

Charles and Melinda
Hinson

David and Cathrine
Westfall

Brian and Carrie Shouse

Matthew "Scott" and
Marla Morrow

Timmy and Teresa
Chandler

Tommy and Tonya
Williamson

Michelle Warnow

Troy and Barbara Lee

Brenda Wahl

Leisa Baird

Genee Hughes

Stephen and Rebecca
Livingston

Brady and Jamie Deville

Terry and Lesley Strobel

"Three Years"

Walter Austin

Tracy and Rebecca Tice

Albert and Janice
Claassen

Timothy and Cathrine
Hatley

Mark and Melva Davis

Gustavo and Virginia
Garcia

"Five Years"

Robert and Linda
Gibson

James and Michele
Ozbun

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Skyla is interested in art, writing, reading, drawing, and school. She is a good student and does very well in school. She is proud of her grades and educational accomplishments. Her favorite class is Science. When Skyla grows up, she would like to utilize her talents and become an author or an illustrator. Skyla will need continued mental health services to help with her anger outbursts and behaviors. She has improved over time, but will need continued encouragement and stability. She will need a forever family that is supportive of her and is able to provide her with guidance. Skyla would like a forever family that has a mom and a dad, a sister and pets. Skyla would enjoy living in the city.



For more information on Skyla,
please contact Kayla Giefer
at (620) 231-1069.

Parents Matter: Tips for Raising Teenagers

Being a parent is one of life's most challenging – and rewarding – responsibilities. But the parents of teenagers may have the toughest job around. Adolescence is the journey from childhood to adulthood, from relying mostly on the judgment of others to learning how to make responsible decisions independently. It can be a difficult transition for both teens and their parents, especially in a society in which young people are confronted daily with the serious risks that come with sex, violence, drugs, alcohol, smoking and school failure – risks that science and common sense tell us are often related.

Because the various risks teens face are so closely connected, so too are the solutions. It's easy for parents of teens to believe that they've lost their influence over their kids once they reach adolescence. The power of peers and the media can seem overwhelming. But research and experience both make this clear:

- Parents do matter in the lives of their teens.
- Teenagers need support, guidance, and caring from their parents as much as younger children do.

Teens themselves say they want to hear from their parents about the challenges they face growing up, even if they don't always act like it.

Make the Connection: 1-800-RUNAWAY

December 2011 Support Meetings/Holiday Parties

Chanute: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the New Life Brethren Church, 500 N. Forest, Chanute, KS.
Concordia: Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
El Dorado: Holiday Party: Friday, December 2, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Presbyterian Church, 400 W. Central, El Dorado, KS.
Support Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2011 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS.
Emporia: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Emporia TFI Office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS.
Fort Scott: Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Buck Run Community Center, 735 Scott Ave, Ft. Scott, KS.
Garden City: TBA
Hutchinson: Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Burrton Senior Center..
Independence: Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Dearing Christian Church, Dearing, KS.
Iola: Tuesday, December 6, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the North Community Building, 505 N. Buckeye, Iola, KS.
Kansas City: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 5010 Parallel Pkwy, Kansas City, KS.
Leavenworth/Atchison: Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Atchison Library, 401 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS.
Lawrence: Friday, December 9, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at CiCi's Pizza, 2020 W. 23rd Street, #A, Lawrence, KS.
Manhattan: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Westview Community Church, 615 Gillespie Drive, Manhattan, KS.
Overland Park: Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Skate City, 10440 Mastin Street, Overland Park, KS. Please RSVP to Angela Griswold at 913-894-2985.
Parsons: Monday, December 12, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Parsons TFI office, 1906 Main St., Parsons, KS.
Phillipsburg: Monday, December 12, 2011 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Oliff and Boeve Room.
Pittsburg: Monday, December 5, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the First Church of the Nazarene, 816 E. Quincy, Pittsburg, KS.
Salina: Friday, December 9, 2011 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
Topeka: Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Indian Hills Elementary School, 7445 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS.
Winfield: Monday, December 12, 2011 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
Wichita: Thursday, December 15, 2011. Invitation will be mailed with more details.

Questions? Suggestions?

Remember, if you have a problem, concern, or question about TFI Family Services, Inc., your first stop should be our Concern Line at concernline@tfifamily.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at 877-942-2239.

