



Youthful Times

www.focusonyouth.com

September 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Director	Page 1
Roll Call	Page 2
Birthdays	Page 2
Families Saying Goodbye to Youth	Page 2
Nurtured Heart Moments ..	Page 3
Foster Parents Make a Difference Meet the Anglins	Page 3
Nurtured Heart Corner	Page 4
Current News & Events.....	Page 5
Foster Parent Advisory Board	Page 5
Picnic Notice	Page 6
Training Calendar	Page 7
Training Calendar	Page 8



From the Director's Desk...

Dear Families,

August marked our very first Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. We are so thankful to John Morrell, Caribou Coffee, United Dairy Farmers, and Bob Evans for providing items for the fundraiser and to Kim Beatty and all Focus staff for the extra hours of work to make the fundraiser great. Many foster families attended bringing extended families and friends with them. It was an exciting event with more than 135 folks in attendance. We plan to do this again next year and if you **missed it in 2008...it will be even BETTER in 2009!**

Can you believe school is starting? Some kids are getting an **early start...others are starting late this year. Either way, we** know education is one of the greatest gifts we can give our kids. For kids in foster care, we must be diligent to watch for opportunities to ensure needs are not overlooked because of a brief stay in care. In reality, it frequently is the foster parent who recognizes a child needs an IEP or could benefit from speech therapy. No matter how short or how long a time a child is in your home, you may be the one to identify special needs and get the ball rolling for necessary services to that youth. Be sure to talk to your youth specialist or supervisor if you feel a child has special needs that the school can address.

Mark your calendars now for September 18 and 20 which is our conference with national speaker, Danny Knowles. Danny comes from the Fort Worth, Texas area and is a highly skilled, energetic trainer you are sure to love. We are offering special rates for attendees outside Focus on Youth, Inc so if you know anyone who needs foster care or social work training hours or just wants parenting information, this would be a great learning opportunity for them. They can call Andy for more information or to sign up.

For all that you do...for all that you are...thank you for the children.

Cindy

FOSTER PARENT ROLL CALL

Sylvia Pagliaro	1/95
Tonda Lyons	3/95
Rosalind Hedges	4/95
Spencer & Cynthia Doughman	8/95
Alta Music	11/95
Stan & Gerri Benge	2/96
Freeman & Patsy Grogg	5/96
Pat Hawkins-Burley	8/96
Vernon & Brigitte Montgomery	5/97
Charles & Linda Carney	6/97
Kevin & Kimberly Bennett	10/97
Theresa Spain	2/99
Rodney & Melissa Began	8/99
John & Crystal Moore	9/99
Derek & Susie Wagner	3/00
Sharon Brewster	11/01
Carlos Brewster	12/01
Amy Richburg	8/02
Rodney & Elaine Berry	9/04
Billie & Randy Walters	8/05
Michael & April Muth	9/05
Steve & Dianne Connell	11/05
Tim & Karen Lehmkuhl	2/06
Jim & Diana Matthews	3/06
Kim & David Feck	11/06
Dan & Ginny Howard	11/06
Doug & Anita Outcalt	11/06
Cheryl Carney	12/06
Tanyika Prather	2/07
Bob Weireter	3/07
Scott & Jennifer Sharrett	4/07
Shemeca Spain	5/07
Brett & Allison Harpel	7/07
Joe & Heather Osborne	8/07
Marc & Rebecca Corsmeier	8/07
Mark & Kathy Warner	8/07
Gwen Johnson	12/07
Stephen & Dawn Jones	12/07
Dan & Krystal Marsh	2/08
Eric & Sheila Kluesener	5/08
Tom & Cynthia Anglin	7/08
Tremaine & Tracy Davis	8/08

Families who said good-bye to youth in

August

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children placed in your home.

Vernon & Brigitte Montgomery

Jim & Diana Matthews

Kevin & Kimberly Bennett

Theresa Spain

Bob Weireter

Alta Music

Tanyika Prather



New Foster Family

A warm Focus welcome to

Tremaine & Tracy Davis

Read about them in the October newsletter

September BIRTHDAYS



Allison Harpel
Damaal L.
Michael V.
James Matthews
Lillian G.
Jessica B



Marissa C
Shaylyn S.
Dalton S.
Grace N.
Samantha J.



As you read these special Heart Moments, take a moment to be encouraged by this glimpse at the difference you are making.

Jim & Diana—You are providing the support, understanding, insight and structure to help your children develop understanding of their own emotional and behavioral needs and limit, while providing a secure and loving relationship in your family. Thank you .

–Kim Brown

Alex—You are beginning to show insight with how people are feeling. This is a very important life skill to learn. –Patty

Bradley—**You're doing such an amazing job! Keep up those positive behaviors! Everyone really appreciates how hard you're working and how well you're succeeding!** –Casey

Sheila & Eric—You guys are doing a great job. Your dedication and commitment are evident with your first placement. Thank you! –Myndee

Scott & Jennifer—Your chore board and sticker system is wonderful. It is really clear to the children and shows them their progress. –Patty

Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but



I can look up and see the beauty, believe in them and try to follow where they lead. – Louisa May Alcott

Meet the Anglin Family

Welcome to Tom & Cindy who joined the Focus on Youth family in July. They reside in a small, rural town in Butler county. As many people experience, Tom & Cindy thought about fostering for a long time. One day after truly recognizing a need for more foster parents, they decided it was time to act on that thought.

Tom has worked as an auto body painter for 14 years while Cindy is a second grade school teacher. Together they enjoy going to festivals and barbeque foods. Cindy likes crafting and Tom like cars (which works well with his employment). They both shared that they take pleasure in each others hobbies. At least one time a week **they will go on a "date" that could be a walk in the park, a movie, dining out, or swimming.**

Tom and Cindy have adult children and grandchildren **that help keep them busy as 'empty nesters.'** Shortly after their licensure, they received their first placement of 2 siblings! Congratulations on reaching your goal to become foster parents.

Welcome to the wonderful world of fostering Tom & Cindy. The next time you see them at training, please help them to feel welcome.

Foster Parents Make A Difference



Linda and Charles Carney became foster parents in 1995, and then joined the Focus family in 1997. Throughout their 11 years, they have received 39 children in their home from infants in arms to teens ready to emancipate. They are very influential in the lives of the foster children. Several of these children remain in contact and continue to communicate with the Carneys to ask them for advice or maybe a shoulder to cry on. Children are **nurtured in the home through Linda's thought-out activities, consistent rules, and a kind ear always ready to listen.** **Carney's easy-going sense of humor and willingness to get the children to appointments completes the additional support youth need.** **The Carney's have blessed many children by teaching them valuable lessons that have stuck in their minds and in their hearts.** **Thank you to the Carney's for 11 years at Focus; your dedication to the children placed in your care is truly inspiring!**

--Casey Patton



This month's Nurtured Heart Corner is the first of a 3-part feature. In the August, September, and October issues of *"Youthful Times,"* you will receive nurtured heart approach tips for TIME-OUT. - Article submitted by Kim Brown

DON'T escalate or energize when the child doesn't jump into time-out right away.

DO allow the child a few moments to accept and begin the time-out. Nagging or pressuring the child to start the time-out is tantamount to handing out more \$100 bills for poor choices.

DON'T designate a special place or area for time-outs.

That just gives the child more ways in which to refuse and cause disruption. Your goal is always to spend as little time and energy on time-out as possible.

DO carry out the consequence exactly where you are when the rule is broken. You can **"accuse" the child of completing** time-out successfully without his having moved an inch. **It's the child's perception of the reset that counts** in yielding the result.

DON'T thank a child for completing the time-out without saying *why* you are appreciative. Then, rather than conveying that the child is doing you a favor; you are acknowledging that she has made a wise choice.

DO acknowledge the child's self-control and ability to redirect himself; or his maturity in accepting the consequences of his actions; **or the good example he's setting** for his siblings by quickly accepting his time-out and getting back on track.



DON'T back off the positives when things are going well.

DO crank up the positive recognition when good behavior is occurring. If you use positive recognition only to suppress bad behavior, your children will pick up on **this, and you'll get more bad behavior**. Kids know where the juice is!

I HAVE A DREAM



DON'T engage in any discussion or explanation of problems, hold grudges, point fingers, blame or give the consequence in a way **that's shaming or humiliating**.

DO stay in the moment. Keep your cool, no matter what. Be strict, but not stern; use a calm but strong voice. Get the time-out over with and move on to the next moment. Simply deliver the consequence, each and every time a rule is broken, and make a **big deal over the child's successful completion of the time-out**.

Nurtured heart time-out tips are taken from the book: All Children Flourishing: Igniting the Greatness of Our Children by Howard Glasser and Melissa Lyn Block

FOSTER PARENT MEETINGS
BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2008

ALL FOSTER PARENT MEETINGS
THAT ARE HELD ON THE
3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
WILL BE LOCATED AT THE
NORTHEAST CHURCH OF CHRIST

12020 Southwick Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
(513) 489-4659

www.northeastchurch.com

FREE DAY AT THE MUSEUM

The three museums at Museum Center are **FREE** and open to the public from 4 to 8 p.m. on select days throughout the summer. The last scheduled summer "free" day is September 12.

FOSTER PARENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Foster Parent Advisory Board needs your help! It needs your involvement! Kim Feck and Doug Outcalt attended the FPAB meeting after the morning monthly foster parent meeting/training. There are many exciting ideas being discussed including:

- * Forming a foster parent committee 'task force' to brainstorm concrete ideas to help develop a more uniform respite program. This will also include ideas on how Focus can make it easier for respite providers to complete the process including training.
- * Collecting a list of discount resources for activities such as museum, zoo, places to eat, etc.
- * Collecting a list of Medicaid providers for dental, medical or vision needs.
- * Organizing a "gently used" clothing closet.

Next meeting will be **AFTER** the September 18th meeting and **BEFORE** the evening meeting for parents who cannot attend the morning training.

If you have an idea, question, or want to talk to someone about the Foster Parent Advisory Board, call: Kim Feck at 255-4036; Rodney Began at 288-2043; or Doug Outcalt at 228-2457, or Diane Brown at the Focus office.

Keeping you up to date:

FUNDRAISING

The details for the 1st Annual Dinner and Silent Auction are being planned. The Dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2008 at 6:30pm at the Sheraton North in Sharonville.

A friendly reminder to keep Krogering and Good Searching.

GET YOUR DISCOUNTED

CINCINNATI ZOO TICKETS FROM
FOCUS ON YOUTH, INC.

Adult tickets - \$10.00 (Regularly \$13.00)

Child Tickets - \$7.00 (Regularly \$10.00)

Children under 2 are Free

Senior Tickets - \$9.00 (Regularly \$12.00)



CHRISTMAS WALK

On November 15, Focus on Youth will be participating in the West Chester Christmas walk. One way you can help with this event is to bring your empty gallon milk/water containers to our office. There is a need for 500 containers that will be used as luminaries for this Christmas walk. We will also have fundraisers at the Christmas Walk including a Bake Sale. If you can bring baked goods or man the booth on Nov 15, please speak to Linda Patterson.



Mark Your Calendar!

October 11, 2008

It's time once again for the

Annual Focus on Youth picnic!

We've reserved our space at the

Orchard Area Shelter - Winton Woods Park in Cincinnati.

Focus is going to take care of the meat and buns again this year, but we will need everyone who comes to bring a covered dish and a dessert.

Everyone who came in 2007 remembers how great it was to hang out with the rest of the Focus family. (and watch Andy try to keep Bryan from burning himself on the grill!)

The picnic will be from 11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. with lunch served at 12:00 noon.

Directions will be out to you soon!

Ongoing Training Calendar

September 2008:

Topic: Focus on Youth, Inc. FP Policies, ODJFS Rules, and MEPA Standards

Presenter: Diane Brown

Date: Monday, September 8, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**This is a combined Policies and Rules class which will meet both training requirements.

Please bring your Foster Parent Manual

Topic: The Nurtured Heart Approach II

Presenter: Bryan Forney

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR
5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

****Participants must have completed "The Nurtured Heart Approach, Part I" to attend this course.****



Topic: TAPS

Presenter: Bryan Forney

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Topic: Education Advocacy

Presenter: Bryan Forney

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon OR
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Topic: FP Meeting – Creating Calm Kids, Part I

Presenter: Danny Knowles

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Training will occur at the Northeast Church of Christ

Topic: Creating Calm Kids, Part II

Presenter: Danny Knowles

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Training will occur at the Northeast Church of Christ**

October 2008:

Topic: Child Development, Tier I

Presenter: Bryan Forney

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Independent Living

Presenter: Patty Jatczak

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: FP Meeting – Topic to be Announced

Presenter: To be Announced

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Child Development, Tier I

Presenter: Bryan Forney

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Remember to call Andy to register at least two days in advance of each training you plan to attend.

Focus on Youth, Inc. is a handicapped-accessible facility
CSWMFT Board of Ohio
Approved Social Work Provider #RSX049901

Ongoing Training Calendar

Topic: Heartsaver First Aid
Presenter: Andy Dodds
Date: Monday October 20, 2008 AND Monday October 27, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
(both nights)

This is a two part class. Participants must attend both nights to receive credit.

Due to the nature of this course, participants who arrive late will NOT receive credit. Please remember to dress appropriately for this class as you will be on the floor demonstrating on manikins.

Topic: Child Development, Part II
Presenter: Bryan Forney
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

****Participants must have completed "Child Development, Tier I" to attend this course.****

November 2008:

Topic: The Nurtured Heart Approach I
Presenter: Bryan Forney
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Attach., Sep., & Grief, Tier I
Presenter: Bryan Forney
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Remember to call Andy to register at least two days in advance of each training you plan to attend.

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Topic: Permanency for Children
Presenter: Diane Brown
Date: Saturday, November 8, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon
This class meets the pre-service requirements for adoptive families

Topic: Permanency for Families
Presenter: Diane Brown
Date: Saturday, November 8, 2008
Time: 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
This class meets the pre-service requirements for adoptive families

Topic: The Nurtured Heart Approach I
Presenter: Bryan Forney
Date: Monday, November 10, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Topic: Attach., Sep., & Grief, Tier II
Presenter: Bryan Forney
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Participants must have completed "Attachment, Separation, and Grief, Tier I" to attend this course.

Topic: FP Meeting — Understanding the D.E.C.A.
Presenter: Kim Brown
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OR
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

