



Cherokee County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association



Association Updates and Information

We have a lot of great things going on within the association we hope all of you will be excited about it.

1. We have a full board that is working diligently to help the association reach its full potential.
2. We have reached an agreement with the Woodstock AMF to offer bowling to foster families for just the cost of the shoe rental for each family member that participates. (Saturday & Sundays before 2pm only, call before you go to make sure lanes are available. You must present your Foster Parent ID Card.)
3. We are working on several fishing events that will be offered in small groups. The first event is scheduled for March 17th. We are doing a morning and afternoon. Check the website calendar for more information.
4. We have a sponsor for lunch for the Give me a break program this Saturday. You will be able to join the association at the event, and the fee is \$20 for couples and \$10 for single parents. If you are an active member there is no cost for this event, if you are not an active member the fee is \$5 per child.

Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parents Association of GA Inc

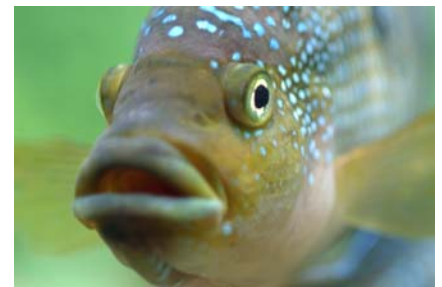
January 2012

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Register for events either through the emails that get sent out or via the website in the calendar area as they come available.



Events

We have tons of events planned this year that include activities and training for foster parents. Please take a few minutes to jot down these events on your calendar and join us. You may want to bookmark our calendar at www.fosteroradopt.org/Calendar.htm, Event, Webinars and trainings are being posted as they come in.

- 1/28 **Give Me A Break** at Mt. Zion Baptist Church 10:30 am—3:30 pm
- 2/11 **Give Me A Break** at Mt. Zion Baptist Church 10:30 am—3:30 pm
- 2/18 **CCFAPA Quarterly Conference** at Antioch Baptist Church 8:30 am—4:00 pm
- 3/10 **Give Me A Break** at Mt. Zion Baptist Church 10:30 am—3:30 pm
- 3/17 **Fishing Event** at Aquatic Environmental in Ball Ground 11:00am - 12:30pm or 1:00pm - 2:30pm
- 3/27 **DFCS Round Table** at Antioch Baptist Church 6:30-8:30 pm
- 4/14 **Give Me A Break** at Mt. Zion Baptist Church 10:30 am—3:30 pm
- 4/28 **CCFAPA Quarterly Conference** at Antioch Baptist Church 8:30 am—4:00 pm

DEVELOP OPEN, EFFECTIVE PARENT CHILD COMMUNICATION

Listen to more than your child's words

Earn your child's trust by developing open, effective communications with your child. Communicating with your child is a two-way street. As the parent, you must be able to talk, but you must also be a great listener. Hear both the description of events that your child is communicating but also tune into and acknowledge the emotions your child is feeling. You create the security and trust needed for effective, open parent-child communication when you allow your child to express herself fully, focus completely on your child, listen, and respond by addressing both the content (“this is what happened”) and the emotions (“this is how it made me feel”) of what your child is telling you.

Start listening to and communicating with your child early on. This will serve you both well during your child's teens years, when communication may become more difficult – your child will know she can come to you with anything and you will listen and help her solve the problem effectively.

When communicating with your child...

- **Focus and listen to your child.** Effective listening is not a passive activity but a very active one. Being a good parent means being a great listener.
- **Respect your child** as the authority in his or her life experience.
- **Listen to and understand** your child's perception and understanding of situations and people.
- **By understanding** your child's experiences, perspective and temperament, you can better know your child and better help your child make the right decisions, interact well with others and build self-esteem.
- **Understand both the content** (“this is what happened”) **and the emotions** (“this is how it made me feel”) your child is communicating.
- **Respond to both the content and the emotions** your child is expressing.
- **Acknowledge your child's emotional reaction** by saying things like “That sounds frustrating” or “I bet that hurt your feelings.”
- **Identify and reflect the feeling back to your child.**
- **Know that anger** is a default reaction for children and teens—your child may not be angry, but hurt or sad and expressing it through anger.
- **Talk to your child** about what is going on and identifying your child's true emotion.
- **Help your child** work through the situation and control that anger by recognizing how he or she is truly feeling.

Source: <http://onetoughjob.org/parenting/communication/develop-open-effective-parent-child-communication>



Message from D'Anna

Happy New Year!

In a continued effort to keep you informed on the social services in Cherokee, I am sending a summary our monthly activities in regard to Child Protective Services and Permanency. I hope you find this information helpful regarding how we make decisions on how urgent our response is in Child Protective Services, how many Family Preservation Families we are serving, how many children come into foster care and how many children exit care on a monthly basis.

Child Protective Services:

60 Investigations were received in December (this is an increase of 13 investigations from November), of these 44 were assigned a 24 hour response time and 16 were assigned a 5 day response. In addition, we assessed 53 Family Support Families through Diversion. Last month, we had 5 CPS Investigators to investigate and assess these reported concerns and 1 worker on medical leave.

At the end of December, we had 81 open Family Preservation cases of which we are working with children in the home within the family unit. We now have 5 Family Preservation staff who have responsibility for these families as one of our family preservation staff members has been promoted to a supervisory position in Bartow County.

You may recall that our agency was involved in a very high-profile child death case in December which also resulted in the removal of the two surviving siblings, who were later returned to their mother.

Permanency:

We had 17 children come into Foster Care and had 12 children leave foster care in November. Of the children entering care, 9 were male and 8 were female, there were 6 children ages 0-3, 5 children ages 6-12 and 6 children over 13 years of age. We placed 6 of these children in Cherokee County Foster Homes, 5 in group homes, 3 in private agency foster homes and 3 children were placed with relatives. We had several sibling groups to place which makes our work more challenging. We had 4 groups of 2 children and 2 groups of 3 children. There was no consistent trend, in December for the reasons these children entered foster care. The reasons ranged from significant lack of supervision (child death case), unresolved substance abuse, no legal guardian, to parents being incarcerated resulting in no legal guardian and 2 parents who refused to take their children home, resulting in no legal guardian.

At the end of December, we had 190 children in care. The reasons the 12 children exited foster care were through the reunification of 11 children and 1 child was emancipated.

There were no finalized adoptions in December.

We currently have 60 foster homes. 3 homes closed in December. We have 17 outstanding families that we are currently doing studies on awaiting approval.

We had 7 permanency workers, 2 adoption workers and 2 Resource Development workers.
Thanks,

D'Anna Liber, Director
dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us

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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



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
770-378-0759

Vice President

Rick Fueston

Secretary

Dianne Boswell

Treasurer

Debbie Earle

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