

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Curtiss Hemby
Jason Cecil

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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: CURTISS HEMBY

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

Farewell My Friends

After 19 years of service in child welfare, I have elected to make a career change. I will be leaving TFI Family Services, Inc. on May 29th, 2012. As I enter a new season of life's challenges, I will be taking with me many fond memories created over the years from working directly with many of you. I would like to thank each of you for

allowing myself and TFI Family Services, Inc. to be a part of your family's life over the years. Most importantly, I want to thank each of you for opening your homes and your hearts to that young boy or young girl who so desperately needed a nurturing, safe environment to call home – even if just for a little while. TFI Family Services, Inc. would not be the agency it is today without each one of you. Together,

you ensure Kansas children are loved and taken care of and I hope that continues for many years to come, as the children will not stop needing you.

With much gratitude,

Curtiss Hemby
Director of Resource Family Services



RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Between Families is Going Green!!!

As we mentioned last month to give a heads up on the change, the Resource Family Services department will now be producing the Between Families Newsletter online. Starting next month, we will send an email to all families with their email on file notifying them the new issue is ready to read. This link - http://www.tfifamilyservices.org/?page_id=1746 will be sent to access the current issue of Between Families. What is great about this change is you can access all back issues. If you missed a month or need some additional training, you can just click on the month you would like to read.

We hope this change makes it easier for you to access all the great features in Between Families. However, if there is someone who has limited access to a computer and would like to still receive the hard copy, please email us at recruitment@tfifamily.org or call 1-800-279-9914 and let us know. We will continue to send you a hard copy of the most recent issue.

Finally this is a reminder that we still have our recruitment incentive of \$300 for every family you refer to TFI that becomes licensed. So this spring / summer start visiting with friends and family and let's all get more resources for our kids. Don't forget to look for special, upcoming announcements in the future issues of this newsletter.

Jason Cecil, MSW, Recruitment Manager

Welcome New Resource Families

Timothy and Theresa Alberry
Ashlee Lohman
Patrick and Lisa Smith
Martin and Kimberly Hernandez
Duane and Kim Koelling
Blaise and Nancy Bauer
Sara Dick
Michael Odupitan
Carla Moore
David and Brandy Egan
Travis Shannahan
Jeremy and Christina O'Ferrell
Theodore and Lynette Dallmann
Jeff and Jennifer McManus
Bonnie Flippin
Shane and Shelly Miledge
Jason and Erica Powell
Russell and Cynthia Reese
Gregory and Brittany
Adelman/Encarnacion
Jerry and Misty Armitage
Joseph and Emily Wells
Teresa Bowens
Cindy Johnson
Clifford and Christine Dieker
Walt Breitenstein

Reminders

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

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

Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

During the summer months my family and I like to travel regularly. Are we allowed to take our foster children out of town with us?

-New Care Provider

Dear New Care Provider,

Foster families are expected to treat foster children in their care as their own so wanting them to spend family vacations with you is only natural. Whether or not they can travel with you depends on many factors such as whether they have visits with their birth family scheduled over that time, etc. In addition, each county differs somewhat on what the court requires in order to approve out of state travel. Please let your Resource Family Worker know of your plans, giving as much notice as possible, and he/she will work with the Reintegration team, SRS, and the courts to get this approved.

-Daisy

SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH GREG AND DANA MEYER

Greg and Dana Meyer have been nominated as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Greg and Dana involve the children placed in their home with all of their family events. They teach the children structure and discipline while also being loving and nurturing to show the children that they care.

Greg and Dana have talked to their congregation at church about becoming foster parents and about the need for more foster parents in the area. They have told church members that they can talk to them personally about fostering if they have any questions for them.

Greg and Dana treat every child placed in their home as an individual. They get to know the children and their personalities and needs. Greg and Dana make every effort to guide the children placed in their homes in order to help them be the best that they can be. Greg and Dana are truly resource parents for all the right reasons. Currently, they have 5 youth placed in their home of varying ages, and they are handling it all very well. Greg and Dana have only been resource parents for approximately 4 months, but they are doing a very good job and are able to handle difficult situations as if they have years of experience as resource parents.

Submitted by,

Steffany Wilson, RFS—Iola

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
KEVIN AND MARANDA MOTES*

I would like to nominate Kevin and Maranda Motes for care provider of the month for the West Region. They have been licensed for year. In this short time, they have made a tremendous difference in the lives of the children placed in their home and the lives of the children's families. They have become mentors for two young mothers and have helped them to keep a positive connection to their children. **The Mote's family has invited the mothers into their home for visits and holidays** with their children. They have continued this nurturing and supportive relationship with one family, when the child went back home this year. The Motes still have a good relationship and open communication with the family to offer support and guidance when needed. They have made their schedules flexible to help with transportation for visits and always keep everyone involved in the cases of the progress the children are making in their home. It has been a pleasure to work with them thus far, and I see a wonderful future for the children and families who come in to contact with this amazing family.

Kevin and Maranda, Thank you for being positive, helpful, loving and nurturing to all the families you work with. You make everyone's life a little brighter!

Submitted by,

Joni Wahlmeier, RFS—Concordia

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
MIKE AND KAREN LESHER*

I would like to nominate Mike and Karen Lesher for the care providers of the month for the Northeast Region. The Lesher's have been resource parents with TFI since 2006. During that time they have taken police protective custody, respite and long term placements. This is a home that is well known for taking teenage girls, including pregnant teens. The Leshers have also adopted in the past and are currently going to adopt another child who is in their home now. They demonstrate patience, flexibility, understanding, and commitment on a daily basis. Mike and Karen do all of the transporting for their kids and have even been known to drive long distances to assist with getting their kids to parent/child visits, court, or case plans. The Leshers go above and beyond for kids who are placed in their home and we are lucky they are a resource home with TFI.

Submitted by,

Kathryn Norwood, RFS—Kansas City

Eco-parenting

Submitted by, Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist

Eco-parenting is important not only because of the immediate impact, but also because it helps create good habits for your children and has the potential to continue to impact generations to come.

There are always opportunities to reduce and reuse, especially with children! Have you ever bought the brand-new toy your child has been asking for relentlessly only to see it lose its appeal after a couple of weeks? **What about when you buy them a nice outfit and they outgrow it in a month? Let's face it, kids** grow and change so quickly that their toys and clothes almost seem to be on a constant in and out cycle. Save yourself money and reduce waste by buying gently used clothing and toys at thrift stores or garage sales. This is especially useful during points of major growth and developmental changes.

Not only will you be saving money and waste, but buying used can also be a great tool for teaching older children about fiscal and environmental choices.

To find a thrift store near you, try <http://www.thethriftshopper.com/>

Source: Kansas City Star's Earth Day Special Section



Resource Family Anniversaries

“One Year”

Scott and Angela Treinen

Joyce Morton

Flor Aguirre

Janet Seastrom

Richard and Kristie Sigle

Daniel and Kelsey Challans

Mitchell and Rosanna

McSwane

Brandon Chambers

Corey and Rhonda Hale

Frederick and Christine

Zumbrunn

Gordon and Marilyn Lund

Randell and Debra

Strasser/Ratner

Lucas and Anita Connelly

Michael and Cherie Scott

“Three Years”

Refugio and Tonya

Vallin/Ballin

Clarence and Drenna Bean

Danny and Paula Peacock

Carla Shepard

Judy Ross

David (Trey) and Tia

Collins

Mariam Njoku

“Five Years”

Lorenzo and Mary

Jackson

“Ten Years”

Clarence (Ed) and Shelley

Pearce

Anthony and Carin

Bockelman

“Fifteen Years”

Jeffery and Ranonda

Thompson

Gayle Imonitie (Elliott)

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Meet Dakota! He likes playing outside, watching TV, and going fishing. Dakota's favorite class in school is music; he really enjoys making and listening to music. Dakota will need continued encouragement to tend to his daily needs. He will need services in place in the community and at school in order to be successful. Dakota is academically behind in school and functions on a level much younger than he is. He relates well to peers and adults. An ideal family for Dakota is one with a strong male role model that can offer him an abundance of support and understanding. He will also need a family that is comfortable with providing Dakota with structure, discipline, and boundaries.



For more information on Dakota, please
contact Kendra Beaman at
(316) 322-0260.

June 2012 Support Meetings

Anthony: Friday, June 22, 2012 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at the Rock River Rapids Aquatic Park, 1900 E. James St., Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.
Chanute: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS. Topic: Preventing Disruptions and Audit Information.
Concordia: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 and 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. Topic: Power Struggles, Sharing Control Through Choices.
El Dorado: Friday, June 22, 2012 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at the Rock River Rapids Aquatic Park, 1900 E. James St., Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.
Emporia: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Emporia TFI Office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. Topic: Food Hoarding.
Fort Scott: Monday, June 25, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. Topic: Adoption.
Hutchinson: Thursday, June 7, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. Topic: Sixth Class of Love and Logic Parenting.
Independence: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. Topic: Recruitment and Retention.
Iola: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS. Topic: Preventing Disruptions and Audit information.
Kansas City: Thursday, June 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Kansas City, KS. Topic: "What Goes in Red Books?" **Bring your child's Red Book and we'll help you organize them!**
Leavenworth/Atchison: Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Atchison Public Library, 401 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS. Topic: **Redbook Training. Bring your kids' red book with you.**
Lawrence: Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th St. Topic: Surviving SRS and KDHE Foster Care Investigations. RSVP date is June 25th.
Manhattan: Monday, June 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Manhattan TFI office, 116 S 4th St, Manhattan, KS. Topic: Understanding the Purpose of Misbehaviors.
Overland Park: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd., Ste. 301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: Partnering with Parents.
Parsons: TBA
Phillipsburg: Monday, June 18, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lakeside Grade School, Downs, KS. Topic: Stress Reduction and Management.
Pittsburg: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg KS. Topic: Running Away.
Salina: Monday, June 11, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS Topic: Trust Based Parenting.
Topeka: Tuesday, June 19 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. Topic: Helping Children Manage their Anger.
Winfield: Friday, June 22, 2012 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at the Rock River Rapids Aquatic Park, 1900 E. James St., Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.
Wichita: Friday, June 22, 2012 from 7:45pm to 9:30pm at the Rock River Rapids Aquatic Park, 1900 E. James St., Derby, KS. Topic: Appreciation Event.

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.

