



NEP-TUNES

A Monthly Newsletter from Nepenthean Homes

A Caring, Full Service Foster Family Agency

Volume 21 - Number 3

www.nepenthean-homes.org

March 2010



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Richard Farlinger

The planning of fund-raising for 2010 is continuing with our Executive Board devoting much time toward designing a successful program. We are very fortunate to have such committed officers. As fund-raising develops, the Board's efforts will add necessary financial support to our program as well as build the numbers of Nepenthean Homes' group of committed volunteers.

This month we will be developing a schedule for trainings in our Sacramento and El Sobrante offices throughout the remainder of the year. In addition to the on-line trainings that are made available to our foster parents we will be scheduling trainings at each office for those folks who don't have computer access.

Participating in trainings outside of our agency, offered by foster parent associations, local junior colleges, county social service departments or mental health departments is certainly acceptable. All that is required is a certificate from the training/instruction given to verify attendance and add to the required 12 hours of annual, reoccurring training. Training attendance is an important part of maintaining foster home certification and a great opportunity to meet other foster parents and share knowledge and experience.

NEW SACRAMENTO OFFICE INFORMATION (Corrections):

ADDRESS:

1331 Garden Highway, #320
Sacramento, CA 95833

PHONES:

Main: (916) 993-7776
Fax: (916) 993-7701
Mike: (916) 993-7787
Toll-free: (800) 439-8998

If you wish to call the 800 number, please be advised that it connects to the Innovation Center switchboard, where you can request to be transferred to Nepenthean Homes.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Foster Parents and their biological family members: Is blood thicker than mud?

by Mike Quinn, MA, SSW Sacramento Office

PART 2 OF 2

The Foster Home and Family as Barometers

Foster children are human barometers, hypersensitive to many outside—and

internal—forces that lead to instability. Foster parents who believe that withholding information on family members to staff or who consciously maintain two standards of in-home care forget that the foster children are the frontline witnesses: They've seen some of this type of adult deception and double standards before, prior to being placed in care. And it always creates tension and anxiety in the home. The children then react negatively to the instability and uncertainty and the deceptions.

Over time, too, most agency social workers I know get a sense from feedback from children, providers, and other child care team staff including teachers, tutors, county social workers, and on occasion, neighbors, that "something is going on in the home" to destabilize the environment. During our weekly contacts with foster children agency social workers look and listen for many potentially destabilizing elements including home safety issues, poor structure, evidence of double standards of care, and the human relationship element of foster parent biological family and spouses coming into conflict with foster children in the home.

The Agency as a Resource versus Adversary

What do I suggest to foster parents who want to avoid falling into a lapse of judgment in the name of family? First, in addition to being honest about the value of your family, accept that as a foster provider you are subject to making poor judgments—often with the best of intentions in the name of family—but ultimately negative just the same. Secondly, realize and accept that your foster home does in fact have many physical plant and

CAPITOL CITY NEWS



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

NO FOSTER PARENT TRAINING IN THE SACRAMENTO OFFICE IN MARCH. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS ON OUR APRIL FOSTER PARENT TRAINING!

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:

The next foster parent orientation meeting will be on **Saturday, March 6, 2010**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Sacramento office. **Please call Rich Farlinger at (916) 993-7776 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 Sacramento 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 Sacramento or El Sobrante office.

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 Sacramento office (916) 993-7776 with your email address, to get set up for this **no-cost** training.

BAY AREA NEWS



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

Date: **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Topic: “Placements and Funding”
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, March 10, 2010**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: “IEP (Individual Education Plan) Training”
Speaker: Robin Miller, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
and

Date: **Wednesday, March 24, 2010**
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Topic: “Sickle Cell Anemia and Trait”
Speaker: Lauren Ryan, B.S. Masters Genetic Intern, California State University, Stanislaus

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: Please call Peggy Pearson at (510) 428-3783. **Sorry, no childcare is available.**

SUPPORT GROUP for kinship caregivers and grandparents, **Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Held at Family Resource Network, 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland, CA. For more information and RSVP call Sonia Waters at (510) 547-7322 x15.

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 SACRAMENTO OFFICE TO SCHEDULE YOUR FOSTER PARENT TRAINING, AT (916) 993-7776. (REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 HOURS OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING PER YEAR TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION!)

CENTRAL VALLEY NEWS



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

Date: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Time: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Topic: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Where: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Watch your mailbox; we will be sending out an informational flyer!

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION:

If you are interested in learning more about foster care, please call us! An 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.

- Placer/Nevada County Area: Call Mike Quinn at (916) 993-7787. An individual meeting will be set up for you.
- Bay Area: Call Kevin Smith at (510) 222-2666. Orientation meetings are available twice per month, on the first and third Wednesdays at the El Sobrante office.



Birthdays this month!

SACRAMENTO:

Hernando V. (Lopez home).....14 on 3/30

MODESTO AREA:

Agnes D. (Vigil home).....15 on 3/5



GOOD NEWS!



Foster child success story! We find that former foster child, Paula H., who lived with her sister, Christina, at the foster home of the late Yvonne MacMurphey and her husband, Pat, is now working as an investigator for a county district attorney in Florida. Way to go, Paula!!

Special thanks go out to Anthony S. and William W. of the Tiong home, for helping us to move from the Fair Oaks office to our new office location in Sacramento, on Garden Highway right next to the Sacramento River. The guys helped muscle boxes into trucks (and back out again), and also retouched paint and did general cleanup at the old office. Thanks for all your help, Anthony and William!



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:

- New or gently used office copy machine
- Dust cover for flat monitor (20")

WELCOME NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK:

SACRAMENTO:

- Katrina A.
- Jayden A.
- Antonita B.
- Hernando V.

NEPPY'S NOTABLES

March birthdays for staff:

Julio Alvarado (Board) on March 8
Kevin Smith (Bay Area) on March 22



*Enjoy the
first day of
Spring on
Saturday,
March 20,
2010*

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, 1-916-993-7776 ** in Foothills area, 1-530-268-2266
** in Modesto area, 1-916-993-7776 ** in Bay Area, 1-800-564-2292

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