

# Foster Family Service Newsletter

## Adoption Day History

National Adoption Day 2007 builds on incredible efforts over the last seven years by The Alliance for Children's Rights through the generous support of the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and others. In November 2000, National Adoption Day sponsors worked with law firms, foster care departments, child advocates, and courts to complete hundreds of foster care adoptions

in nine jurisdictions across the country. In just six years, National Adoption Day has truly grown into a national celebration, with 3,300 adoptions finalized in 2006 as part of more than 300 events in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.



national adoption day

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

**November 2007**

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## College Cost Reduction Act Passed!

On September 27, President Bush signed into law the **College Cost Reduction and Access Act** (HR 2669), which included the **Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act amendment**, making it possible for teens in foster

care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under the law, youth who are adopted after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid.



### **College Assistance ideas: BOGG aka Board of Governor's Grant** is a

fee waiver that pays for tuition and the cost of the college units that you are taking at a community college. (check with you Financial Aid Office for the form)

The **OFA Scholarship** is only for foster care youth. Youth may use this money for a traditional college, university, accredited technical school or a vocational school of their choice.

(Funds can be used for tuition, books or living expenses!) [www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org)

# Foster Parent Mentoring Program

By Sandy Hankins



The Foster Parent Mentoring program is up and running. Our goal of mentoring new Foster Parents and existing Foster Parents, and also connecting them with resources needed to care for our Foster kids is a reality. Sandy Hankins has been out and about training Foster Parent Mentors throughout our agency, providing them with support and resources to be a successful mentor to families.

The Foster Parent Mentor Program provides a relationship designed for Foster Parents to get the support they need. It is available to new and experienced Foster Parents to help them cope with the daily challenges of Foster Parenting. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please ask your social worker.

## Table Manners .... Just in time for the Holidays

**We have compiled some basic table manners to share. These are widely accepted and they aren't too confusing. Enjoy a nice family dinner and give everyone practice their manners for those more formal Holiday Dinners!**

### General Behavior:

- \*Chew with your mouth closed.
- \*Do not talk at an excessively loud volume.
- \*If at all possible, refrain from coughing or sneezing at the table
- \*Never tilt back your chair while at the table, or at any other time
- \*Do not play with food or table utensils.
- \*Do not single out or chastise someone who has shown poor table manners.
- \*Do not put your elbows on the table or slouch.
- \*Always ask the host or hostess to be excused before leaving the table.
- \*Never talk on your phone at table. If urgent, ask host or hostess to be excused, and go outside. Apologize when returned.
- \*Follow the Always Sometimes Never rule. Hands should always be visible, forearms sometimes visible, and elbows never visible.

### The Table:

- \*Bread plates are to the left of the dinner plate, beverage glasses are to the right.
- \*Salad fork, knife and soup spoon are further from the main plate than the main course knife, fork and spoon. Dessert utensils are either placed above the main plate or served with dessert.

### Utensils:

- \*Use your silverware from the outside moving inward to-

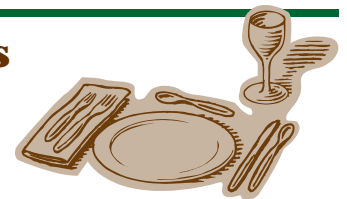
- ward the main plate. (Salad fork, knife and soup spoon are further from the main plate than the main course knife, fork and spoon. Dessert utensils are either placed above the main plate or served with dessert.)
- \*The fork may be used by either the left or the right hand.
- \*The knife blade should be placed on the edge of your plate when not in use. The blade should always face inward.
- \*Keep your napkin on your lap.

### Dining:

- \*Do not start eating until (a) every person is served or (b) those who have not been served request that you begin without waiting. At more formal occasions all diners will wait to begin until the host lifts a fork or spoon.
- \*When a dish is presented, the food is served to one's plate and then passed on to the next person.
- \*When serving, serve from the left and pick up the dish from the right. Beverages are both served and removed from the right.

### At the end of the meal:

- \*It is acceptable in most places to not finish all of the food on your plate.
- \*When finished with your meal, place your knife and fork with handles at the 4 o'clock position and the tines of the fork down to signal to the server you are done.
- \*Except in a public restaurant, do not ask to take some of your uneaten food away from the meal after it ends, especially when having a formal dinner.



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