

NEP-TUNES



A Monthly Newsletter from Nepenthean Homes

A Caring, Full Service Foster Family Agency

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Richard Farlinger

Thankfully, we have seen a recent increase in the number of referrals for care made to our agency by various counties in our 18-county area. This is in addition to the increase we have experienced in the number of certified homes. I feel our agency is again moving in a very positive direction. We certainly thank those dedicated foster parents who are ready and willing to provide professional care to children in need.

We are also working hard at matching the referred needy children to caring homes. As I'm sure you are aware, the most important consideration in the process of placement is the matching of the child's needs to the care home. Part of that is also the need for the foster parents being aware of their ability to provide care to varying age groups.

Have you considered caring for older children? If you have been through the process of rearing your own children then you certainly have the required experience! As we have stated for some time, referrals of older, needy children have increased dramatically. The need for care of those children/young adults has and will increase as federal legislation is eventually adopted by this state to care for young adults to the age of 21. This

will give those provided foster care a wonderful opportunity to continue to grow and benefit as do other children. Remember, a major part of our agency's work after support and case management of our clients is to support, train, and assist our foster parents in the work with clients. If you decide to accept older children in your home, we will certainly be as accessible as needed. Think about it and thank you again for your work!



Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday, September 18, 2009 at sundown.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

by Michael F. Quinn, MA, Supervising Social Worker, Fair Oaks office

As our agency foster parent are aware, Nepenthean Homes FFA requires a minimum of 12 training hours for each foster parent listed on the certificate or who provides significant child supervision.

This is a state requirement, the proof of which is checked during complaint investigations involving foster parents and yearly agency program audits.

For most providers, training is often a scheduling issue due to daily child care and family routines. We do try to make training simpler for busy foster parents by providing bimonthly and in-house

training services, and more recently, on-line training with Foster Parent College.

Still a question that is sometimes asked is: "We know we must have training hours to become certified—but why afterwards? What is the benefit?"

Thinking and Acting Like Professionals

My experience as a caseworker and supervisor reviewing foster parent issues and complaint investigations leads me to believe that many significant issues and incidents can be prevented. While weekly meetings with social workers and other child care professionals can help provide foster parents with information, the foster parenting process is too complex and dynamic to cover without additional training.

Most human services professionals train on a regular basis. This includes social workers, physicians, psychologists, teachers, probation officers, drug and alcohol counselors, and police officers. Recognize those folks? The same professionals that foster parents are likely to interact with when foster children are placed in the home or removed due to incidents and issues. The same pros with whom foster parents must also be able to meet, discuss, and plan important case issues of foster children.

Paid child care professionals train to keep informed on new methods of child care, special issues, and liabilities. Though foster parents are not considered paid employees or guardians by the state, this is misleading. Consider that by taking tax-free compensation for providing care, foster parents have tremendous financial and criminal liability. That's why foster agencies pay huge premiums on liability

(Continued on page 3)

CAPITOL CITY NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (916) 704-7780
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009**
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Topic: "Anger Outbursts"
Where: Fair Oaks Office
Speaker: Michael F. Quinn, MA

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:
The next foster parent orientation meeting will be on **Saturday, September 5, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Fair Oaks office. **Please call Rich Farlinger at (916) 535-7780 to RSVP.** This meeting will answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

ATTENTION FOSTER PARENTS!
As you know, 12 hours per year of foster parent training are required to maintain your certification.
To help with this, Nepenthean Homes is now offering our 21-DVD Foster Parent College training set. These videos are available for viewing in-house at our Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices **ONLY**—we cannot offer home check-out.
You may call the offices to schedule a time to view the videos. Each DVD is 30 to 45 minutes in length. Viewing only gives you one hour training credit; viewing plus taking the test gives you two hours training credit.
For more information and to schedule your viewing time, please call the Fair Oaks or El Sobrante office.



Celebrate the first day of Autumn on Tuesday, September 22, 2009

BAY AREA NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (510) 750-4769
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009**
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Topic: "Personal Rights & Title 22 Regulations"
Where: El Sobrante Office
Speaker: Kevin Smith, MA

ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING:
The Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) at Children's Hospital Oakland, in cooperation with Alameda County Social Services and Nepenthean Homes Foster Family Agency, presents **NO-FEE** foster parent trainings. The classes serve as continuing education hours by foster care agencies. Verification of attendance is given.

Date: **Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: "Helping Teens Prepare to Leave Foster Care"
Speaker: Adrian Jackson and staff from First Place Fund for Youth *and*

Date: **Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: "The Teenage Brain" (film)
Speaker: CVC staff

Where: Children's Hospital Oakland, Center for the Vulnerable Child, 5275 Claremont Ave. and 5400 Telegraph, Oakland
(This building has two entrances—enter on either side.)
RSVP: Call Peggy Pearson at (510) 428-3783, ext. 5326. **IMPORTANT:** We cannot offer childcare at this time.

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:
If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Kevin Smith at (510) 222-2666. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

FOOTHILLS NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (530) 392-1597
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

UPCOMING AUBURN AREA FOSTER PARENT TRAININGS WILL BE HELD ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, PER CFH. PLEASE CALL THE FAIR OAKS OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR FOSTER PARENT TRAINING, AT (916) 535-7780. (REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 HOURS OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING PER YEAR TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION!)

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:
If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call Mike Quinn at (916) 535-7780. An individual orientation meeting will be set up to answer your questions about foster children, foster parenting, and becoming a certified foster parent with Nepenthean Homes FFA.

CENTRAL VALLEY NEWS



**ON-CALL CELL PHONE: (209) 495-9492
Foster Parent Training—Mandatory!**

Date: **Friday, September 25, 2009**
Time: **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
Topic: "General Topics—TBA"
Where: Modesto area—exact location TBA (flyer will be sent out)
Speaker: Rich Farlinger, Exec. Director

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to view the Foster Parent College training DVDs, which are available in the Fair Oaks and El Sobrante offices (see article on this page, column 1).

PLEASE NOTE: You may do a maximum of six (6) hours of online foster parent training with Foster Parent College. Please call Mike Quinn or Rich Farlinger at the Fair Oaks office (916) 535-7780 with your email address, to get set up for this **no-cost** training.



CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

NEVADA COUNTY:

Nevada County offers ongoing training twice a month, which includes Medic First Aid, BasicPlus CPR, AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and First Aid. Committing to additional time, the Medic First Aid Infant and Child Supplement can be included following Adult CPR/First Aid.

Date: **Saturday, September 5, 2009**
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Date: **Thursday, September 17, 2009**
Time: 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' conference room
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA.

Fee: **\$30.00 (must be prepaid to confirm your reservation).**

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a snack and beverage. Please call Nikki Johnson at (530) 478-6400, ext. 201 for more information.

ADDITIONAL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING OFFERED:

NEVADA COUNTY:

Date: **Friday, September 11, 2009**

Time: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Topic: "Trauma and Dissociation in Children"

Where: Nevada County Sup't. of Schools Office, 112 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City (Harold Houser Meeting Room)

Speaker: Annie Haymaker

RSVP: Call Mary Jane at (530) 478-6400, ext. 210.

Childcare available in adjoining Fellersen Room.

PLACER COUNTY:

Date: **Friday, September 18, 2009**

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Topic: "Internet Safety—Staying Safe While Surfing the Net"

Where: Sierra College Gateway Campus
333 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, CA

Speaker: Stephen Cox

RSVP: (916) 781-6214 by Sept. 16th!

Childcare is available, and dinner is provided.

Date: **Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Topic: "Team Decision Making"

Where: Placer County CSOC
11716 Enterprise Dr., Auburn

Speaker: Debbie Lind

RSVP: (916) 781-6214 by Sept. 21st!

Childcare is available.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc., presents:

Topic: "Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect"

Dates: **Wednesdays:**

• **September 16**

• **November 18**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Child Abuse Prevention Center
4700 Roseville Road
North Highlands, CA

RSVP: **To register, please call Isela Murrieta at (916) 244-1959** or email to imurrieta@thecapcenter.org for more information. Sorry, no childcare is provided.

(Continued from "Importance of Foster Parent Training" on page 1)
insurance. And foster providers are investigated for allegations of abuse and neglect on a daily basis in California. Sometimes it's the information absorbed from training that makes a difference. In short, think and act like a pro—you have the same liabilities.

Sharing in the Foster Care Culture

Finally, during office training with foster parents and staff, I see how most providers really do want to learn more about their foster parent skills and liabilities. Despite the agency staff input, often it's discussions between foster parents that help to work out concerns before they turn into complaints and significant in-home issues. There is a real foster parent culture—just as there are staff social worker cultures, police cultures, teacher cultures, and so on. Shared values and experiences of people that do the same challenging jobs.

Sometimes, too, it helps to talk with other folks who have "been there." Sharing the culture means that foster parents become informed through "war stories" and learn the language human services pros use—what I call "child-care speak." They learn the latest trends in county placement demographics (what type of kids are being placed, the services needed to care for the foster children). Ultimately, providers can learn what is required, what works—and what doesn't. In the end, this leads to better child care.

I tell providers at training that quality foster parents like the challenges of providing care, that they are creative people who think on their feet and provide good role modeling. And that through training—whether in an office, on-line, or at a community meeting—they continue to learn about what they do and how they do it.

**MADE 4 YOUTH = Make A Difference Everyday for Youth
With the 40 Developmental Assets
Asset #16**

A young person experiences high expectations for themselves.

What an asset it is for any of us to hold high expectations for ourselves! When we aim for the moon we will at least land on a star, it is said. Every time we simply encourage a young person to do well, we are depositing an asset in their "asset bank," heightening the likelihood that they will "be a star" and live up to their potential.

WELCOME NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK:

FAIR OAKS:

* Anthony S.

BAY AREA:

* Justice R.

AUBURN:

- * Emily B.
- * Haley B.
- * Robert K.



GOOD NEWS!

Special thanks to Ross Marketing for providing Nepenthean Homes foster parents with many tickets to Sacramento River Cats' 2009 baseball games at Raley Field. Great seats with great view of each game—thanks Ross Marketing!

Joelisa F. of the Tiong home has worked one day a week at our Fair Oaks office site answering telephones (and doing a fine job, too!). She will commence classes at American River College this fall. Way to go, Joelisa!

NEPPY'S NOTABLES

September birthdays for staff:

- Eric Roenicke (Auburn/F.O.) on Sept. 1
- Joanna DeKoning (Auburn) on Sept. 13
- Martha Steuer (Admin.) on Sept. 30



FAIR OAKS:

- Play Station I games (new or gently used)
- Digital scale (to weigh children)
- Kids' movies on DVD
- Computer CPU
- Computer software

MODESTO AREA:

- New or gently used laptop computer for Modesto teen

BAY AREA:

- Changing table
- Hand-held electronic games
- VCR

AUBURN AREA:

- Wireless mouse
- New or gently used office copy machine



Birthdays this month!

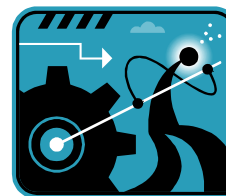
FAIR OAKS:

- Rachel T. (Pruitt home).....8 on 9/20
- Robert N. (Tiong home).....18 on 9/23
- Jesse R. (Tiong home).....14 on 9/28

BAY AREA:

- Isaiah M. (Sloan home).....6 on 9/3
- CJ R. (Lemon home).....17 on 9/26
- Nicholas C. (Wafer home).....13 on 9/21
- Nikki C. (Wafer home).....13 on 9/21

All Nepenthean Homes offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2009



for the Labor Day holiday.

Nepenthean Homes is a private, non-profit Foster Family Agency that helps adults become successful foster parents. If you want to improve a needy child's future by becoming a certified foster parent, please telephone:

- ** in Sacramento area, 1-800-439-8998
- ** in Foothills area, 1-800-479-8998
- ** in Modesto area, 1-800-696-0611
- ** in Bay Area, 1-800-564-2292

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