

Heart Gallery of New Jersey, Inc.



DID YOU KNOW??

- Half of all children in foster care are over the age of 10?
- Each year, 20,000 teenagers “age out”, leaving the system without finding a permanent adoptive family.
- More than 100 children from the Heart Gallery of New Jersey 2005 exhibit have been placed in permanent homes.
- NJ has 1,740 foster children available for adoption nationwide.
- There is no charge by DYFS to adopt. Payment of legal fees is one of the benefits offered through adoption subsidy, so many families adopting children through DYFS will have that cost covered for them.
- Families who adopt children who are difficult to place or have special needs are eligible to receive monthly subsidies, medical coverage and assistance with childcare and other services.

Baby/Toddler Items Needed

If you have any baby and/or toddler items that you no longer have a need for, and can donate to the group, so that another resource parent can utilize, please call Tammi Fennelly at 908-454-7574 or via e-mail at tammi568@ptd.net.

Here are just some ideas that we need to replenish:

- bassinets
- cribs
- pack-n-plays (playpens)
- strollers
- car seats (infant & toddler)
- high chairs

Any items not listed above, could also be stored in our storage shed.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

The Heart Gallery of New Jersey is a unique not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about foster children available for adoption.

The “100 Waiting Children” gallery will be on display at various venues through New Jersey in 2008. Upcoming events are:

- **April 2008**, Summit Medical Group, Berkeley Heights, NJ
- **May 2008**, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
- **July/August 2008**, The Historical Society of Princeton

This year, “100 Waiting Children” focuses on New Jersey’s foster children who have been in the foster care system the longest and are in need of finding a permanent home before they “age out” of the foster care system.

Most Heart Gallery exhibitions will feature individual and group portraits of approximately 100 foster children legally free for adoption. The Heart Gallery website provides detailed background information on each child.

For more information on the Heart Gallery of New Jersey, visit the following website:

www.heartgallerynj.org

WCFAFS Website Update

We are diligently trying to get our website up and running. We are hopeful that this will be completed within the next several weeks. One of the sources on the website will contain a page directing you to Doctors and Specialists. Being in Warren County, we are very limited with access to specialists. We thought this section would provide useful information to find just that specialist that you may need!

So, we are requesting your assistance. If you currently are utilizing a doctor/specialist (or have utilized a specific doctor in the past), can you please let us know their information so that it can be added to our website. We would need to know the following information:

- name of the doctor
- group/practice name that doctor associated with
- phone number
- their specialty (pediatric neurologist, ADHD, etc.)
- whether or not they take straight Medicaid and/or any type of HMO

You can e-mail this information to Tammi Fennelly at tammi568@ptd.net or drop her a quick note to 324 Liberty Road, Stewartsville, NJ 08886.

Thank you.

February 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Faith Capitini, Recording Chair

Total in Attendance: 10

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

Officers Absent: Greta Cirillo (Finance Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07pm, and welcomed everyone in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

FAFS Updates/Announcements – Walk-A-Thon dates pending for either 9/28/08 or 10/19/08.

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.

Villa Roller Rink – Skating party will be on 3/29/08, 10-12pm. No charge for FAFS Members; non-members \$20/family.

Parent’s Night Out, Pinata’s Plus – 2/15/08 Event had 27 children in attendance. Next event to be scheduled for April.

Land of Make Believe – Friday, 6/27/08. FAFS Members to pay \$10/per adult and/or child.

NEW BUSINESS:

FAFS Updates/Announcements:

Annual Meeting – to be held on 3/1/08, 8:30am at Crown Plaza, Monroe Township.

Change to Volunteer Committee Agreement – Appointment of County Leaders (Chair and Co-Chair) will now be appointment by FAFS Board vs Elections by Membership Vote. Other Board Members to be appointed by the Chair/Co-Chair.

Annual Recognition Dinner – will be on 5/2/08. Remember to submit a Warren County Resource Parent for recognition. Children’s Art Contest forms due 4/1/08.

Resource Family Advocate – Our Resource Family Advocate is Miguelina Nunez and she can be reached at 1-800-222-0047, x2051.

Treasurer’s Report – The approximate balance was reported.

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2008, which is the FAFS Presentation.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm, as no other items were presented for discussion.

FAFS Calendar of Events

Bicycle Raffle

From: 2/1/08
To: 3/31/08
Place: Online Training

Take an online training between February 1st and March 31st, and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of three (3) bikes:

- 16 inch Murray Bike
- 20 inch NEXT Mako Bike
- 26 inch Roadmaster

Contact: Training Department
800-222-0047

Sponsor: FAFS

FAFS Annual Recognition Dinner

From: 6:00pm 5/2/08
To: 10:00pm 5/2/08
Place: Sheraton, Eatontown, NJ

Contact: Nicky Samuels, 609-520-1500
Sponsor: FAFS

Further information to follow.

To get directions to the hotel, visit the following web address:
<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/are/directions.html?propertyID=951>

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.

The website will hopefully be up and running within the next few weeks.

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.

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

