



# FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILY SERVICES

Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
 A Local Volunteer Committee of New Jersey Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
 May 2008

*Being a full-time mother is one of the highest-salaried jobs .... since the payment is pure love.*

Mildred B. Vermont

## Are You A FAFS Member?

Membership in FAFS is just \$20 per year. Contact 1-800-222-0047 for more information. All activities of Warren County FAFS are open to all Resource Families in our county, however non-member families are occasionally charged a small fee.

## Warren County Volunteer Committee Leaders

Chairperson  
 Tammi Fennelly

Co-Chairperson  
 Cathie Fischer

Finance Chair  
 Greta Cirillo

Recording Chair  
 Faith Capitini

Correspondence Chair  
 Christine Dudas

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, May 19, 2008, 7 pm**

**Monthly Support Group Meeting**

**Change in Meeting Location!!!**

**Charlie Brown's  
 1603 Springtown Road in Alpha**

Come join us for a night of relaxation and fun.

Due to the change in meeting location, if you will be joining us at this meeting, please call Tammi at 908-454-7574 to RSVP or send an e-mail to [tammi568@ptd.net](mailto:tammi568@ptd.net). Hope to see you there!



**Sunday, October 19, 2008**

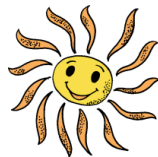
**Check-In Begins at Noon.**

**Walk Begins at 1:30pm**

**Foster and Adoptive Family Services  
 In Conjunction With  
 The National Foster Parent Association  
 Invites You to Walk With Us!**



For more information, visit [www.WalkMeHome.org](http://www.WalkMeHome.org) or call FAFS at 1-800-222-0047 for a registration packet. Further details to follow in upcoming Newsletters.



**Friday, June 27, 2008, 9:30am – 6pm**

**Land of Make Believe Picnic**

**Hope, NJ**



This year's picnic at The Land of Make Believe in Hope, NJ will be held on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 6pm. Drinks and snacks will be provided by WCFAFS. Bring your own lunch or buy lunch at the park.

Price for Members: \$10 per person, adult or child  
 Price for Non-Members: \$15 per person, adult or child

Children under the age of two (2) are free, but are limited to certain rides.

Please RSVP by **May 10<sup>th</sup>** to Tammi Fennelly via e-mail at [tammi568@ptd.net](mailto:tammi568@ptd.net) or by phone at 908-454-7574. Please advise the number of adults and the number of children that will be attending, along with ages of all children.

**Payment for all tickets to be made in advance, no later than May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Checks should be made payable to: WCFAFS, and mailed to Tammi Fennelly, WCFAFS, 324 Liberty Road, Stewartsville, NJ 08886. If money is not received by deadline, you will need to pay regular rate at the gate.

Rain Date: Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

## Happy Mother's Day Everyone!!!!

### Before I Was A Mom:

- ❖ I made and ate hot meals.
- ❖ I had unstained clothing.
- ❖ I had quiet conversations on the phone.
- ❖ I slept as late as I wanted and never worried about how late I got into bed.
- ❖ I brushed my hair and my teeth everyday.
- ❖ I cleaned by house each day. I never tripped over toys or forgot words of lullabies.
- ❖ I didn't worry about whether or not my plants were poisonous. I never thought about immunizations.
- ❖ I had never been puked on, pooped on, spit on, chewed on, peed on, or pinched by tiny fingers.
- ❖ I had complete control of: my thoughts, my body, and my mind.
- ❖ I slept all night.
- ❖ I never held down a screaming child so that doctors could do tests, or give shots.
- ❖ I never looked into teary eyes and cried.
- ❖ I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin. I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.
- ❖ I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put it down.
- ❖ I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt.
- ❖ I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much.
- ❖ *I never knew that I could love someone so much.*

### Top 10 Fun Things About Being a Mom ...

10. You have unlimited access to toys.
9. You have someone who is almost always ready and willing to cuddle.
8. You get to learn the highly sophisticated language of cries. For example, there's the typical "I need to drift off to sleep cry" and there's the "I'm outraged and I'm about to clobber my brother over the head with a fire truck" cry. It's a fascinating field of study.
7. You can stick with the kiddie rides at the amusement park and nobody will think you're a wimp.
6. You can buy a family pass to the amusement park and ride roller coasters all summer long!
5. Your kid's won't think you're rude if you stuff your mouth full of gum and blow humongous bubbles. While grown ups would smirk in astonishment, kids will laugh hysterically and beg for more when the bubble pops all over your face.
4. In the event that your kid gets stuck, you get to climb the play equipment at McDonald's to rescue them.
3. A little bit of knowledge goes a long way in impressing your kids. For example, if you can make a dog out of Legos, you're the smartest mom in the world!
2. If you can make cupcakes in an ice cream cone, you are a culinary genius.
1. You can spend an entire day playing, coloring, reading books or building castles, and it is a wise investment of your time.



## Can We Have Your E-Mail Address???



Each month, our group spends about \$45 in postage to mail out the monthly newsletters to all foster and adoptive families in Warren County who we do not have an e-mail address for. We send out about 10 newsletters each year, so this is an average cost of about \$450. We would like to reduce that cost if at all possible, and put our savings towards other functions throughout the year (i.e., the holiday party, Parents Night Out, Land of Make Believe, etc.).

One of the advantages of sending the Newsletters out via e-mail, is that Resource Parents receive the newsletters within the first few days of each month, versus towards the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, if there are any informative items that I may receive from other organizations/groups (i.e., tax information, meetings, etc.), an e-mail is sent to all members who we have an e-mail address for.

***So, we are asking this ..... will you please provide our group with your e-mail address? Your e-mail address will be held in the strictest of confidence by the Co-Chairs of WCFAFS, and will not be given out for any solicitation purposes. All e-mails are sent as "blind" so that no other members are privy to other member's e-mail addresses.***

Please send Tammi an e-mail at [tammi568@ptd.net](mailto:tammi568@ptd.net) or give her a call at 908-454-7574 with your e-mail address. Again, your e-mail will be held in the strictest of confidence and will not be given out.

Visit Us on the Web at:  
[www.wcfafs.org](http://www.wcfafs.org)

## New Director for the Division of Youth and Family Services Announced

**(Release Date: March 27, 2008)** [www.state.nj.us/dcf/news/press/080327\\_newdyfsdirector.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/news/press/080327_newdyfsdirector.html)

Christine Mozes, LSW, was named the new director of the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) today, New Jersey's primary child protection and welfare agency and the largest division within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Christine recently served as the deputy director of DYFS for the past 2 years – most notably serving as the lead in the statewide implementation of DCF's Case Practice Model. The Case Practice Model, one of the most important and ambitious aspects of state's child welfare reform effort, will fundamentally change how DYFS interacts and supports children and families involved with DYFS.

"I know first hand that Christine Mozes is a skilled manager, strong leader and compassionate public servant who is dedicated to ensuring that families are strengthened in order to safely care for their children," DCF Acting Commissioner Eileen Crummy said. "She is committed to guiding and supporting the entire DYFS workforce so that those goals can be achieved."

In addition to her recent work as DYFS Deputy Director, Mozes' experience in DYFS spans from her first work as a college and graduate school intern at DYFS to serving as Regional Assistant Director with oversight of seven counties in New Jersey's southern region, as well as a DYFS Area Director with complete management responsibilities over Mercer and Burlington counties.

"I am truly honored to serve in this new position and very proud to lead New Jersey's most dedicated and caring group of employees who make up the Division of Youth and Family Services," said Mozes. "Everyday I am amazed by the hard work and commitment of our DYFS caseworkers, supervisors and managers who are committed to the reform we continue to undertake because they know that their efforts, working with families, mean better lives and futures for those we are here to help."

Christine also worked for over ten years with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, serving as assistant director for youth services and director of behavioral health.

As DYFS Director, Mozes will lead a workforce of over 4,000 employees who are responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect, and, if necessary, arranging for the child's protection and providing services and treatment for the families to support keeping kids and families together. DYFS manages the statewide foster care and adoption system for kids who cannot, either temporarily or permanently, remain with their families.

Mozes received her Master of Social Work Administration, Policy and Planning from Rutgers University School of Social Work and received her Bachelor of Social Work from Stockton State College. Mozes replaces Eileen Crummy who previously served as DYFS Director until recently named DCF's Acting Commissioner by Governor Jon . Corzine.

## May Is National Foster Care Month! [www.cwla.org/programs/fostercare/fostercaremonth.htm](http://www.cwla.org/programs/fostercare/fostercaremonth.htm)



Every day, some 513,000 children and youth are living in foster care because their own parents can't take care of them. We must address the needs of these children, who need a stable and secure home until they can either return to their parents or establish a lifelong connection to a nurturing adult.

[National Foster Care Month](#) in May provides an opportunity for people nationwide to get involved as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or in other ways. It's also an opportunity to show our appreciation for the dedication of the foster families who care for these children and youth, and the social workers who support them.

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the [National Foster Parent Association](#) persuaded then-Senator Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution to proclaim May as National Foster Care Month. The first President Bush issued an annual proclamation during each year of his presidency, providing an impetus for state, county, and city proclamations. The main focus of the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide.

The Foster Care Month partnership now comprises [14 national organizations](#). CWLA invites you to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. Join us in making this a time to recognize and celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system.

For more information on how to get involved in National Foster Care Month activities, visit [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org), or check out the [Foster Care Month Toolkit](#) for ways you can show recognition for foster parents and social workers, tools for reaching out to reporters, materials for working with businesses and elected officials, fact sheets, and more.

## SUMMER SAFETY Summer is a Fun Time. Make it a safe time, too!

### WATER SAFETY

Drowning is one of the leading causes of child deaths each year. Here are some tips to help keep kids safe around water:

- ❖ **Never leave a child unattended around water.** Children are drawn to it, and very young children can drown in just an inch of water.
- ❖ Empty all buckets, pails and bathtubs completely after each use – do not leave them full and unattended.
- ❖ Always have an ADULT supervising young children.
- ❖ Don't mix alcohol and supervision of children.
- ❖ Be sure that the adult watching your child knows how to swim, get emergency help and perform CPR.
- ❖ Keep rescue equipment (such as life preserver or shepherd's hook) and a telephone near the pool.
- ❖ Plastic or blow-up wading pools should always be drained and stored in an upright position after each use.
- ❖ Enclose pools completely with a self-locking, self-latching fence. Do not leave furniture around that children can use to climb over the fence.
- ❖ Teach your child to swim at an early age.
- ❖ Flotation devices or inflatable toys are not substitutes for supervision, even if a child can swim.



### NEVER LEAVE A CHILD UNATTENDED IN A CAR

The temperature inside a car can get dangerously hot, even in moderate weather with the windows slightly down. Kids can suffer from heat stroke causing serious injuries and sometimes death.

Simply leaving the air conditioner on doesn't make your child safe. A child could put the car in drive, get caught in a closing power window or be abducted.

Here are some tips to keep kids safe around cars:

- ❖ Never leave a child unattended in a car. **Not even for a minute.**
- ❖ Always lock your car and secure the keys so that your kids can't get to them.
- ❖ Warn your children about playing in and around cars.
- ❖ Install a trunk release mechanism so that kids can't get trapped inside the trunk.
- ❖ Get your kids out of the car first, and then worry about unloading the groceries and items out of your car.

### OTHER SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS

- ❖ Have kids wear a properly fitted helmet when riding a bike, skateboard, scooter or roller-blading.
- ❖ Keep a shock-absorbing surface under and around home playground equipment.
- ❖ Always supervise kids on play equipment.
- ❖ Use caution with outdoor grills when children are present.
- ❖ Install window guards to prevent children from falling out of windows. Install in any room where young children spend time.
- ❖ Never depend on screens to keep children from falling out of windows.
- ❖ Limit sun exposure for kids and infants.
- ❖ Apply sunscreen, even on cloudy days, and reapply every 2 hours, or after swimming.

These tips were taken from the DCF Website. You may find this article at: [www.state.nj.us/dcf/state/campaigns/summersafety.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/state/campaigns/summersafety.html)

## THE HEART GALLERY OF NEW JERSEY ... Upcoming Exhibits!!



- **May 2008** Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
- **June 2008** Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, NJ
- **July 10 - Aug 22, 2008** Princeton Historical Society and Princeton Public Library
- **September 2008** Summit Medical Group, Berkeley Heights, NJ
- **October 2008** Rutherford Public Library, Rutherford, NJ

Check the website directly for updates of exact dates that the Heart Gallery will be at each location. [www.heartgallerynj.org](http://www.heartgallerynj.org)  
Once on the website, go to the box entitled **TAKE ACTION**, and click on "Visit a Heart Gallery exhibit near you".

## ALPHABET SOUP (DYFS Acronyms and Terminology)



our website at  
complete listing

A complete listing of **Alphabet Soup (DYFS Acronyms and Terminology)** can be found at [www.wcfafs.org](http://www.wcfafs.org), under Resources. If you do not have internet capability and would like a of Alphabet Soup, please contact Tammi at 908-454-7574 so that one can be mailed to you.

*Here is just a sample of some of the DYFS Terminology:*

**ARC** – Adoption Resource Center: Regional DYFS offices (North, Central, South, Metro) responsible for filing a guardianship complaint with the court, which is the first step toward terminating parental rights, and manages the adoption process for children who are available for adoption

**AREA OFFICE** – Department of Children and Families (DCF) office that coordinates services to families in a geographic area; 15 area offices are roughly aligned with NJ Judiciary vicinages

**ASFA** – Adoption and Safe Families Act: Federal legislation signed into law in 1997 that provides specific time limits for children living in out-of-home care (<http://www.kidlaw.org/main.asp?uri=1003&di=169.htm&dt=0&chi=1>)

**CASEWORKER** – A DYFS staff person who works out of a district office and is responsible for bringing a child to a foster home and managing the child's case

**CPR BOARD** – Child Placement Review Board: A panel of court-appointed volunteers who periodically review the progress of a child's case and make recommendations to the judge (<http://www.njcourtsonline.com/cpr/index.htm>)

**DAG** – Deputy Attorney General: The attorney who represents the state

**FACILITATOR** – A DYFS worker who works out of the regional foster care unit and is responsible for finding homes for foster children; this is the person who will call you to offer you a child for placement

**IEP** – Individual Education Plan: Mandated service plan and record of milestones for children classified in special a education program

**LAW GUARDIAN** – The attorney who represents a DYFS child; often sends an investigator to a foster home to visit with and interview child and foster family

**LO** – Local Office (formerly DO or District Office): local DYFS office that manages cases within a district (usually determined by county); this is where a caseworker's office is located

**SHSP** – Special Home Service Provider: A special DYFS foster home that is trained and equipped to care for foster children classified as "medically fragile"; often pronounced "ship" home.

**SUPERVISOR** – Supervises caseworkers and is also familiar with every case for every caseworker for whom they are responsible; acts as a backup for a caseworker (A Casework Supervisor supervises all supervisors in a DO)

**TPR** – Termination of Parental Rights: Court-ordered discontinuation of a birth/legal parent's legal rights to a child; can be result of a TPR (guardianship) trial or voluntarily surrendered.

## April 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Faith Capitini, Recording Chair

Total in Attendance: 12

Officers Present: Tammi Fennelly (Chair), Cathie Fischer (Co-Chair), Chrissy Dudas (Corresponding), Faith Capitini (Recording).

Officers Absent: Greta Cirillo (Finance)

Handouts: Child Health Unit Information from Eileen Corcoran

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.

**Special Presentation:** Child Health Units in Local DYFS Offices. Eileen Corcoran, Regional Nurse Administrator, came and discussed the Child Health Units that are being put in place the local DYFS Offices.

**Old Business: FAFS Updates/Announcements:** Walk-Me-Home Walkathon will be held on October 19, 2008. The Annual Recognition Dinner will be on Friday, May 2, 2008. Nomination and Appointments to WCFAFS Board are effective as of July 1, 2008. Nominations for Chair/Co-Chair are due to FAFS by April 22, 2008. **Land of Make Believe:** Is on Friday, June 27, 2008. \$10/per person, adult or child. RSVP by May 10<sup>th</sup>, with money due by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business: FAFS Updates/Announcements:** Spring Raffle Tickets are on their way. There will be a Statewide Resource Family Picnic in August, to be held at Black Bear Lake. Further details to follow. FAFS is now a recipient under United Way. The FAFS Foundation Board has been developed, and is pending IRS approval. **Treasurer's Report:** The current balance was reported. **Duffle Bags: the Hackettstown Sewing Guild and the Hackettstown Girl Scout Troop No. 948 donated Duffle bags for children in foster care.** Thank you notes were sent to both. **May Support Group Meeting:** We will hold our monthly meeting at Charlie Brown's in Alpha, at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Next meeting on May 19, 2008 at Charlie Brown's in Alpha, NJ

### Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services

324 Liberty Road  
Stewartsville, NJ  
08886  
PHONE:  
908-454-7574  
E-MAIL:  
[tammi568@ptd.net](mailto:tammi568@ptd.net)

WEBSITE:  
[www.wcfafs.org](http://www.wcfafs.org)

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**  
1-800-222-0047  
[www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org)

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

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

### 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 Sup, x2013
- Cathy Pertisis**, Facilitation, Recruitment and Training Supervisor, x2029
- Art Kolbjornsen**, Trainer, x2003
- Gerald Grube**, Recruiter, x2015
- Jillian Adie**, Support Worker and SHSP Coordinator, x2016
- Anita Clark Brosky**, Support Worker and Facilitator, x2011
- Melanie Smith**, Support Worker, x2024

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

**Child Placement Review (CPR) Board Coordinator**  
Terri Vliet, Team Leader 908-475-6167 or 6171  
Charlie Altemose, CIC Coordinator 908-475-6157

**Value Options, Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response**  
877-652-7624

**NJ Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJARCH)**  
877-427-2465 or [www.njarch.org](http://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](mailto:tammi568@ptd.net)

