

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Jason Cecil

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: GAVEN LUDLOW, MSW AND MBA
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

With the holiday season at hand, I wanted to share part of an article that gives some helpful ideas about how to manage these stressful times with your family. The children you help every day by fostering often struggle more during this time of the year. They face separation worries, conflict over loyalties, and feel the stress everyone else does. Please read on to gather some good ideas on how to work through this time.

Celebrating Holidays with Children You Foster
Conflicting loyalties and lost dreams often make the holidays a difficult time for children in foster care. Just as studies show that holidays are stressful times for most of us, these reactions are compounded for youth placed in your home. Here are some suggestions for managing the holidays.

How can my family make it easier for the children in foster

care while they are in our home?

- Talk about the season ahead of time. Talk about how your family celebrates the holidays. Tell children which of the traditional holidays your house recognizes. Is it **Thanksgiving? St. Nick's Day? Kwanzaa? Hanukah? Christmas? New Year?** Or all of the above? Talking about the holidays gives children time to anticipate the upcoming activities and ask questions.
- Help children in foster care imagine what to expect in your home. Much of what we assume to be commonplace can be new to the children you foster.
- Share the religious meanings the holidays may have for your family. Talk about your **family's specific customs and activities.**
- Use this time of sharing to learn especially about the religious beliefs, customs, and activities of the children you

foster.

- Try to incorporate at least some of their traditions into your traditions.
- Some parents try to keep the holidays low key in order to help minimize some of the stress.

How can we work with birth families during the holidays?

- Again, ask children about their experiences and try to incorporate some of their traditions. The children placed in your home may miss some activities that they experienced with their family or in a previous placement.
- **If possible, ask your child's family members about their holiday traditions and customs.** Ask about their beliefs and observances. Although you may feel stretched at the holidays, try to coordinate schedules with the birth families. This gives the children a chance to share what is familiar while experiencing new traditions.

Cont'd on pg. 4 →

RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

I would like to wish everyone Very Happy Holidays. **Hopefully you will all be able to enjoy this year's holidays staying warm and spending time with friends and family.** However, many children that are unable to do that – because we need more foster homes. **Take this time of the year to share the joy you have from being a foster parent with everyone you know! Let's all work together and see if we can get more foster parents in your communities for children in need.** Remember – you receive a \$500 referral incentive when a family you refer becomes licensed.

I would like to give you 10 things parents should know about raising teens:

1. Times will get hard. There will most likely be conflict and disagreements.
2. **It's Ok to be a detective**
3. Listen to your teen
4. Do not be straight laced and rigid all the time
5. Allow your teen to make mistakes
6. Do not impose unrealistic expectation on your teen
7. Be careful in how you advise your teen
8. Always tell your teen you love him or her and only want what is best
9. Be honest
10. Do not give up on your teen

Each month I will give you a description of each step above. Finally, I will leave you with this quote: **"May you love me the most when I deserve it the least because that is when I need it the most,"** From "You Gotta Believe"
Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager

Welcome New Resource Families

Emmett and Paige Rudolph
Douglas and Bonnie Vaughan
Charlie and Raynell McGuire
Kay (Susan) Meadows
Chez and Kendra
McClellan/Stuke
Roy and Rita Mallory
Aaron and Amandy Clairmont
Gregory and Denise Brown
Thomas and Brenda
Grotheer/Cavin
Peggy Crawford
Derek and Theresa Gay
Robert and Ali Cecchini
Brandon and Jovoli Clark
Tina Hannah
Dan and Shannon Woods
Ernest and Vandy
Voigtlander/Hamrick
Naniga (Ryan) and Chantal
Karunatatne/Gunawardhana
Todd and Hayley Ramsey
Michael and Deana Zigler
James and Bonnie Stolen
Glenn and Melinda Schleve
Donna Njuki
Kyle and Gretchen Culp

Reminders

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

TFI Family Services,
Inc. will be closed the
following days in
December:
Tuesday, December
25th.

**Visit TFI's website and
view Between Families
newsletter online at
www.tffamilyservices.**

Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

I recently attended a support meeting to get training hours to renew my license and I realized that I sat through this exact same training class last year. One of the fellow foster parents in the class said she takes this class every year because she is required to get 16 training hours per year. My worker told me I only needed 8 hour per year.

Sincerely,

Seeking CEU's

Dear Seeking CEU's,

Training requirements differ depending on the level of care you provide in your foster home.

For example:

Resource Parents must obtain 8 hours of training per parent per licensing year for each home providing SFL, Satellite, Emergency and Diversion/Specialized care. If the Resource Home has more than one parent, each adult Resource Parent in the home has to have 8 hours of training per year.

Training Hours for Treatment and Intensive Treatment/Therapeutic Resource Homes: TFI Family Services, Inc. required all Resource Parent providing Treatment care MUST have 16 hours of training per licensing year

Resource Parents providing Intensive Treatment/Therapeutic care MUST have 24 hours of training per parent per licensing year. If a Resource Foster Family provided Intensive Treatment/Therapeutic care during the licensing year at the end of the year the Resource Foster Family must complete 24 hours of training per parent.

We are always looking for new and interesting training topics to present to the families. If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to hear please email those ideas to: mfoxphillips@tffamily.org; **please note: "Training Ideas"** in the subject line.

Sincerely,

Daisy

SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH LISA AND SCOTT WOOSLEY

Lisa and Scott Woosley are nominated as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Lisa advocates for the kids in her home on a daily basis to ensure they are receiving the best education, health care, mental health care, and other services that they possibly can. The Woosleys also are a prime example of teamwork and what it means to work in partnership with the biological families and other service providers. They communicate well with all parties involved and are very pleasant to work with.

For one of their foster kids, they travel forty miles a day to take her to and from school so she can stay in her home school. The Woosleys go out of their way for their foster kids and rarely say no when something is asked of them.

Lisa regularly attends support meetings and is active in her community. She and Scott devote their time to their kids and strive to care for all their wants and needs. When any issue is brought to their attention, they immediately work towards a solution. They are a really great family.

Submitted by,

Charity Lempenau, RFS—Pittsburg

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
RUSSELL AND LINDA GROENENDYK*

Russell and Linda Groenendyk are nominated as the West Region Care Providers of the Month. The Groenendyks have been foster parents for 12 years and 9 months, initially licensed in February of 2000. They have been with TFI Family Services for the last 5 years. Russell and Linda have fostered 31 youth since 2000. They have worked hard in maintaining teen boys in their home and have done a wonderful job. Russell and Linda are also TFI transporters, and have conducted numerous training classes for other foster parent families. They are both a great support to other families in our west region. In addition to being TFI foster parents, Linda has taught school for 34 years. Russell is a crop insurance adjuster, a farmer, and a rancher. The Groenendyks are very active in their school and church communities. The Groenendyks have 3 biological children of their own - Jeanetta is 27, Ben is 25, and Regina is 23. They also have one grandchild, Lydia, who is 16 months old.

Submitted by,
Lori Dennis, RFS—Phillipsburg

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
JERRY AND STACEY COWAN*

Jerry and Stacey Cowan have been nominated as the Northeast Region Care Providers of the Month. I have been working with the Cowan family for almost a year now and I wish we had more families like them. They are very involved with children and go out of their way to help. They currently have 2 children of their own and 3 foster children; and both parents work outside the home full time. They live on a farm and are very busy. Despite this, they understand how busy social workers are and how complicated things can be. They understand the need to compromise and go above and beyond. The family is willing to help with transportation and any other needs as much as they can. Stacey and Jerry are fair, very communicative, and act as strong advocates. They are dedicated to the children in their home and give every placement their all. I love going to their home for visits! It is a very open atmosphere and issues almost always get resolved quickly and fairly. The Cowans are great advocates for children and birth parents. They admit when they are wrong and move on. They expect others to do the same and teach this to the children in their home. Their biggest asset is communication. When a conflict arises they are great at getting "down to business" with me and other workers to figure out what is going on, whether it be about a child, a worker, birth parents, or the process in general. They have a lot of love to give and understand that some children take time in receiving that love. They are patient, persistent, and in it for the long hall. These are just a few of the reasons that they should receive the Care Provider of the Month award! Thank you, Jerry and Stacey—for everything!

Submitted by,
Hudson Hamilton, RFS—Topeka

*Large Impact, Small Commitment Resolution
Submitted by Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist*

It is almost a new year, and it's a great time to rethink our daily routines with New Year's resolutions. This year, instead overzealous resolutions like, "I'll never touch, longingly gaze at, or crave dessert again," and try a simple and achievable, yet impactful resolution.



One such resolution - "Buy Less." Sounds simple, right? It will mean fewer burdens on your wallet, the environment, and the always lacking home storage. How can you stick to it? Easy – when buying an item outside of the staples category (we will never stop needing soap and toilet paper), commit to asking yourself "When am I going to use this?" If your answer is "I don't know," consider holding off until you have a plan for the potential purchase. It will help you avoid buying and wasting items that look enticing in store, but often remain unused at home.

Resource Family Anniversaries

"One Year"

Michelle Scott
 Matthew and Teresa Newton
 Darlene Campbell]
 John and Jennifer Creager
 Eric and Jenni Mann
 Wilma Richardson
 Robert and Lolita Fells/Ray
 Daniel and Sarah Seel
 Norma Bowren
 Rachel Thomas
 Paul and Laurie Andrews
 Connie Zabel
 David and Christy Bursack
 Steven and Melissa Niemeyer
 Dolores Looney
 Jeff and Judy Womack
 Joseph and Michelle Munoz
 Bonnie Elliott
 Jerry and Stacey Cowan
 Mishal and Priscilla Njoku
 Mary Kibbee
 Mark and Jody Havice
 Teresa Tucker
 David and Judith Pearson
 Steve and Amber Keck
 Alejandro and Gloria Hernandez

"Three Years"

Lewis and Judith Stark
 Ruby Winters
 Brian and Jacqueline Atkinson
 Brenda Evans
 Mike and Amber Monhollon

"Five Years"

Buddy and Alicia Grossman
 Kathleen Holling
 Aimee McClure
 Joseph and Carol Olson

"Ten Years"

Ray and Karen Berry

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?



Cheyenne loves to read and interact with others. She enjoys playing with her friends and going swimming. Cheyenne likes school and continues to make academic and behavioral improvements in the classroom. Cheyenne has some challenges controlling her behaviors and maintaining appropriate boundaries. She would do best in a family where she is the youngest or only child in the home. Cheyenne would benefit from a family that is very structured, consistent and loving. She needs parents who are comfortable dealing with her past abuse and special educational needs.

For more information on Cheyenne,
 please contact Erica Brown-Rodriguez
 at (785) 271-6657.

→Director's Corner, Cont'd from Pg. 1

- This is a good time for the youth in your home to make small gifts and send cards to their birth families or old neighbors and friends.
- This is a time when many children feel conflicted feelings about their birth families and worry about them. It is a good time to let the young person know that it is okay for them to be safe and cared for even if their family struggles. Reassure them, if you can, about the safety and care of their birth family.

What are some of the ways I can help the children who I foster get through the holidays? What are some signs of grief or sadness that I can look for?

- Be prepared for the sadness and grief. Talk about your child's feelings throughout the season.
- Give your children time and space to grieve. Grief takes many forms and may be exhibited in lots of ways, including:
 - Reverting back to younger behaviors developmentally
 - Becoming withdrawn and isolated
 - Having temper tantrums
 - Being rebellious
 - Complaining more than usual
- Try to remember the developmental age of the children you foster. It will also help you to stay patient if you keep in mind the challenges of the season for your child before you react.

What can I do to help my children learn what is expected of them at family celebrations?

- This is an opportunity to teach the behaviors and manners that you would like the youth you foster to learn. Go over basic manners such as "please" and "thank you."
- Explain the expectations of children prior to family get-togethers, and practice those behaviors ahead of time.
- Use role playing at home so that they can practice.
- Make sure you and your family/friends are on the same page regarding gifts from and to your children. Perhaps try to have your child bring a small hostess gift to the get together: baked goods, nuts, candles, ornament, etc.
- Tell family and friends about your children, and try to introduce them before the holidays. It's a good time to remind others about the confidentiality you honor concerning the children you foster, and it might be a good time to practice some polite but firm answers to some questions.
- Remember especially to ask your children what they would like to have shared about themselves.

Providers:

As you may know, Kansas is moving the Medicaid program to a managed care model, and it is called KanCare. In the next few days and weeks, placement providers will be receiving KanCare enrollment packets for each child placed at their address. These enrollment packets will present information regarding the assigned Managed Care Organization (MCO) **for the child's Medicaid insurance coverage**. The packets will name the assigned MCO, and contain information regarding the opportunity to change MCOs. When receiving these packets, TFI requests your compliance with the following plan:

- 1) Placement Provider will contact the child's case manager (Reintegration Worker) as soon as possible after receiving the enrollment packet. We will need to know where these packets are sent to be sure there are no disruptions in meeting the needs of the child.
- 2) Placement Provider will NOT do anything to change the MCO. . The packets may state that the Provider can make the changes, but for this population in Child Welfare we must follow different guidelines. Any changes to assigned MCOs must be completed by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) or the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA). If the Placement Provider would like to recommend a change, for good cause, this recommendation will need to be reported to the assigned case manager (Reintegration Worker). Medical cards for the assigned MCO will be mailed to the placement before January 1, 2013 and temporary medical cards may be printed from the assigned MCO's website. Open enrollment will end in April, 2013.
- 3) It is critical that the KanCare and MCO information, packets, and medical cards follow the child.
 - a. If a Placement Provider receives any KanCare, MCO, or insurance information regarding a child who is no longer in that placement, that child's case manager (Reintegration Worker) will need to be notified as soon as possible to coordinate this effort.
 - b. If a change in placement occurs, all KanCare, MCO, or insurance information regarding a child will need to follow that child to the new placement, and this can be coordinated with the Permanency Specialist.
- 4) Foster Parents will have the opportunity to sign the child up for a Primary Care Provider (PCP) through this enrollment process, and the PCP may be changed at any time. The assignment of MCOs will be based largely on the child's current PCP. TFI requests that communication occur between the Placement Provider and the Reintegration Worker regarding the person or organization that will be listed as the PCP, so this information can be kept current in an effort to best coordinate care for the child.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above information, please contact your Resource Family Worker for assistance.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the health care needs is met for the children in your care!

The Nation's Affordable Care Act

Steve Solomon, Director of Public Policy

There has been a great deal of talk about the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—or Obamacare, as many refer to it. We are not able to provide a full report on what this means to you or your family, but because this is such a big issue for so many people, we wanted to share some information that might be of most direct interest to you as a family both personally and as a foster care provider.

Certain provisions of the ACA have already gone into effect and others will emerge over the next few years. Currently, for example, insurance plans must allow for the coverage of young adults until age 26 when covered as part of their parents' plan. Also, insurance companies must demonstrate that a significant amount of total premiums received must be spent on direct medical services, as opposed to administrative or marketing costs.

Later the law would allow states to increase the number of persons covered by Medicaid by changing eligibility requirements regarding family income. The cut-off point for family income could be raised up to 133% of the poverty level, so that more people could be enrolled in the Medicaid program. The decision for Kansas has not been made as of this writing.

Children in foster care in Kansas are enrolled in Medicaid and under certain conditions are eligible until the age of 21. Beginning on January 1, 2014, youth in foster care who are aging out of the system will be eligible for Medicaid until they reach the age of 26, provided that they turned 18 (or older under the state's child welfare plan) and were enrolled in Medicaid while in foster care.

Power-of-attorney requirement--Transition plans for youth aging out of foster care must include information about the importance of selecting individuals to make medical decisions on their behalf if they are unable to do so; information should be included explaining options for designating a health care proxy or power of attorney under the state's laws.

As mentioned above, probably the most important impact of the ACA for youth who have been in foster care and for many Kansans is the possibility of more families who cannot afford private insurance being covered by the Medicaid system. With services for preventive and ongoing care more available, continuing effort to develop a healthier Kansas would be greatly advanced.

For additional information you may go to www.ksinsurance.org/consumers/healthreform/ACA_booklet.pdf or call the Kansas Insurance Department at 1-800-432-2484.

December 2012 Holiday Parties

Burrton: Saturday, December 15, 2012 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Burrton City Building, 100 Burrton Ave., Burrton, KS.
Chanute: Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 6:00pm at the United Brethren Church, 500 N. Forest Ave., Chanute, KS.
Concordia: Thursday, December 6, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Wesleyan Church, 1603 Cedar, Concordia, KS.
El Dorado: Friday, December 7, 2012 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Mennonite Church, 400 W. Central, El Dorado, KS.
Emporia: Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the TFI Emporia office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS.
Fort Scott: **Tuesday, December 11, 2012 from 5:45pm to 8:00pm. Children's will be held at Buck Run and RP's will be held at the Lion's Mansion.**
Garden City: Sunday, December 9, 2012 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Garden Bowl, 1501 North Taylor Ave., Garden City, KS.
Independence: Thursday, December 6, 2012 at the Dearing Christian Church, 302 Independence Ave., Dearing, KS.
Iola: Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Iola Community Building, Iola, KS.
Kansas City: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 5010 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, MO.
Leavenworth/Atchison: Tuesday, December 4, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the AmericInn, 500 US Hwy. 73, Atchison, KS.
Lawrence: **Wednesday, December 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at CiCi's Pizza, 2020 W. 23rd St., Lawrence, KS.**
Manhattan: Monday, December 17, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Westview Community Church, 615 Gillespie Dr., Manhattan, KS.
Overland Park: Friday, December 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell, Overland Park, KS.
Parsons: Friday, December 7, 2012 at the Dearing Christian Church, 302 Independence Ave., Dearing, KS.
Phillipsburg: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Huck Boyd Community Center, 860 Park Street, Phillipsburg, KS.
Pittsburg: Tuesday, December 4, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lincoln Center, 710 W. 9th St., Pittsburg, KS.
Salina: Saturday December 15, 2012 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Revolution Church, 1125 W. South, Salina, KS.
Topeka: Friday, December 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm at the American Legion Hall, 3029 NW Highway 24, Topeka, KS.
Wellington: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the McKinley Building, 514 N. Olive, Wichita, KS.
Winfield: Monday, December 10, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Winfield TFI office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS.
Wichita: Friday, December 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Calvary UMC, 2525 N. Rock Road, CLC Room, Wichita, KS.

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.

