



## CHEROKEE COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

### From The President

**Cherokee County Foster  
Adoptive & Parent  
Association**

**September 2010**

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A Special —**Thank you** to the Light Ministry for offering clothes to our Foster Families. We are very grateful for the community partnership we have with them. We were able to connect 10 families and provide clothes & equipment to 25 children. They will be available for us if anyone is in need of any clothes or equipment. Just let me know and I can make the request.

This October is our Association business meeting and we will let you know where it will be held. If anyone is interested in being on the board please send in your nomination before Sept 30th.

I would like to continue as your President and feel we have taken this association to another level then in the past. I have great plans for this next year and we are in need of anyone interested in becoming part of this organization. If you feel you can devote your time and energy in helping us by taking a positions please submit your name.

Board members are expected to be at all events and helping with fundraisers and other business tasks to help in spreading the word to the community. As we grow we will need a Secretary, Treasurer & Vice-President. The Secretary will be responsible for taking notes at meetings and keeping up with documents and help with grant writing. If you have experience in this area we can use you. The Vice-President will work closely with the President in moving to the next level and making us a stand alone non-profit organization. As we move closer to Partnership Parenting we will need to get better and more focused training. The Vice-President will be a key helper in this. If you feel you can help us get community involvement and Corporate sponsors we need you. The Treasure will be keeping track of donations and monies as they come in. As we grow it will be very important to keep accurate records. You must be a member of the Association to vote or be elected. Please send in your name by September 30th with the position you would like to be nominated for and why you feel you can do the job.

**Congratulations to the Yee Family on their adoption.**

### Featured Event for September 25th

**“Give Me A Break”** event will be at the **Woodstock Recreation Center gym**. It will be from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Lunch will be provided for the kids. The children always have lots of fun and they get to run around and play. RSVP so that we can make sure we have enough volunteers. This is the weekend of Fall Break so if you need a break after a week of having the kids bring them on.

### Featured Event for September 28th

**“Roundtable”** this event will be held at the Antioch Christian Church, 3595 Sugar Pike Road, Canton GA, 30115. The event starts at 6:30pm - 8:30pm. You will earn two training hours Topics include but are not limited to:

- Fostering Connections,
- Partnership Update,
- The What, Why, and How of Reimbursements

RSVP by September 17th to [amy.blanton@embracega.org](mailto:amy.blanton@embracega.org). We will have daycare for the children. Amy has dinner provided by Chick-Fil-A.

### Featured Event for October 10th

**“Family Night”** event will be at the **Hot Wheels Skating Center**, 228 Farm Ridge Dr. NE, Woodstock, GA. Bring your family with costumes but keep it none scary for the little ones. The party starts at 6:00pm - 9:00pm. We are renting the facility so be sure to come, everyone is welcome even if you don't skate.

## Communicating With Your Child's Case Worker



Communication is very important if we as foster parent want to get the most for our children and it's important that foster families have regular communication with their DFCS caseworkers who have children placed in our home. DFCS caseworkers depend on foster parents to keep them informed about the day-to-day activities and issues involving the children. They are also a resource for foster parents when the foster parents have questions or need assistance. However, foster parents often express concern that they have trouble getting in contact with their foster child's DFCS caseworkers (especially now that budget cuts have occurred). There are a number of things that foster parents can do to help facilitate communication between themselves and their foster child's caseworker.

When a child is placed in your home, make sure the caseworker has provided you with the number where he or she is available during normal office hours, a number to use after hours in case of an emergency, as well as the worker's email address (if you use email). Ask the worker whether they prefer you communicate with them about routine matters by phone or by email. Before you attempt to contact the child's worker, try to determine if there is someone else who could provide you with the information you need.



If you are calling your caseworker just to provide information about the child and don't need a response, indicate that in your message. In such cases, you might consider emailing the worker instead of calling. This allows the worker to easily print out the message and include it in the child's case file without any further work on his or her part. Your [Embrace Liaison](#) and your [Foster Parent Association](#) are available to answer routine questions, offer suggestions on behavior management, or to help you deal with a stressful situation. They are often more readily available than the child's caseworker. Your foster parent handbook is also a good place to find answers to routine questions about procedures involving foster children. Consider using these resources as an alternative to contacting your caseworker for routine questions and information.

If your request is something that the Liaison or Association is not able to handle and you need to contact your caseworker try to call during regular business hours. If you call and the worker is out of the office and the matter is urgent you can also try contacting the caseworker's supervisor or copying the supervisor in your initial e-mail to the caseworker. Here are some examples of an urgent matter:

- The foster child needs emergency medical or mental health care. In most cases, you should seek emergency medical help first, such as calling an ambulance or transporting the child to the hospital. Then contact DFCS,
- The child has run away and cannot be located. First contact law enforcement to report the missing child, and then contact DFCS.
- The child has not returned to your home as scheduled from a family visit or other outing.
- An unauthorized person came to your home in an effort to see the child or take them away.
- You have a family emergency and need a respite provider for the foster child.



Talk to your caseworker about other potential urgent situations that could arise with your case. Here are some suggestions of how to leave an effective voice message for your caseworker:

- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Give your name and phone number and the best time to call you back.
- Leave a detailed message about the reason for your call. Be specific about the response you need from the worker. This will allow the worker to do any needed follow up before returning your call.
- If the issue is urgent or an emergency, do NOT leave the message on voice mail as the worker may not get the message in time to respond appropriately. Tell the receptionist that you have an urgent need to speak to a supervisor.

Make sure you have the appropriate number to call should an emergency situation arise outside of normal business hours. If you need assistance in arranging respite care, obtaining permission for out-of-state travel, or similar situations, always give as much advance notice as possible to make the necessary arrangements. Effective communication between foster parents and DFCS caseworkers requires effort from both parties. Following these tips will help insure you are doing your part to promote effective communication and should help you receive timely responses from your child's DFCS caseworker. **IT TAKES ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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## Message from D'Anna



As your family begins another season of the year, let me pause and thank you for the timeless care you give to our children. One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself or anyone else is inspiration. Inspiration to get in touch with your dreams. Inspiration to seek out your deepest passions. Inspiration to make a difference in the world, a difference that only you can make. It's not always about your success, but your significance. It's not always about making a living, but making a life. It not always about fame or acclaim, it's about the contributing and service. Instead of asking, What can I get from life?, watch what happens when you ask, What can I give?"

We need your help and partnership more than ever. Amidst continued budgetary concerns, we are moving forward and making positive changes. We took custody of only 8 children in August; 3 girls and 5 boys. 1 of these children was age 0-5; 2 children were from 6-12; and 5 were 13 and over. 6 of these children were white and 2 were black. 5 of these children were placed in Cherokee DFCS foster homes and 3 were placed in group homes. There were 2 sibling groups of 2 children. There were 2 children who re-entered care. None of these children were returned at the 72-hour or 10-day hearings. We anticipate as many as 6 finalized adoptions this month! We have an awesome adoption unit! We had 10 children exit foster care in August for reasons of reunification to family, guardianship to relative, emancipation, and guardianship to foster parents.

When August ended we had 138 children in foster care. This is a continued decrease in children in care and the lowest number of children in care that we have experienced in several years! We have 78 approved family foster homes in Cherokee County and are still recruiting for new homes that are in the geographic areas of our schools as we strive to maintain children in their same school upon entering care.

We are hosting a permanency roundtable on **Tuesday, Sept. 28 from 6:30-8:30** to strengthen our communication and enhance our partnership with you. Please join us for a new format! We will be broken into small groups and will rotate to hear all topics covered. Topics include but are not limited to:

- **Fostering Connections**
- **Partnership Update**
- **The What, Why, and How of Reimbursements**

We hope these issues are relevant to you and hope to have an inter-active forum to gain your feedback.

**The Roundtable will take place at  
Antioch Christian Church  
3595 Sugar Pike Road  
Canton, GA 30115**

Dinner provided by Chick-fil-A of Canton and babysitting is also provided. RSVP by September 17<sup>th</sup>, [amy.blanton@embracega.org](mailto:amy.blanton@embracega.org).

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Roundtable! Thank you for all of your love, support and time to our children!

D'Anna Liber  
Director  
770-720-3629  
[dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:dkliber@dhr.state.ga.us)

## Cherokee County Foster Adoptive & Parent 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>

### 2010 Board Members

#### PRESIDENT

Marie Blackwell

770-378-0759

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

#### SECRETARY

Shannon Griffis

#### 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](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

Tony G. Blash

478-335-9454

##### Executive Vice President

Michelle Mason

770-361-7776

[sponsorachild@yahoo.com](mailto:sponsorachild@yahoo.com)

##### Secretary

Vala Peyton

404-428-2104

[vala@bellsouth.net](mailto:vala@bellsouth.net)