



## CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

### From The President

*We would like to hear from you. What do you like about our monthly newsletter? What would you like to see more of? Are the articles helpful? Do you read the articles? Send us your ideas.*

Have you ever been asked why you do what you do? How you handle all the adversity, and little rewards other than the satisfaction of knowing that what you do makes a difference in the life of a child. Have you been asked if you do it for the money? More often than not your response will be, there is not enough money to compensate you for all that you have to do, beside there are things more important than money. Do you feel you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and trust? If you review the FPBR this is the first right foster parents have. Foster parents want to be listened to; they want to be heard and made to feel their opinion means something. That is were the Foster Parent Bill of Rights come in. As foster parents it is our responsibility to be familiar with this bill.

Each year AFPAG puts a lot of work into making sure foster parents are aware of these rights. Even with all these effort there are still foster parents and DFCS workers who are not aware of what these rights really mean. If you haven't been to a class on this topic we encourage you to do so. You can find The Foster Parent Bill of Rights on our website as well as on the [www.afpag.org](http://www.afpag.org) web site.

Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parents  
Association

February 2011

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## Saturday, February 26th

### Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - 11:30am

On Saturday morning we would like to ask you to join us at The Bounce House in Holly Springs near Prominence Point. **Admission is free** to foster parents and the kids. You will need to make sure your children bring a clean pair of socks as shoes, sandals or bare feet are not allowed. The Bounce House has a safe environment where your kids can enjoy playing on our bouncers, slides and obstacle courses. What a perfect way to burn some energy and get some great exercise! Parents can play, too. They also offer free Wi-Fi for parents! [www.thebouncehouseac.com](http://www.thebouncehouseac.com).

### Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - 6:00pm

On Saturday afternoon we would like to ask you to join us at The Hot wheels Skating Rink off of Hwy 5 in Woodstock. **Admission is free** to foster parents and the kids; you will only have to pay for your skates, I think the cost is \$3 each. This is great exercises and another way to burn some energy.

<http://myskatecenter.com/woodstock/index.htm>

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## *Label the Behavior, Not the Child*



Have you ever heard yourself telling your child to “be good” when he leaves for school? What exactly does that mean? You might know in your mind what you expect, but does your child?

Instead of labeling your child as “good” or “bad,” try labeling the behavior instead. That message tells your child that he is a good person, but some of the behaviors he chooses may not be so good. Separate the child from the behavior. Target the inappropriate actions, not the child.

So the next time you plant a going-out-the-door kiss on your little one’s cheek, try saying, “Remember to raise your hand before speaking in class.”

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## *Resolution Restart – Get Those Training Hours in Early*



Did you wait until extra-busy December to cram in your annual training hours this past year? The spring is coming quickly and conferences are being planned and training classes are getting organized just for you. Take advantage of these provisions that are local and near by. Before you know it, it will be summer and vacations and summer camps, so start getting your hours this quarter.

We have a conference scheduled for March 26th and June 25th. At each conference you can earn at least 6 training hours, get your CPR Certification and meet new families. You can also do online training in your home. AFPAG will be doing regional conferences again this year and as they are confirmed you will receive more information on these as well. They always have good topics to choose from.

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## *Frugal Living – Frugal & Safe Air Fresheners*

Home fragrance products are poorly regulated and often contain chemicals linked to a variety of health problems. Plus, they are expensive. When the weather is too cold to crack open windows and bring in fresh air, here are a few low- and no-cost strategies for sweetening your home.

**Save orange and grapefruit** peels in a zip-loc freezer bag in the refrigerator or freezer. When you want to add a zesty fragrance to your home, put a handful of peels in a quart of water and simmer.

**For kitchen odors**, keep a shallow bowl of vinegar near the source of the smell. Or, for stronger odors, simmer vinegar and water.

**For stinky carpets** the best strategy is to shampoo them. If you can't, try sprinkling baking soda where the odor is, letting it sit for a few hours, then vacuuming it up. Stronger odors can be blotted with white vinegar—test first for colorfastness—which neutralizes bacteria and odor. The vinegar smell goes away when dry.

**Fake the scent of baking cookies** in your home by adding a teaspoon of cinnamon, a half-teaspoon of cloves, and a teaspoon of vanilla to a small saucepan of water. Simmer.

**Think ahead tip for rose growers:** A cheap and easy way to give your roses the nutrients they crave is to save banana peels and coffee grounds in the freezer until you have a few gallon-size freezer bags. In the spring, grind the peels and grounds in the food processor with a little water. Work the sludge into the top layer of soil around your roses, along with a handful of alfalfa meal and a handful of Epsom salts for each bush. This organic gardener grows stunning roses using this technique.

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## Message from D'Anna



Happy February, which means Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you and your families have had a good start to the year thus far!

As our **Year of the Youth** begins I want to encourage you to continue to advocate for our children, their education and the stability in your homes. Our local goals are to improve the outcome for children and their families. We want to focus on getting food and Medicaid to families faster through our Eligibility Units, permanency for children means getting them to the right home so they can grow and thrive, and being more of a help to strengthen families as opposed to an intervention for families in crisis. I want to introduce you to our new leadership beginning with our new Commissioner and our new Division Director:



**Clyde L. Reese, III, Esquire, Commissioner**  
**Georgia Department of Human Services**

Most recently served as the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH). He has previous experience as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia and General Counsel for the State Health Planning Agency. Mr. Reese practiced health care regulatory law in the private sector from 2003 through 2007. He returned to state government in September, 2007 as the Executive Director of the Division of Health Planning at DCH. In early 2008, he resumed the role of the General Counsel. Governor Perdue appointed him to be DCH Commissioner in April of 2010. He has an undergraduate degree in World History from Georgia State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.



**Rachelle Carnesale, Director**  
**Georgia Division of Family and Children Services**

Most recently served as the Acting Director of the Office of the Child Advocate, previously serving as Deputy Director. During her tenure with the Office of the Child Advocate and the Child Fatality Review, Ms. Carnesale served as the Director of the Georgia Child Fatality Investigation Program and developed and administrated the Georgia Child Abuse Training Academy. Previous, she served as Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County from 1999-2004. She also served as a prosecutor in Cherokee County, specializing in child abuse, after beginning her career at the Georgia Attorney General's Office, in the Criminal Division. Ms. Carnesale graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989 and the Emory University School of in 1992.

Having new leadership at the State level reminds me that we are all leaders in some way as others are watching us no matter what our job title or where we sit in the organization or in the family structure. As leaders for our foster children and others under your influence, I hope these recommendations by John Maxwell will encourage you.

What gives a man or woman the right to lead? It certainly isn't gained by election or appointment. Having position, title, rank or degrees doesn't qualify anyone to lead other people. And the ability doesn't come automatically from age or experience, either.

## The Kind of Leader Others Want to Follow

The key to becoming an effective leader is not to focus on making other people follow, but on making yourself the kind of person they want to follow. You must become someone others can trust to take them where they want to go. As you prepare yourself to become a better leader, use the following guidelines to help you grow:

### 1. Let go of your ego

The truly great leaders are not in leadership for personal gain. They lead in order to serve other people.

### 2. Become a good follower first

Rare is the effective leader who didn't learn to become a good follower first. That is why a leadership institution such as the United States Military Academy teaches its officers to become effective followers first - and why West Point has produced more leaders than the Harvard Business School.

### 3. Build positive relationships

Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less. That means it is by nature relational. Today's generation of leaders seem particularly aware of this because title and position mean so little to them. They know intuitively that people go along with people they get along with.

### 4. Work with excellence

No one respects and follows mediocrity. Leaders who earn the right to lead give their all to what they do. They bring into play not only their skills and talents, but also great passion and hard work. They perform on the highest level of which they are capable.

### 5. Rely on discipline, not emotion

Leadership is often easy during the good times. It's when everything seems to be against you - when you're out of energy, and you don't want to lead - that you earn your place as a leader. During every season of life, leaders face crucial moments when they must choose between gearing up or giving up. To make it through those times, rely on the rock of discipline, not the shifting sand of emotion.

### 6. Make adding value your goal

When you look at the leaders whose names are revered long after they have finished leading, you find that they were men and women who helped people to live better lives and reach their potential. That is the highest calling of leadership - and its highest value.

### 7. Give your power away

One of the ironies of leadership is that you become a better leader by sharing whatever power you have, not by saving it all for yourself. You're meant to be a river, not a reservoir. If you use your power to empower others, your leadership will extend far beyond your grasp.

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Cont....

## Message from D'Anna

I encourage you to send any ideas or suggestions for building a stronger team between foster parents and the agency to me, Marie Blackwell or Amy Blanton or any of our staff. We want to hear from you and we want our team to be even stronger in Cherokee County.

In January, we gained custody of 11 children 8 boys and 3 girls. 5 of these children were from 0-5; 5 were from 6-12; and 1 was 13 and over. 5 of these children were white and 6 were bi-racial. 3 of these children were placed in Cherokee DFCS foster homes; 5 were placed in private agency foster homes; 1 was placed in a group home; and 2 were placed with relatives. There were 2 sibling groups of 2 children and 1 sibling group of 4 children. There were no events of children re-entering care. 5 of these children were returned at the 72-hour hearing and none were returned at the 10-day hearing.

In January, while we had 11 children enter foster care, we had 11 children exit foster care. As January came to a close, we remain at 145 children in care. Our median # of days in care for our foster children continues to decrease and is now 330. The reasons the 11 children left care were custody to a relative, reunification and we had 2 teens exit care for reasons of Emancipation.

We had no finalized adoptions in January. Our new Impact class will graduate March 3. There are about 4 or 5 couples currently in the class.

Please take advantage of the following events that have been scheduled by Marie Blackwell representing the Foster Parent Association and Amy Blanton, representing Embrace:

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

#### **Saturday February 26th, 9:00am - 11:30am (CCFAPA)**

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#### **Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - 6:00pm (CCFAPA)**

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#### **Saturday, March 26th, 9:00am - 4:30pm (CCFAPA)**

One day Conference at the Antioch Christian Church, you will be able to gain 7 training hours if you attend the full day. More information will be coming on topics.

#### **Saturday April 30 (Embrace)**

This years fishing Rodeo! We have lots of new surprises for this year you won't want to miss so mark your calendars now! Pre Registration will be in March!

Thank you for what you continue to do in caring and loving our children. Their ability to impact the world in a positive way is because of what you do each day!

D'Anna Liber

Director

770-720-3629

[dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us)

## Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parents Association



Building The Future with our Foster and Adoptive Parents as they open their hearts & their homes to children.

Check website calendar for upcoming events & training.

[www.fosteroradopt.org](http://www.fosteroradopt.org)



If you would like to receive the newsletter via email go to our web site and signup.

If your email changes let us know so that we can update our records.

Check us out on **Facebook**, many of our foster parents are connecting via the net. Click link below or put "Cherokee County Foster" to find us.

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?sid=9337e82e1d11a302dc6636ebf8cd44e4&eid=75644102307&ref=search>

## 2011 Board Members

### President

Marie Blackwell

[mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org](mailto:mblackwell@fosteroradopt.org)

770-378-0759

### Secretary/Treasurer

Debbie Earle

If you are interested in sitting on our board let us know, we can always use the help!!

### Our address has changed:

162 Morris Rd  
Canton, GA 30114

## Other Associations or Support Foundations

### Foster Care Support Foundation

located at 115 Mansell Place, Roswell, Ga. 30076, 770-641-9591,

<http://www.fostercares.org>

Email: Rachel Ewald [rachel@fostercares.org](mailto:rachel@fostercares.org)

### Embrace Cherokee

Foster Parent Liaison Amy Blanton, [amy.blanton@embracega.org](mailto:amy.blanton@embracega.org)

or visit them on the web <http://www.embracega.org>

### AFPAG (State Foster Parent Association)

Feel free to contact them at: [contactafpag@bellsouth.net](mailto:contactafpag@bellsouth.net)

#### Executive Director

Sharon Carlson

404-918-1956

[sharonlc@juno.com](mailto:sharonlc@juno.com)

#### President

Jane Leonard