

Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength
of Family

Editors

Jason Cecil

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TFI Family Services, Inc.
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of Kansas Department
of Health and Environ-
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766.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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

Over the past several months, we've had an ongoing conversation about how, why and what TFI is working towards in making the best placement decisions for children. As a foster parent, you have a lot of responsibility in caring for children. Much of what I have shared about TFI's efforts has focused on the system of "Best Match", and how through research with The University of Kansas, we have begun to validate its help in making good placements for children. The efforts to validate, improve and make our matching system the best it can be is all based on doing what is right for children.

Knowing it is now the mid-point of the new school semester, I wanted to share some important information on how critical stable placements are to a child's success in education. From a research report published in July 2011, the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education

found that placement stability was directly linked to a child's educational achievement. In one study, children in foster care with one fewer placement per year were twice as likely to graduate high school. Similar research in this report noted how students who frequently move obtain lower scores on standardized tests.

This type of research and information means a great deal to all of us. We, as the agency and you, as the foster parent, are the ones working to ensure stability in homes. As I am sure many of you experience each day, children in foster often come with existing struggles or challenges in their education. Every decision we make to provide stability for a child in placement is linked back to improving their education as well. As all of us aid children in stability, we are also increasing their chances of life-long success through education. That is so exciting and so

impactful.

In closing, I leave you with a quote about the power of education and the role we play in navigating through the fog:

Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding line, and no way of knowing how near the harbor was. "Light! Give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.

Helen Keller

Thanks for providing that "Light."

Gaven Ludlow, MSW and MBA
Director of Resource Family
Services

RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

As an organization, we are working on increasing opportunities for our Foster Parents have to obtain training hours. TFI is going to revamp our training for families over this next year to better help you deal with today's youth. The Children's Alliance is conducting a survey to help determine what types of trainings are needed. This training needs assessment will help both the Children's Alliance and TFI determine what trainings will be beneficial to you as a foster home. Please visit the following the link and participate in this quick survey: www.childally.org/RP_NeedsAssess.html.

We are still looking for more foster homes in your community. Remember that TFI has increased its foster parent referral incentive to \$500. If you recruit a family that becomes a licensed TFI home, we'll send you a check for \$500. It's that simple. So spend these upcoming holiday seasons talking to friends, family and co-workers about the great experiences you have as a foster home. Every child should have a family for the holidays, so let's do our part to expand our wonderful TFI foster family base. Please have any interested families contact us at www.tffamilyservices.org or call 1-800-279-9914.

Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

**Welcome
New Resource
Families**

- Brett and Sha Callaway/Scheuerman-Callaway
- Donna Craig
- Mike and Lisa Marie Deghand
- Brian and Rachel Flanagan/White
- Kenny and David Cochrane/Gonzalez
- Kandi Starr
- Brandon and Jamel Chambers/Jones
- Erin and Ruby Bowen/Phillips
- Rueban and Staci Vazquez/Gouveia
- Jenae Deters
- Victor and Nicole Harris
- Cameron and Lyslie Shifflett
- John and Chris Whetzell/Beem
- Cherilyn Fienen

Reminders

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

TFI Family Services, Inc. will be closed the following days in November:
*Monday, November 12th
*Thursday, November 22nd
*Friday, November 23rd.

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

Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

I noticed we quit receiving the Between Families newsletter, but I was able to find it on the Website. Did you quit sending out the newsletter?

*Signed,
Confused*

Dear Confused,

*We think the Between Families Newsletter has a lot of valuable information and keeps our foster families up to date on what is going on with the agency. **We have "gone green" with our newsletter, and it is now available electronically over e-mail or on our Website, www.tfifamilyservices.org.** You need to make sure if you are not receiving it via e-mail that you talk with your RFS worker and give them your updated email address so they can place it on your profile. If you do not have a personal computer available to you, you may remain on a physical mailing list. Just call your RFS worker and let them know you would like to still receive a hard copy of Between Families.*

Happy Holiday,

Daisy

*SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
ANGIE FOGLEMAN AND TIM HAMBLETON*

Angie Fogleman and Tim Hambleton are nominated as the Southeast Region Care Providers of the Month. This family works with high level of care children that come into the foster care system and have maintained placement. They have been through a lot of criticals and never once said the word disruption. They have also worked well with their workers making it easy to set appointments and case plans. This family also has been a joy to work with they are a very understanding family to work with.

This family takes their foster child to all of his appointments, even if it means taking off at work to do so. This family also includes their foster child on every vacation they have been on. If that child cannot go for some reason, they **will not go on the trip.** They work around their foster child's needs and wants without complaint.

Tim and Angie have been a foster family for about 4 years now and are one of the most understanding families that I have worked with.

Submitted by Tara Barnes, RFS—Parsons

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
MARIAM NJOKU*

Mariam Njoku has been nominated as the West Region Care Provider of the Month. Mariam Njoku has been a resource parent with TFI since June 2009. She has been providing excellent care for two I/DD youth for 3 years. These young men are a challenge-but Mariam has a way with them that no one else can match. She takes them on cruises and vacations with her family and is there for them 24/7. If it were not for Mariam, there is no doubt these youth would be living in facilities as there is not another foster parent who could care for them as well as she does. Many support service providers have come and gone, and the school has thrown up their hands many times, but Mariam charges on-never doubting her abilities and her love for these boys. Thank you, Mariam from the bottom of our hearts!

Submitted by Sara Adams, RFW and Nicole Booze, RFS Supervisor—Wichita

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
GREGG AND HEATHER BURCHAM*

Gregg and Heather Burcham have been nominated for Northeast Region Care Providers of the Month. They have cooperated with RFS and Reintegration Staff for any tasks they needed to complete for themselves, (i.e., Licensing) and for their foster child (i.e., taking him to medical appointments, court, attending case plans, etc.). They have also demonstrated respect and discernment when working with TFI staff, and they have supported any Reintegration and RFS Staff goals that have been placed before them.

They have done a great job maintaining contact with their foster child's biological mother. The Burchams have written letters back and forth to their foster child's birth mother, sent her pictures to keep her updated on her son's life, and otherwise strived to maintain that important parent/child bond for their foster child.

Submitted by Janet Hickey, RFS—Topeka

De-Stress the Holiday Season

Submitted by, Sara Willimon, Communication Specialist

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is easy to get caught up in holiday party-hosting and gift-giving stress. Let's go back to what makes holidays so great - spending time with family, a compassion for others, and a generosity of spirit. Try these tips to relieve holiday season stress on you, your wallet, and the environment:



- Remember when you bought a big, costly toy yet the kids only played with the box it came in? It's a great reminder that imagination, homemade items, and time playing together are more important than spending a fortune on piles of toys and trinkets.
- Gift outside the box. Feel good about shopping for gifts by buying locally made, handcrafted, fair trade, recycled, or charitable gifts.
- Use washable place settings for family gatherings, but also help lighten the load on the host by doing potluck style meals and making clean up a family affair. For competitive families, cleanup could even be turned into a game!

Resource Family Anniversaries

“One Year”

Terica Hall

Lawrence and Karen
Roberts

Cameron and Jennifer
Magnall

Daniel and Patricia
Burgess

Clinton and Tanya Castor

Wayne and Lisa Goodall

Todd and Kelli Weaver
Jane Van Donge

Allen and Jennifer Fisher

Arthena Easterwood

Nicholas and Christin
Withington

Christina Aquino

**Josh and Teresa “Trina”
March**

Adam and Sara Polansky

James and Florence Frost

“Three Years”

Holly and Denita Baker

Dolores M. Gonzalez

Chester and Rose Adams

Mary Norris

Royce and Lorianne
Muller

Mark and Heather
Haseman

“Five Years”

Travis and Anne Abbott

Thomas and Bridget
Becker

Thomas and Crystal Hall

Robert (Dean) and Janice
Becannon

“Ten Years”

Tom and Theresa
Gallagher

I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?



Chelsea is a friendly young lady who enjoys swimming, riding her bike and playing outside. She likes being helpful; she does well with praise and using charts to track her progress. Chelsea works hard at improving her listening skills and following directions. She needs a family with lots of patience and the ability to understand her limitations while at the same time encouraging her to try new skills and stick with difficult tasks. Chelsea does best when she is on a schedule and she knows what to expect. She needs assistance with transition periods and coaching about what is expected of her during those transitions. Chelsea will need supervision and role modeling of appropriate behaviors when around children and pets. Chelsea would benefit from continued social skills training and opportunities to interact with her peers outside of the classroom setting. In school, Chelsea will need daily support in order to be successful academically and behaviorally. She will need continued therapy services to address her past abuse and any new struggles she may face. Most of all she needs a forever family that will love her just the way she is and stand by her no matter what.

For more information on Chelsea,
please contact Mary Martinez
at (785) 539-1017 ext. 5223.

November 2012 Support Meetings

Chanute: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS. Topic: Personal Hygiene.

Concordia: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI office, 516 & 518 Washington St., Concordia, KS. Topic: Surviving the Holidays.

El Dorado: Thursday, November 8, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th, El Dorado, KS. Topic: Parents as Leaders.

Emporia: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the TFI Emporia office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. Topic: Independent Living for Teens.

Fort Scott: Monday, November 26, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS. Topic: Investigations.

Garden City: Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the First Christian Church, Garden City, KS. Topic: Bring a Friend Night.

Hutchinson: No meeting for the month of November.

Independence: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Independence TFI Office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS. Topic: Resource Parents Report to the Court and the Renewal Process.

Iola: Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Iola TFI office, 1702 N. State St., Iola, KS. Topic: Social Emotional Development of Young Children and Behaviors.

Kansas City: Tuesday, November 6, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 5010 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, MO. Topic: **Managing Difficult Behavior's in Youth.**

Leavenworth/Atchison: Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Atchison TFI office, 929 1/2 Main St., Atchison, KS. Topic: Critical Incidents and APLI's.

Lawrence: Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th St., Lawrence, KS. Topic: A review of Love and Logic Parenting Techniques.

Manhattan: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Junction City TFI Office, 1013-A W. 8th St., Junction City. Topic: Adolescent Chemical Dependency.

Overland Park: Tuesday, November 6, 2012 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI Office, 8300 College Blvd., Ste 301, Overland Park, KS. Topic: Surviving the Holidays.

Parsons: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Parsons TFI office, 1906 Main St., Ste. B, Parsons, KS. Topic: Questions and Answers for Tara and Jennifer.

Phillipsburg: Monday, November 19, 2012 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Location to be announced. Topic: Understanding Anger and Anger Management.

Pittsburg: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lincoln Center, 710 W. 9th St., Pittsburg, KS. Topic: KDHE Regulations.

Salina: Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. Topic: Basic 1st Aid.

Topeka: Tuesday, November 6, 2012 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. Topic: There are 2, 1.5 hour topics and they are: Preserving your Relationship While Providing Foster Care AND Acting Out, Refusal, and Defiance.

Wellington: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at 514 N. Olive, Wellington, KS. Topic: Foster Kids—Hierarchy of Needs.

Winfield: Date, Time, and Location: TBA. Topic: Sexuality in Children.

Wichita: No support meeting for Wichita. Instead, families are invited to attend the National Adoption event on Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Four Points Ranch, 2900 SW 80th St., Augusta, 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@tffamily.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at 877-942-2239.

