

PUMPKINS
FOR SALE



PUMPKINS
FOR SALE



**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
Laurie Braman

Recording Chair
Faith Capitini

Correspondence Chair
Christine Dudas



FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILY SERVICES

October 2007

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

Upcoming Events

October 15, 2007, 7:00pm

HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN
2727 BELVIDERE ROAD, HARMONY

Come out to our October meeting and bring your outgrown coats and Halloween costumes. We'll have food, fun, coats, costumes and information to share.

Here are the dates for upcoming meetings for your calendar:

November 19, 2007	March 17, 2008
December 17, 2007	April 21, 2008
January 21, 2008	May 19, 2008
February 18, 2008	June 16, 2008

December 8, Holiday Party 2-4pm
Centenary College, Hackettstown



Join us for great food, gifts, Santa, balloons and face painting, family pictures, crafts projects led by Girl Scouts and live holiday music. We may even have a special appearance by former boxer Larry Holmes! Further details on the party to follow.

October 13, 2007

West Portal Pumpkin Patch
274 Asbury/West Portal Rd. Asbury



We are hosting our 8th Annual Pumpkin Patch event for Warren County Foster and Adoptive Families at West Portal Pumpkin Patch; 274 Asbury/West Portal Road, Asbury, NJ 08802. From 12pm to 2pm, children can enjoy the corn maze, hayride and a free pumpkin.

The little ones can enjoy the corn box (similar to a sand box) and the children's hay maze (obstacle course made out of hay bales). Call Tammi Fennelly at 908-454-7574 or e-mail at tammi568@ptd.net to reserve your spot. Adults and children under 1 are free. Children of members pay only \$3.00 but feel free to bring along friends for only \$7.00.

November 2007 is
National Adoption Month!

November is National Adoption Month, a month set aside to raise awareness about the adoption of children from foster care.

The 2007 National Adoption Month website is up and live on the Information Gateway. Go to:
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/nam/index.cfm>

This website provides resources for families on foster care adoption, characteristics of children waiting for adoption, and post adoption services in the Adoption and Achieving & Maintaining Permanency sections of Child Welfare Information Gateway's website.

This website provides useful information – take a quick look!

Introduction of New Chairperson

Hi, my name is Tammi Fennelly and I am now serving as your Chairperson for the Warren County Foster & Adoptive Family Services group. First, I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to Laurie Braman for her dedication as Chairperson over the past several years.

My family and I are fairly new to the Warren County area as we have only resided here since June 2006. Prior to moving to Warren County and becoming involved with the Warren County FAFS group, I was actively involved with the Middlesex County FAFS group. Talk about a change leaving Middlesex County and coming to Warren County! As my children say: "Mom, we now live in cow country!", and we love it! Over the past year, I have attended each of the monthly meetings at the Harmony Presbyterian Church, and have become involved as much as I could. I have made several contacts through this group, and I am pleased to say that I have made several friendships with other foster and adoptive parents that I feel will stay with me for years to come. Thank you to all of the ladies (and gentlemen!) who made me feel so welcome, going back to that very first meeting in September '06!

My husband (Rick) and I have been married since 1996, and we became involved with DYFS in 1999, when we began the process of becoming fost/adopt parents, and we are still here, 8+ years later! We have 4 adopted children through DYFS – Josh is 8 years old and in 3rd grade, Erich is 5 ½ years old and is in Kindergarten, and my girls, Kaelynn and Hannah (ages 4 ½ and 4 respectively), just entered Pre-K. All of my children attend Lopatcong Elementary School. We also currently have a foster daughter in our care, who is a year old (she has been with us since she was 5 weeks old, placed directly from the hospital), and we are hopeful that we can move forward with her adoption and make her a final member of our family. Yes, I am stopping at 5!!! We like to refer to our family as "The Heinz 57" bunch because we are a multiracial family.

One of the most memorable days for me, besides the day that each of our 5 children were placed with us, was the day that my family was honored in November 2004, as part of Adoption Awareness Month. We were honored as a family that had adopted children with special needs and as a family that had assisted the Division in Achieving Adoption for NJ's Waiting Children. What a day that was – not only meeting the Commissioner of DYFS, but also the Governor of NJ!

Some of my "extra-curricular activities" have included - serving on the Middlesex County Child Placement Review Board, prior to moving to Warren County. Trained as a Co-Trainer for PRIDE. I also serve on the Lopatcong Township School District Special Services Board. And now, I have the wonderful privilege of adding Chair of Warren County FAFS to my ever-growing list!

My husband works full-time in the construction field, and luckily, I am able stay at home with the children (prior to being a homemaker, I was in the banking industry as an administrative assistant). Did I say I was lucky? Running to and from school, to and from after-school functions (anyone else attend football practice 3-5 times a week?), going to those various, and seems never-ending, doctor and/or specialist appointments. We reside on Liberty Road (Route 637), in Stewartsville, in Lopatcong Township. We love it!

Foster care and adoption holds a very special place in my (and also my husband's) heart. Without foster care and adoption, I would not be as blessed as I am today to have 5 beautiful children who I love beyond reproach!

And, so now on to a new endeavor ... to try my hardest to do the best job that I can as the Chairperson of Warren County Foster & Adoptive Family Services. Please know that I am here for you whether by phone or e-mail, or if you just want to stop by to talk, vent, or cry.

Contact Information: (home) 908-454-7574 (e-mail) tammi568@ptd.net
324 Liberty Road,
Stewartsville, NJ

Sincerely,
Tammi Fennelly

Classifieds {Free Stuff}



If you have any items that you no longer have a need for, and would like to find a new home (i.e., car seats, bassinets, cribs, toddler beds, etc.) please e-mail Tammi Fennelly at tammi568@ptd.net so that a classified ad can be placed.

If you are in need of any items for foster children in your care, please call – we may have something in the storage unit for you!

Recently, we did receive a donation of several suitcases. If you have a foster child leaving your care, please contact Tammi so that you may be provided with a suitcase.

“Let’s Talk Adoption”

New Jersey’s 26th Annual "Let’s Talk Adoption" Conference is being held on Saturday, November 3rd at Rutgers University (Busch Campus) in Piscataway. The Keynote Speaker is Frank R. Kunstal Ed.D, P.C., who will be speaking on the topic of “Getting at the Mystery of Children’s Behavior.” Pre and Post adoption workshops (36 in total), including the following, will be offered:

- How to adopt
- Types of adoption
- Parenting issues
- Adoption issues
- School issues
- Plus 31 more!

The session begins at 8am.

The fee for this event is \$40/per person.

For more information or to register, contact Concerned Persons for Adoptions at www.cpfanj.org or at conference07@cpfanj.org or 908-273-5694.

Congratulations!!!

To Dave and Lori Rike who finalized the adoption of their daughter, Victoria, age 4, on September 12, 2007. Victoria is the 1st adopted daughter for Dave and Lori. Congratulations to the entire family!



Let Us Know About Your Adoptions!!!!

Please let us know if you have recently finalized adoptions of any children so that we may make mention in our upcoming newsletters. Of if any adoptions are pending, please also keep us in mind!

Please include the names of the children, their ages, how long they have been in your care, names of other family members that they have joined, and any other pertinent information you would like us to share with other members.

You can send the information to Tammi Fennelly at 324 Liberty Road, Stewartsville, NJ 08886 or via e-mail to tammi568@ptd.net.

If you have a new placement and need a backpack filled with age appropriate items or want to take advantage of any of the items listed in our classifieds, please call Laurie Braman at 908-454-5645.



“When A Child Needs Care, Be There”

Can You Help?? Ort Farms – Fostering Wishes Fundraiser

Our major annual fundraiser for the Fostering Wishes Program (\$75 grants to foster children annually) is being held the first three weekends in October in Long Valley, NJ. Our help is really needed to support this mission by donating a few hours of our time either during the event or before putting together items to be sold at the event. Warren County children benefit from having special wishes granted each year. As one of the counties that benefit most from this program, we are hopeful that each of you can help if you can!

Ort Farms Hours are 10am – 4/5pm on the following dates: October 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 20 and 21.

If you can help, please call Janet Farrand at 908-876-4419. Thank you.



Training Services for NJ Foster/Adoptive Parents Train Online, Home Correspondence, County Workshop, Teleconferences

FAFS' Training Department serves numerous functions to the foster and adoptive community. Their primary responsibilities include:

FAFS Training Online. Bridging time and distance, you will be able to take courses online at a time that is convenient for you. At this time, this service is ONLY available to licensed resource parents. Completion of each course attributes to maintaining licensure.

Home Correspondence Courses. Are educational pamphlets accompanied by videos that are mailed to resource parents. Completion of each course attributes to maintaining licensure.

County Based Trainings. Are given in each county once per year for members of the local Foster and Adoptive Family Services. These trainings also count towards maintaining licensure.

Teleconferences. Are 2-hour trainings delivered by experts in the field of the topic. It is a great convenient way to gain information, knowledge and training credits.

FAFS provides FREE Training to Licensed New Jersey Resource Families

FAFS TrainOnline Course Catalog – The courses contained information about subjects important to foster and adoptive parents. Some of these courses are also available in *en espanol!*

1. Clearing the Air on Tobacco Smoke – SHSP, 2 credit hours
2. All About Asthma – SHSP, 2 credit hours
3. Sleep Disorders in Children – SHSP, 2 credit hours
4. Special Education: Answers to Important Questions – SHSP, 2 credit hours
5. Self Injury: That Hurt, and I did It Myself – SHSP, 2 credit hours
6. Childhood Skin Disorders – SHSP, 2 credit hours
7. Autism Across the Spectrum – SHSP, 2 credit hours
8. **New!** Empty Seat at the Table – 2 credit hours

County Based Training – T.A.D. – Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs (see schedule on line) www.fafsonline.org

(put in more information here regarding meeting locations, etc.)

(continued on next page)

Training Services for NJ Foster/Adoptive Parents Train Online, Home Correspondence, County Workshop, Teleconferences (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

FAFS Home Correspondence Courses (you can register on-line or by calling 1-800-222-0047)

* = 2 hrs SHSP continuing education

** = 2 hrs continuing education

1. Paying Attention to AD / HD *
2. Dealing with Anemia *
3. Childhood Asthma *
4. All About Asthma *
5. Autism Across the Spectrum *
6. Bipolar Disorder in Children and Adolescents *
7. Car Safety and Your Foster Child **
8. Cerebral Palsy: The Basics * **Revised!!**
9. The Innocent Victims: Understanding Prenatal Exposure to Cocaine and/or Heroin *
10. Communication: A Two Way Street **
11. Beyond the Blues: Adolescent Depression and Suicide *
12. Type 1 Diabetes *
13. Chew on This: A Guide to Diet and Nutrition **
14. Dare to Discipline **
15. Understanding Stress *
16. Dealing with Dyslexia *
17. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Hard Facts to Swallow *
18. Safety: A Look at Basic First Aid *
19. The Invisible Ones: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth (GLBT) in Care *
20. The Empty Seat at the Dinner Table: Foster Parent Loss and Grief **
21. Handling Hepatitis C *
22. Managing Pediatric HIV / AIDS *
23. Lead Poisoning: Has Your Child Been Screened? **
24. Special Education: Answers to Important Questions * **Revised!!!**
25. Understanding Mental Retardation *
26. Helping Children Manage Pain * **Revised!!**
27. Schizophrenia *
28. Clearing the Air of Secondhand Smoke * **New!!!**
29. The Child and Sexual Abuse **
30. Handle with Care: The Shaken Baby Syndrome *
31. Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Trait: It's in the Genes * **Revised!!!**
32. Skin Disorders * **New!!**
33. Sleep Disorders in Children * **New!!!**
34. Eating Disorders *
35. That Hurt, and I Did It Myself *
36. No War Needed * **New!!**
37. Building Healthy Relationships * **New!!**
38. Why Does Love Hurt?? ** **New!!**
39. Playing it Smart: Staying Safe from Drugs (no credit given)
40. Learning About Me: A Family Affair (no credit given)
41. The Life Book and You (no credit given)

New Jersey Resource Family Training Requirements

We would just like to take this time to remind you of the Training Requirements for Resource Parents.

Remember: In-service training provides resource families with the ongoing knowledge and skills that are essential to continually provide for the needs of the children placed in your home.

Resource families are required to complete the following in-service training requirements:

Primary Resource Family Provider:	7 hrs annually or 21 hrs over the 3 year licensing cycle
Secondary Resource Family Provider:	5 hrs annually or 15 hrs over the 3 year licensing cycle
Special Home Service Provider (SHSP):	22 hrs annually
Secondary SHSP Provider:	5 hrs annually or 15 hrs over the 3 year licensing cycle

The licensing cycle starts from the month you are licensed and varies with each family.

For each Resource Parents convenience, FAFS maintains a training transcript, which is a record of any courses you successfully complete through FAFS. Currently, there are 2 training transcripts – 1 transcript for on-line courses, which you can pull off directly and 1 transcript for the home-based and other workshops. FAFS is hopeful to get this combined into 1 transcript within the near future.

The New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program and FAFS Academic Scholarships, Opportunity Grants

Please note that FAFS Scholarship Information/Application and the NJFC Scholars Application are SEPARATE Programs. Please contact FAFS' Scholarship Department if you have any questions.

NJ Foster Care Scholars Program – 2007 Scholars Application Is Here! This Program is designed to assist youth in the following educational areas:

- Tuition and Fees
- Room & Board
- Books & Supplies
- Transportation
- Computer/Special Equipment
- Child Care Costs

FAFS Academic Scholarships, Opportunity Grants – A series of privately funded academic scholarships and opportunity grants for foster and adopted youth are available. These awards are in place to assist foster and adopted youth (who are graduating high school) to obtain a higher education or with moving into the next phase of their lives. The funding for these awards is made possible through the generosity of dedicated benefactors and members.

Please visit www.fafsonline.org for further information.

June 18, 2007 WCFAFS Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Michele Gleason, Recording Secretary

Total in Attendance: 12

Officers Present: Laurie Braman (Chair), Michele Gleason (Recording Secretary), Cathie Fischer (Corresponding Secretary) and Gail Sac (Finance)

Officers Absent: Nancy Deska (Co-Chair)

Handouts: none

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Please arrive at Land of Make Believe on June 29th by 9:30 to receive your wristbands.

We received a \$250.00 donation from the estate of Richard A. Charlton, Sr., a client of foster parent Lisa Roll.

The Treasurer reported the balance, and our current membership now stands at 31.

FAFS Mike Johnstone reported:

DYFS has increased the honorarium for recruiting new resource parents to \$200.00.

The regional DYFS picnic at Schooley's Mountain Park is on July 14th from 12 – 5.

Over 30 Home Correspondence Courses are available now. Catalogs are being printed.

Lifebooks are available by calling FAFS at 800-222-0047.

Fostering Wishes applications, request forms for Newark Bears tickets, Six Flags Great Adventure coupons and \$1.00 50/50 Raffle tickets were available from Mike.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of Volunteer Committee Chairs nominated for the upcoming year and are as follows:

Chair – Tammi Fennelly

Co-Chair – Greta Cirillo

Recording Secretary – Faith Capitini

Corresponding Secretary – Cathie Fischer and Chrissy Dudas

Finance – Laurie Braman

The current board members were presented with flowers and mugs for their support over the past year. The chair was presented with a necklace and an Applebees gift card for her hard work and dedication.

We will no longer have access to Earthlink for our free website. On motion and second it was agreed to take down the website until other arrangements can be made.

The next meeting will be held on September 17th, 2007.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm as no other items were presented for discussion.

Everyone enjoyed the tasty dishes prepared for our last meeting of the 2006/2007 year!

September 24, 2007 WCFAFS Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes, September 24, 2007
Warren County Foster and Adoptive Family Services

Respectfully Submitted by Faith Capitini, Recording Secretary

Total in Attendance: 11
Officers Present: Tammi Fennelly (Chair), Cathie Fischer (Vice Chairperson), Faith Capitini (Recording Secretary), Chrissy Dudas (Corresponding Secretary) and Laurie Braman (Finance Chair)
Officers Absent: None
Handouts: Fostering Wishes Application

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Tammi advised that Greta Cirillo would like to step down from the position of Vice Chairperson due to medical reasons. Cathie Fischer had volunteered to assume the position of Vice Chairperson, and Chrissy Dudas will assume full responsibility as Corresponding Chair.

The Finance Chair reported the current balance in our account.

Clothing was donated from Kidsignments. Thank you notes should be sent to laurie@kidzsignments.com.

Discussion was held with regard to possible speakers for 2007/2008. Some of the ideas for speakers are: 1) financial planning, 2) bi-racial teen that could speak on behalf of bi-racial children growing up in a Caucasian family, 3) proper nutrition, 4) adoption attorney, 5) African American hair care, 6) sensory issues, and 7) fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

The monthly support meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 7:00pm.

New Jersey's 26th Annual "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference is being held on November 3rd at Rutgers University. The cost is \$30 for the session. Tammi had registration forms for anyone interested in attending.

Laurie received backpacks from Prudential for foster & adopted children. If you were given a backpack for your children, please make sure to send a thank you note to Nicole Kirkland at Prudential, 80 Livingston Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068.

Laurie spoke about the Fostering Wishes Fundraiser at Ort Farms. This program allows grants to be given to foster children in care of \$75/annually. Volunteers are needed on the weekends in October. If you are able to volunteer your time, then contact Janet Farrand at 908-876-4419.

The Pumpkin Patch Outing is scheduled for Saturday, October 13th, from 12pm-2pm at the West Portal Pumpkin Patch. West Portal is charging \$7/per child – the group will charge only \$3/child (for members), and will pay the additional \$4/per child. Non-members are \$7 per child, no charge for adults.

The Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2007 from 2pm-4pm at Centenary College in Hackettstown. It is a possibility that Larry Holmes, boxer, may attend. Cathie Fischer reported that Santa has been booked. Cathie Fischer had information on Toys-for-Tots and brief discussion was held. The toys may not be here in time for the holiday party. Tammi advised that she can store the toys at her home and will make them available to all resource parents. Set-up and Clean-up Committees may be needed. Further discussion to be held on the holiday party at the October Meeting.

National Adoption month is in November. In the past, Laurie advised that there was a cake at the meeting, and small gifts were presented to adoptive parents.

Website is currently down due to change in servers. This is being reviewed and will hopefully be up and running within the next few months.

There will be a costume and winter coat exchange at the October Meeting.

DYFS Related:

Anita (Clark) Brosky, DYFS Facilitator, reported on the following: 1) that she will now be going by the last name of Brosky, 2) that there is a need for resource parents, 3) that DYFS is looking for co-trainers to work with Art, and 4) that the new licensing manuals are available.

Jaclyn Pijut reported that she was recently promoted to Supervisor of the Warren region. Their offices will eventually be relocated, date unknown.

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2007.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm as no other items were presented for discussion.

NJ Licensed Resource Parent Recruitment Honorarium

FAFS will award a \$200 honorarium to any licensed resource parent who recruits a person who also becomes licensed as a resource parent.

Here's how it works:

Simply tell the person you have recruited to be sure to give us your name when he or she calls FAFS to complete an inquiry or just call us yourself.

It's That Easy!

Call 1.800.222.0047

FAFS has to hear from either you or the person you recruited in order to process the award. So call and tell them whom you have recruited.

*The need for Resource Homes is real and the award is well deserved.
It's our way of saying thank you!*



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.

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 x 2016
- Anita Clark Brosky**, Support Worker x 2011
- Vacancy for additional Support Worker*

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



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.



Please Help Us Save Postage – Provide Us With Your E-Mail Address

Please help us save money each month by providing us with your e-mail address, so that your monthly Newsletter will be delivered directly to your ‘inbox’.

Your e-mail address will be kept in the strictest confidence!

Please share your e-mail address by sending an e-mail to tammi568@ptd.net, which your authorization to use your e-mail address for the purpose of information distributed by Warren County Foster & Adoptive Family Services.

Thank you.

Communications from Old Friends

Hello from Georgia to all my old WCFAFS friends!
Miss you all.

Ron, Susan and Grzech Family

Please Send a Thank You Note

If you received a backpack this year for one or more of your children, please send a Thank You note to:

Nicole Kirkland
Prudential
80 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, NJ 07068

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.

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

