



Happy
Valentine's Day!

**Are You A
FAFS
Member?**

Sign up at
www.fafsonline.org or call 800-222-0047 for an application!

**Warren County
Volunteer
Committee
Leaders**

Chairperson
Tammi Fennelly

Co-Chairperson
Cathie Fischer

Finance Chair
Greta Cirillo

Recording Chair
Faith Capitini

Correspondence Chair
Christine Dudas



February 2008
Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services/ 908-454-7574

Upcoming Events

February 18, 2008, 7pm

MONTHLY SUPPORT MEETING HARMONY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2727 BELVIDERE ROAD, HARMONY

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February 18, 2008 8-10pm
FAFS Teleconference
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
(ADHD)

February 26, 2008 8-10pm
FAFS Teleconference
Did You Forget Something??
*** recommended for the experienced
licensed resource family**

What could be easier than learning from the comfort of your own home and earning required continuing education credits? The next scheduled FAFS teleconference is on ADHD on 1/14/08, from 8-10pm. Call 800-222-0047 to sign up.

ADHD = 2 hrs SHSP continuing education training credit
Did You Forget Something? = 2 hrs training credit

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*Do You Need a Night Out, without your little ones?
Well, then this is for you read on!*

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!!!! Friday, February 15, 2008, 6-10pm

PINATA'S PLUS
479 Memorial Parkway / Route 22 East
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
908-387-1321

Members of FAFS can enjoy the wonderful benefit by bringing your children to Piñata's Plus from 6-10pm, at no charge. Those Resource Parents that are not members of FAFS will pay a nominal fee of \$20, 1st child and then \$15, each additional child.

Reservations need to be made in advance, for members and non-members! If you would like for your child to have a fun-filled evening of pizza, games, dancing, movies, popcorn and much play, call Tammi Fennelly at 908-454-7574 or send a quick e-mail to tammi568@ptd.net. I will need the names of each child, along with their age.

Mark Your Calendar!

March 17, 2008 6pm
County Workshop @
Harmony Presbyterian Church

On Solid Ground:
Permanency Planning for Children in Care

This workshop will not only look at the available methods and procedures used for achieving permanency in the life of a child in care, but, also explores the critical psychological and social impact on a child when permanency is not achieved within a reasonable time frame.

The course also addresses the role of the resource parent as an advocate for permanency and offers insights into the resulting feelings of loss that may be present when a child achieves a permanent home with someone other than the resource parent who has been involved with the child's care.

3 hrs in-service training credit – Registration for this workshop is suggested!

More information to follow on this workshop.

Valentine's Day Crafts for Kids

(as found on www.familyfun.com)

www.familyfun.com

is a wonderful website, geared to just that ... family fun! This website offers suggestions on arts & crafts, parties, recipes, games, travel, printable cards, and so much more.

Here are a few fun ideas for Valentine's Day crafts:

You Rule!

This craft is simply beyond measure!

CRAFT MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Ruler
- Card Stock
- Double-sided tape
- Marker

Time Needed: 30 Minutes or Less



1. Fold a piece of colored card stock in half. Cut a heart shape that's about 3 inches tall through both layers, leaving the tops of the hearts connected at the fold.
2. Place a small ruler (Dollar Tree!) between the hearts and fasten the bottom of the hearts together with double-sided tape.
3. Use scissors to cut a smaller heart from white card stock. Add a message with markers and attach it to the front of the valentine with double-sided tape.

Sweets for the Sweet – Naturally

A healthy way to express your affections!

CRAFT MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Apples, oranges, or bananas
- Cellophane candy or gift bags (available at craft or party stores)
- Decorative ribbon
- Scissors
- Card Stock
- Marker
- Hole Punch

Time Needed: Under 1 Hour



** Banana skins can turn brown and mushy if exposed to extreme temperatures.*

1. Place a piece of fruit in a cellophane bag and tie it closed with a length of ribbon.
2. Cut a heart from the card stock and add a message.
3. Punch a hole in the heart, slip it onto the ribbon, and tie a knot to keep the note in place.

Suggested Messages:

- "Orange" you glad it's Valentine's Day?
- You're the apple of my eye!
- I go bananas over you, Valentine!

Teacher Gift Ideas Also Available

There are some cute teacher gift ideas on the website also.

- Flowery Sentiments
- Kernels of Love *I really like this one!*
- Sweet Pea Pot
- I'm Cocoa for You

January 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Faith Capitini, Recording Chair

Total in Attendance: 6

Officers Present: Tammi Fennelly (Chairperson), Cathie Fischer (Vice Chairperson), Faith Capitini (Recording Chair)

Officers Absent: Chrissy Dudas (Corresponding Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:26pm, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

FAFS Updates/Announcements – Walk-A-Thon scheduled for mid-Spring, early Summer 2008. Further details to follow.

Holiday Party – There were approx. 200 adults and children in attendance at the 2007 party. Discussion held regarding the 2008 party. Tentative date for 2008 is December 13th. We will extend the party from 2 hours to 3 hours (1-4pm), we will prepare a flyer to let all guests know who the vendors were that helped make the party a success, we will have 2 caricature artists in attendance if we go this option next year, and there will be additional desserts for all to enjoy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Villa Roller Rink – Looking at a possible date of Saturday, March 29th, from either 12-2pm or 2-4pm.

Land of Make Believe – Reservations to be made for Friday, June 27th. FAFS Members to pay \$10/per adult and/or child.

Parent's Night Out at Pinatas Plus – 2 events scheduled for Friday, February 15th and Friday, March 14th, from 6-10pm. FAFS Members children will attend with no charge; non-members to pay rate of \$20 for 1st child, \$15 each additional child.

Resignation of Laurie Braman, Treasurer – Tammi advised that Laurie has resigned as Treasurer due to personal reasons. Janice Freedman nominated Greta Cirillo for the remainder of the year; this was seconded by Cathie Fischer and approved by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – The approximate balance was reported.

Raffle of Restaurant Gift Card – Gift cards to La Bella Via, Charlie Brown's and Italian Sun were raffled off.

FAFS Presentation Scheduled: March 17, 2008 – FAFS will be presenting a workshop on March 17, 2008, entitled "On Solid Ground: Permanency Planning for Children in Care". The workshop will begin at 6pm, and will be held at the Church.

Presentation: Le'Te'An Beauty Supply – Annie joined us to discuss hair care and skin care for African-American children.

The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2008.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm as no other items were presented for discussion.

Adoption Tax Information – Adoption Credit & Special Needs Child

As found on the IRS website: www.irs.gov Topics – Tax Year 2007, Adoption

Adoption Credit: Beginning in 2007, the credit allowed for an adoption of a child with special needs is \$11,390 and the maximum credit allowed for other adoptions is the amount of qualified adoption expenses up to \$11,390. The credit begins to phase out if you have modified adjusted gross income of \$170,820 or more and is completely phased out if you have modified adjusted gross income of \$210,820 or more.

Other information found on website: www.adoptionblogs.com The Federal Adoption Tax Credit Explained

“Who is an “eligible child”?

- Nearly all adopted children are eligible for the credit.
- Must be under 18 years of age
- Be physically or mentally incapable of caring for him/herself
- Must be a US resident when the adoption is finalized
- *A child with special needs if he/she is a US citizen or resident and a state determines that the child can't or shouldn't be returned to his/her birth parents' home and probably won't be adopted unless assistance is provided.*

← *this is the important one for those of us that have adopted through DYFS*

Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services

324 Liberty Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

PHONE:

908-454-7574

E-MAIL:

tammi568@ptd.net

We are working on getting back on the web! Stay tuned for further details.

Thanks to Staples and Adopt US Kids for financial support to produce our monthly newsletters.



Who Can I Call?

If you need support or advice, need help identifying resources, need advice regarding court hearings, need ideas for overcoming challenging behavior or need help navigating the DYFS system, all you need to do is pick up your phone and call.

FAFS Hotline

For information, support and training call 800-222-0047. www.fafsonline.org

Resource Family Support Network

These Resource Parents are available to other resource families who may need to talk to someone. • Tammi Fennelly 908-454-7574 • Laurie Braman 908-454-5645 • Greta Cirillo 908-213-1953 • Michele Gleason 908-454-1202 • Cathie Fischer 908-454-6088 • Chrissy Dudas 908-859-3064 • Shirley Stocker 908-454-4029 • Nancy Deska 908-454-8932 • Gail Sacelaris 908-454-6954 • Bonnie Rooks 908-859-2056 • Amanda Kling 908-213-3022.

If you would be willing to help other resource parents, give Tammi a call so we can add you.

About Our Organization...

The Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services (WCFAFS) is a volunteer committee of the Foster and Adoptive Services (FAFS). We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to the support and advocacy of foster/adoptive families in the area of Warren County, New Jersey, and the children placed in their care by the State Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). We sponsor various activities for families, including monthly support meetings for foster/adoptive parents, backpacks with essential items to children entering foster care, and various social events throughout the year. One of the most important things we offer is support and encouragement to each other.

**DYFS Resource Family Support Unit
Warren/Somerset/Hunterdon Area
908-730-7782 866-332-3693**

- Nancy Catalano**, Casework Sup x2003
- Jaclyn Pijut**, Resource Family Support Workers Supervisor x2013
- Cathy Pertisis**, Facilitation, Recruitment and Training Supervisor x 2029
- Art Kolbjornsen**, Trainer x 2003
- Gerald Grube**, Recruiter x 2015
- Jillian Adie**, Support Worker & SHSP Coordinator, x 2016
- Anita Clark Brosky**, Support Worker & Facilitator, x2011
- Melanie Smith**, Support Worker x2024

Don't forget to speak directly to the people directly responsible for your child's case, your caseworker, their supervisor, the office casework supervisor and finally the local office manager.

**Child Placement Review Board
(CPR Board) Coordinator**

Terri Vliet, 908-475-6167 or 6171

**Value Options
Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response**

877-652-7624

**New Jersey Adoption
Resource Clearing House
(NJARCH)**

877-427-2465 or www.njarch.org

WCFAFS

324 Liberty Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

Help us save money sending out our newsletters by sharing your e-mail address to tammi568@ptd.net

