

# Foster Family Service Newsletter

NOVEMBER 15, 2008



**National Adoption Day** was started in 2000 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, state foster care agencies, child advocates, and courts to complete hundreds of foster care adoptions in nine jurisdictions nationwide. In November 2001, 17 jurisdictions participated in National Adoption Day. In 2002, Casey Family Services, Children's Action Network, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and Target became National Adoption Day partners, helping 34 cities across the country finalize 1,350 adoptions and celebrate adoption.

By 2003, courts and community organizations in more than 120 jurisdictions coast-to-coast finalized the adoptions of 3,100 children and celebrated adoption. In 2004, courts and community organizations finalized the adoptions of more than 3,400 children from foster care in 200 events in 37 states.

Today National Adoption Day is celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as more than 300 events are held each throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt. In total, more than 20,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day.

**FFS is participating in El Dorado County's Celebration on Nov. 19th and Sacramento County's Celebration on Nov. 15th, 9am-2pm**

In Sacramento area, the judicial staff at William H. Ridgeway Family Courthouse located at 3441 Power Inn Rd. will voluntarily open its' doors and hearts as over 50 children will find permanence through adoption. In addition to the great number of adoptions happening on the day, there will also be a truly fun family-style event at Granite Regional Park located directly behind the William H. Ridgeway. Hundreds of children and adoptive families will come together to celebrate with the newly finalized families as well as celebrate THEIR adoption community. **The event will include entertainment, crafts, games, food and more!** This event is intended to connect the new families with families who lives have previously been touched by adoption with the hope to create a strong adoptive family network in the Sacramento area.

**November 2008**

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**Amy Riffey***

*Advisory Participant:  
**Arthur Magaña, Ph.D.***



**Room For One More?**

See Page 2...

## ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

If you have an **empty bed**, it's not because we haven't had the referrals. Many times we have a difficult time matching children with an appropriate home.

When a county worker calls with a referral we take the information and match the child to the proper home. If you have requested a specific age group, school or traits, you may be overlooked as an option for the child.

Changes in your household can lead to changes in placement options. Maybe your biological kids are now school age or you may have new work hours. Most important, you have now become an **Experienced Foster Parent** and much more capable of handling the challenge of more kids/younger/older/special needs.

**Next time you chat with your FFS Social Worker, feel free to discuss new parameters for future placements in your home.**



**REMINDER...** You MUST have a minimum of 12 hours, including EIGHT hours of "Core" training completed by the end of the year. This is mandated by CCL and must be logged in your family binder. If you've attended outside training, make sure your social worker has documentation of the topic and hours attended to place in your file. We have lots of opportunities for hours each month. Check the back page of this newsletter or contact your local office for other options.

Foster Family Service trainings not only have essential parenting information, but give you an opportunity to interact with other foster parents and share experiences.

Falling short of your yearly training hours can cost you a fine and/or placements in your home.

*Ask your social worker for help finding a training to fit your schedule and educational needs.*

## Oroville's Picnic Fun

The Oroville office social workers thought they would out-smart Mother Nature this year by moving their Annual Foster Family Picnic back to the month of October, instead of September, with the goal of escaping the triple digit heat. While the plan worked-sort of:

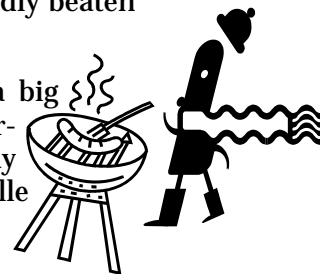
Not to be fooled, Mother Nature, provided clear skies with a nice cold 25 mph wind on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Our brave Oroville foster families donned hats, jackets, sweatshirts, and gloves, turning out en masse for the special event, held at the Rotary Park.

Social worker, Kathleen Ryon, served as chef, barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs to feed the hungry crowd. If you have ever tasted Kathleen's cooking, you know you missed a real treat! Side dishes and

desserts were kindly provided by families to round out the feast.

John and Glenda Sturgell brought bags of bats, balls, and gloves, rounding up the older children to play a red hot game of softball, while the tiny tots had fun exploring the playground equipment. At chow call, Glenda challenged all the kids to a foot race. The kids gladly obliged, but were soundly beaten by Glenda. Go Grandma!

*Kathleen and Sandy send a big*  
**THANK YOU** to all who participated, making the day spent with our special Oroville folks a great one.



# We Are Proud To Say... We Have Great Kids & Great Parents Too!

FFS would like to acknowledge **Anna D.** in the Marin CFH. **Anna** received recognition at her school for getting the highest grade in her class. She has shown great improvement in her schoolwork over the past 3 months. The Marin's report that **Anna** continues to do a great job at home and school. The *Marin CFH* should also be commended for their hard work and commitment to improving the lives of foster children. **Keep Up the Good Work!**

Everyone here is impressed with **Alexandra G.** of

the *Musil CFH* and her great natural dancing abilities! Just one class and she dances like she has been dancing for years. **Nice Moves Alexandra!**

*Jim Knutson*, Dept. of Fish and Game Hunter Safety Instructor offered a free class last month to our agency and all 8 students passed. Including: **Thomas, Jonathon, DJ, Savannah, Chris, Allen and Wendy.** This was the most difficult version of the test and took a lot of studying. **Congratulations!**

## FFS Referral Program

Our FFS policy provides a **financial bonus** to our Foster Family Service Foster Parents who successfully recruit new homes or if we conduct a 'meet & greet' with a potential family you referred. This is a great program and many of you have already received **\$300** from a single referral!

**\$35** for the CFH when they refer a potential family and we conduct an initial 'meet & greet.'

**\$100** for the CFH that refers a new family, and that family takes their first placement.

**\$200** for the CFH, when the new family they referred has a placement for six months.

## Smiling is Infectious,

*You catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.*

*I passed around the corner,  
and someone saw my grin...  
When he smiled I realized,  
I'd passed it on to him.*

*I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth,  
A single smile, just like mine,  
could travel round the earth.*

*So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected...  
Let's start an epidemic quick  
and get the world infected!*



## Foster Family Service Office Numbers:

Sacramento (916) 487-2111

Cameron Park (530) 676-6226

Lake Tahoe (530) 544-2111

Stockton (209) 474-1549

Santa Rosa (707) 576-0522

Oroville (530) 533-1576

Jackson (209) 223-3691

## The Welcome Mat Is Out For...

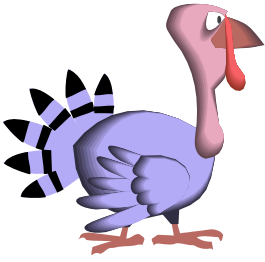
**The Bryan Family**

**The Gomez Family Home**

**The Goss Family**

We are always interested in certifying new homes. If you know of anyone who may be interested have them call their local office. *FFS Certified Homes are eligible for a bonus for their referrals!*

Potential Foster Parents can call one of our offices or find a Pre-Application at our website: [www.fosterfamilyservice.org](http://www.fosterfamilyservice.org)



## Notes From Our Director

Here we go—the Holidays are coming quickly, and November is probably booked for most of our readers.

As you can see from our training section below, we have responded to the requests from many of you to increase our ongoing training menu. In addition to these office-specific training topics we are also making plans to start an entirely new training curriculum across the entire agency starting January '09. This program is called PRIDE, and is a model of parent education used across the US. At its core is both theory and practical discussion between all the participants. Starting in January we will be requiring all new families to complete the PRIDE training as part of their initial certification and fos-adopt process; this curriculum will also be available to ongoing families. We are very excited to begin offering this new curriculum, and trust that those of you who participate will find that not only your perspective on parenting and your actual parenting skills will be greatly enhanced.

On a different note, one of our successful fos-adopt homes, Lacy Majors, will be featured in a picture gallery on adoption in November. When & Where: Saturday, 11/8 from 6 to 8 pm at the Sacramento State Gateway Library.

I hope that all of our readers can find some quiet or peaceful time to give thanks for the many blessings in your lives, not the least of which is the special children for whom you give care to each and every day.

*John*

John C. Johnson, M.S.W., Psy.D., Executive Director



## Get Your Training Hours Here!

<b>Cameron Park</b>	<p><b>Wed.</b> Nov. 5, 6pm-9pm: "The Effects of Dysfunction on Early Childhood Development"  <b>Sat.</b> Nov. 8, 10am-2pm: "The roll of CCL" &amp; "Foster Childs Journey Through the Court System"  <b>Wed.</b> Nov. 12, 6-830pm: "Foster Child Greif and Loss"  <b>Wed.</b> Nov. 19, 6pm-8pm: Open as a Foster Parent Panel to discuss topics of foster parent-</p>
<b>Sacramento</b>	<p>Contact your social worker</p>
<b>Lake Tahoe</b>	<p><b>Saturday</b>, Nov 1st 11-1 in the FFS office. Foster / Adopt Support Group. Lunch and child care provided by request. <b>RSVP to Megan.</b></p>
<b>Stockton/Jackson</b>	<p>November 20th, Community Open House in Jackson.</p>
<b>Santa Rosa</b>	<p>Contact your social worker</p>
<b>Oroville</b>	<p><b>Wed.</b> Nov 5th, 530-830pm: <b>Positive Intent-changing inner dialogue, Pre-Register</b> with your FFS worker. Sorry, no childcare.  <b>Wed.</b> Nov 19th, 530-830pm: <b>Empathy-cultivating higher levels of moral reasoning, Pre-Register</b> with your FFS worker. Sorry, no childcare.</p>