

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Curtiss Hemby
Jason Cecil

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Corner

Recruitment Moment

I Need You-Do You Need Me?

Dear Daisy

Care Providers of the Month

Nutrition for Kids and Teens Training

Nutrition for Kids and Teens Training Q&A

Children's Alliance Training Calendar

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: CURTISS HEMBY

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

The Last Stretch

March seems to mark the beginning of the "last stretch" of the school year for our children. For us adults involved, it feels like the school year just started last week. However, for the children involved, it feels as if they have been going to school non-stop their entire lives. The one thing both adults and children have in common this time of year is what many of us refer to as "Spring Fever." This can be a very challenging time of year for adults due to the fact that we not only have to figure out how to manage our own "Spring Fever"; but also have to help the children manage theirs.

If spring has brought on a bad case of the sillies for your special child, here are some possible explanations -- and what to do about them.

Allergies

Your child may not have the body awareness or language skills necessary to explain to you about the tingle in his nose or the pressure in her sinuses, but the lightheadedness and "spacey" feeling that often accompanies allergies can leave kids feeling distracted and disoriented. If itchy eyes, sniffles, or headaches accompany the onset of silliness at your house, check with your pediatrician about the possibility of an allergy diagnosis.

Weather

The wild swings in weather that often come with the onset of spring can represent a disruption of routine for kids who are sensitive to change. Changes in climate can bring changes in air pressure that can have a kid feeling out of sorts for no good reason. Long days of rain and the lack of outdoor play this brings can make kids antsy, and staring out a classroom window at a beautiful sunny day can make them restless. Try to keep routines as consistent as possible, and have a stash of fun rainy-day activities at hand.

Growth spurt

If your child tends to shoot up in height around this time of year, be aware that this can be a profoundly disorganizing process for him or her. Children with sensory integration and motor planning problems may find the difference in length of limbs and distance to the floor confusing and frustrating, and they might have to completely revise their already blurry body awareness. Clumsiness, anger, regression of motor skills, tears for no reason, and an attitude of "giving up" can all be signs that your child is poorly coping with a growth spurt. Explaining the situation may help, and extra support and lowered expectations will likely be called for.

Developmental leap

At this point, about three-quarters of the way through the school year, kids may be making major developmental leaps. They may be speaking more, reading more, understanding more, processing more, moving more, sensing more, and feeling more. Those are all good things. They're also bad things because when children with special needs jump to a new

developmental level, everything has to come apart and get put back together again in a stronger, more advanced form. That falling-apart time can be difficult for everyone, but hold on: Things will be better when it's over.

The same, for parents

Kids aren't the only ones to react to these springtime stressors. Parents do, too. You might be suffering from allergies, feeling the changes in weather, going crazy with closet changes, agonizing over the way your spring clothes fit, getting caught up in vacation plans, and worrying about what to do with your child over spring break, and all of these things will up your stress level and lower your levels of patience, understanding, and time to spend with kids. Your child is likely to react to that negatively. Stop and take a look at whether your stress may be contagious, and smell the flowers. Help your child smell them, too. Thoughts extracted from *Spring Fever* and *Welcome to Silly Season* in Terri Mauro's *Children with Special Needs* Guide on about.com

"Remember, spring fever is not an illness; it's something to be embraced. If you keep things structured, entertaining and developmentally appropriate, then your children will move with the changing seasons and maintain responsibilities at home, school and wherever else springtime pursuits take them."
Parenting Guide News, By Bette Holtzman

Curtiss Hemby, LMSW, Director of Resource Family Services

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

One of the most important tasks we have is to continue supporting our current foster home base. We are always trying to find ways to thank you for doing all the work you do with the children in your care. One of the things we are going to continue is the Sam's Club Memberships / Gift Cards. For any home that has two or more children in their care for the month, you will be eligible for a drawing for the one year membership and \$500 gift card to Sam's Club. This has been a huge success and we will continue this to show our support for you as one of our Foster Parents. We have been able to provide this for 18 families over the last year and a half, and it has been fun for us to do so.

We also are still giving a \$300 Recruitment Incentive for any family that refers a new family to TFI Family Services who becomes a licensed home. So go share your wonderful stories of being a foster parent with your friends, family, and church members who you feel would make a great foster/adoptive parent. Have them call our 800-279-9914 toll free number or visit our website at www.tfidfamilyservices.org and request more information on how to start their journey. Make sure to have them tell us you referred them.

Happy Recruiting and Good Luck !!

Jason Cecil, MSW, Recruitment Manager



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

**Welcome
New Resource
Families**

- Michelle Regular
- Michael and Tamara Hagemann
- Lutricia Felix
- Wanda Novack
- William and Donna Schirmer
- Angela Crumer
- Dale and Jody Munk
- LaTasha Mewborn
- Jonilyn Campbell
- Craig and Robin Reager
- Thomas and Michele O'Neil**
- Adam and Tiare (Tia) Grundleger
- Douglas and Thea Bower
- Toni Cox
- Nelda Swan



Reminders

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

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

Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

I have been trying to recruit some new families for TFI and have referred several, but I have not received my Recruitment Incentive yet. Can you tell me why?

*Signed,
Confused*

Dear Confused,

I would be happy to help you. If you refer a family to become a new foster/adoptive home for TFI, the family must officially get their Foster Home license before we will release the incentive dollars. Also remember that there is no cap on the number of families that you can refer. **If you refer 10 families that become licensed we'll give you \$3,000 in incentive dollars** for your efforts. So please go out and share your stories and successes. Happy Recruiting !!

Signed

Daisy

*SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
KEVIN AND SHELLY SCOTT*

I would like to nominate Kevin and Shelly Scott for the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. Kevin and Shelly have been licensed with TFI Family Services for nearly one year, and this worker has only been assigned to their home since November. With that being said, he has only been impressed with this Resource Home. Since becoming foster parents, this home has accepted male placements with behaviors maintained all of them. Kevin and Shelly have yet to disrupt on a child placed in their home while taking Intensive Treatment placements.

Kevin and Shelly provide all transports for their children in care under 30 miles and have transported more than 30 miles many times. Twice in the last month, this family has transported a child to Topeka for a parent/child visit. This home takes a great interest in each child placed in their home and treats them individually. The home is in the process of becoming guardians for their 18-year old placement and their 10-year old is in the process of being adopted. Both children had many behaviors when initially placed in their home, but now they are thriving in the home, in school, and in the community.

Since taking over the Scott home, I have learned to appreciate the family's ability to foster difficult youth. The family remains calm and collected during difficult situations with their youth and do not "give up" on them. This foster home is an asset to Southeast Kansas and to TFI Family Services.

Submitted by,

Devin Eccles, RFW—Chanute

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
JARED AND PHYLCIA STAMP*

I would like to nominate Jared and Phylcia Stamp as the West Region Care Providers of the Month. They are a fairly new family that jumped right into foster care. It has been great to see all of the hard work that they are putting into the children in their care. They have the children involved in activities like Boys Scouts and the YMCA. The family includes the children in all the family activities and makes sure that the children get the same treatment as their own children. This family has done a great job communicating with the agencies involved and have been strong advocates for the children in order to get services that the children need in place.

This family has done an amazing job working with biological parents. Foster parents communicate directly with the bio-family and have been open to allowing family to come to their home. This foster family drove three hours to transport a child to a visit.

It is really nice to see a family that became foster parents for the right reasons. Thank you to Jared and Phylcia for becoming foster parents! You have done a great job representing TFI!!!

Submitted by,

Amanda Knowles, RFW—Wichita

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
GEORGE AND SHIRLEY LYLES*

George and Shirley Lyles have been nominated as the Northeast Region Care Provider of the Month. George and Shirley Lyles make sure the needs of the children in their care are met. They have been licensed resource parents for over 20 years and with TFI since 2008. The Lyles have served many high needs, teen youth with few disruptions. The family maintains commitment to youth even if the youth's needs are so high that that inpatient residential treatment is needed periodically. They have been willing to accommodate high needs even when those needs restrict them from taking additional placements. The Lyles have also encouraged both of their daughters to become licensed TFI resource parents. Previous placements continue to remain in contact with the Lyles after they leave their home. The Lyles view themselves as grandparents to all their placements.

George and Shirley do an excellent job of keeping their worker informed of any issues, concerns, and positive progress of children in their home. Mrs. Lyles has also completed the Educational Advocate Program, and serves her placements if they qualify for her services. TFI is very fortunate to have this couple be part of the fostering community.

Submitted by,

Susan Chaney, RFW— Manhattan

A Green Effort That's a Shoe-In

Submitted by Sara Willimon, Communications Specialist



When thinking of **green**, shoes is probably the not the first thing that comes to mind, but even your footwear can be eco-friendly. Many shoe-makers use recycled, organic, or all-natural materials. Others have shoe recycling programs, use renewable power, or eliminate the use of toxic chemicals.

Mainstream manufacturers like Toms, New Balance, Nike, and even a variety discount brands offer various green initiatives or shoe styles. Simply go to your favorite shoe store online and search "eco-friendly" or "recycled," or ask staff at the local store about eco-friendly options.

If you want to be thorough about getting the greenest shoes you can find, there are many green databases and search sites to help. One example of such a site, www.pristineplanet.com, lets you search for eco products, including shoes, by type of environmental impact. It includes options like green certification, made in USA, recycled/reclaimed, compostable, and more!

Resource Family Anniversaries

“One Year”

Carzie and Evelyn Brown

DeJuana Williamson

Christy Davis

Casey and Jennifer
Weed/Salkhill

Jim and Lisha Willard

Benjamin and Danielle
Blosser

James and Ruth Hawkins

Dixie Williams

Joseph and Emily
Davidson

Alison Despard

**Charles “Buck” and Anne
Sharp**

Charles and Amber
Lindberg

Kristopher and LaKendra
Simpson

Stephanie Williams

Brian and DeAnna Bahret

“Three Years”

Howard and Kelly
Alumbaugh

Rex and Sheila Wilson

William and Allison
Griesbach

Robert and Lavena Folk

Bryan and Laurel Hall

“Five Years”

Albert and Delores
Mongeau

David and Angela Drake

Joshua and Rebecca King

Robert and Katherine
Mitchell

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Ralph would like a forever family that spends time together and enjoys music. Ralph's hobbies include dancing, playing instruments, and playing video games. In school, his favorite class is math. Ralph can struggle with his behaviors in school and needs extra help with his school work to be successful. Ralph aspires to become a Texas Ranger or a drummer in a band someday. Ralph will need continued mental health services and medication management. He can sometimes become obsessive about things and repeats phrases when he is trying to cope with the high anxiety that he is feeling. Ralph likes to be in control and can sometimes try to parent those around him. He will need parents who will encourage Ralph to just be a kid and not boss others around. Ralph's forever family needs to be patient, understanding, and calm. He will need a home that can provide lots of structure and consistency.



For more information on Ralph,
please contact JoVonka Marks at
(785) 271-6657.

March 2012 Support Meetings

Anthony: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at The Wellington Recreation Center, 202 S. Jefferson Ave., Wellington, KS. **Topic:** TBA.
Chanute: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th Street, Chanute, KS. **Topic:** TBA.
Concordia: Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 & 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. **Topic:** Life Books.
El Dorado: Thursday, March 8, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS. **Topic:** Successful Fostering.
Emporia: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Emporia TFI office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. **Topic:** Domestic Violence
Fort Scott: Monday, March 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. **Topic:** Grief and Loss.
Hutchinson: Thursday, March 1, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. **Topic:** Third Class of Love and Logic Parenting.
Independence: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. **Topic:** Review Intensive Treatment Training.
Iola: Thursday, March 1, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Iola TFI office, 1702 N. State Street, Iola, KS. **Topic:** The Root of Responsibility.
Kansas City: Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 6:00p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Kansas City, KS. **Topic:** Licensing FAQs.
Leavenworth/Atchison: Monday, March 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at 929 1/2 Main St., Atchison, KS. **Topic:** Annual License Renewal Information.
Lawrence: Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th Street, Lawrence, KS. **Topic:** Taking Care of Yourself.
Manhattan: Monday, March 19, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Manhattan TFI office, 116 S. 4th Street, Ste. 1, Manhattan, KS. **Topic:** Teens/Sexual Activities.
Overland Park: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd, Ste. 301, Overland Park, KS. **Topic:** Licensing regulations, reminders, renewal paperwork, etc.
Parsons: TBA
Phillipsburg: Monday, February 27th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Oliff-Boeve Community Room, Phillipsburg, KS. **Topic:** Facebook/Internet Safety. This is the March support meeting.
Pittsburg: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg, KS. **Topic:** Lifebooks.
Salina: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. **Topic:** Open Forum for Resource Parents.
Topeka: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th Street, Topeka, KS. **Topic:** Helping Youth in Foster Care go on to Secondary Education.
Winfield: Monday, March 12, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Winfield TFI office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS. **Topic:** Licensing Recruitment.
Wichita: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Wichita TFI office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS. **Topic:** TBA

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@tffamily.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at 877-942-2239.

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