



New Foundations, Inc.

Welcome

Welcome to New Foundations' quarterly newsletter. Our objective is to keep our staff, foster parents, children and other social service professionals informed as to what is happening in each of our offices. Since our newsletter will be available to view on our website, we will use first names only in conjunction with



the children placed in our care. We are developing web pages to display our children's drawings and paintings, so please submit any artwork you would like to have posted to your case manager, supervisor or recruiter. We would also like to hear from our foster families and our teenagers about your experiences with New Foundations

and the foster care system, so we also encourage you to submit your accounts or stories to your case manager, supervisor or recruiter as well. By sharing your accounts on our website, we would like to provide a better understanding of the rewards and challenges of foster parenting to prospective foster parents and other interested parties.

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Mission Statement

New Foundations, A New Beginning for Children and Families

Timely Tips

Avoiding dangerous situations

Help your children to avoid dangerous situations. They should understand warning signs that an adult doesn't have good intentions. Some examples are if the adult tells them to disobey the parents or to keep a secret from the parents or if an adult makes them feel uncomfortable in any way. Children should be aware that an adult should never ask a child for help and if one does they should find a trusted adult immediately and tell them what happened. Teach them to say "no", run away, yell and tell a trusted adult. Tell them that doing this will help to keep them safe even if they are indoors. Some examples of dangerous situations may be if an adult asks a child to help he or she look for his or her lost dog in a park or if a stranger asks the child if he or she needs a ride home from school. Other examples may be if a stranger pulls over in their car and asks a child for directions or if a stranger asks a child to come into their home for a snack. The most important thing is to talk to your children and make sure that they understand all of this. Know where they are at all times, teach them to trust their instincts and to play with other children because there is safety in numbers. The more we teach our children about being safe, the better and safer we will feel.

Source: http://www.ncpc.org/parents/Stranger_Awareness.php

About New Foundations

New Foundations is a private, non-profit child welfare agency that is licensed by the Department of Public Welfare to provide service to children and

families in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We currently serve 216 children and their foster and biological families in the following ways:

- Foster Care Services
- Kinship Care Services
- Aftercare Services
- Adoption Services
- SCOH Services

Program Office News

New Foundations welcomes Danielle Stocklin and Mia Williams to the Case Management team in our Center City office. Danielle graduated from Temple University and did an internship in Doylestown with Bucks County Juvenile Probation. Danielle was also the Captain of the Varsity Volleyball team while in school. Mia is a graduate of West Chester University .

Mia has worked as a teacher's assistant and tutor as well as working with children as a camp counselor.

Sabrina Bell has transferred from case management to her new position as an Adoption Coordinator. Tenisha Williams has transferred from case management to the Recruiter position in the Center City office. We wish them success in their new

positions.

Many of New Foundations' staff took part in an annual retreat which was held at Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park on August 4. The weather was great and an enjoyable day was had by all.

New Foundations has begun recruiting for resource homes in the Berks County area and hopes to open a small office in Reading during this coming quarter.

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Center City Office

Deatrice Fields and Charles Mensah continue to do an excellent job supervising both units in the Center City office. There are currently over 160 children placed in resource homes within these two units. Both units are fully staffed with casemanagers, secretary and a transporter who all work together effectively as a team. The Center City team welcomes new casemanagers, Mia Williams and Danielle Stocklin, with open arms as they begin their journey of working with our children and their families. In addition, we are sad to see Tenisha and Sabrina leave the unit and start their new positions with New Foundations. Good luck to all. The center city team works to achieve permanency by reuniting children with their biological families as well as through adoption and

permanent guardianship. The Center City team also gives special thanks to all of the resource parents who are assets to the team by providing nurture and love to the children in need.

Congratulations to Ms Linda Miles, resource parent of the month for May and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Krok for the month of July. Each resource parent was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a gift card to Wal-Mart.

Congratulations to Amy, Kneisha, Asina and Jean on their graduation from high school. Amy graduated with honors (3.8GPA) from Overbrook High and will be attending Cheyney University with a major in Computer Technology. Kneisha graduated from West Catholic and will be attending Community College. Asina graduated from University City and will attend Penn State University

with a major in Biology. Jean graduated from Bok High. Little Jaynia graduated from Easter Seals, and despite her developmental delays, she is progressing at an acceptable pace. Congratulations to all of our graduates. Congratulations also to Amman, who was adopted by his aunt, Donna.

Several Center City staff continue to further their education at the University of Phoenix: Tenisha Williams, in Business Administration; Sayjelah Lundy, in Business; and Yvone Jones, in Criminal Justice and Business Management. Nafeesah Reed will begin the graduate program in Early Childhood Education this month at Temple University. Keep up the good work! Congratulations and Happy Birthday from all to Lois Loftin, who celebrated her day on August 27.

Chester Office

Office supervisor Sherron Samuels continues to do an excellent job in the Chester office as she continues her studies at Wilmington College.

Happy belated birthday wishes to Nicole Thompson, Naomi Muse and Sherron Samuels. They all celebrated their special days over the summer. Shayvonne has begun her maternity leave and is due any day now, as is resource parent Lavinya Walker.

Many of our children enjoyed camp this past summer. Dymund, who has just

begun Kindergarten and her sisters, Crystal and Janice, spent their summer at Day Camp. Melissa began camp at Starshooterz in August and Takoya enjoyed a family reunion and barbecue in western Pennsylvania over the holiday. Congratulations to Daquanna, who has completed an academic program with the East Side Ministries. Congratulations also to Kiera, as she begins her cosmetology course this semester. Good luck to Ronnie as the football season begins in Ridley Park and Bikeem, who continues to play basketball at Blessed Katharine Drexel School in Chester. Best wishes to all our children as they begin a new school year.

The Chester office extends condolences and sympathy to Tiera and her family during this time of sadness following the death of her beloved mother. Our prayers are with the family during their time of grief.

to recognize safe places like a friend or family member's home or a local store where you know the storekeeper. If we show children safe ways to handle emergencies, then we can be more at ease when we are not with them.

Source: http://www.ncpc.org/parents/Stranger_Awareness.php

Timely Tips Back to school

It's that time of year again. The summer flew by and now it is time to get the children ready to go back to school. To make that transition from summer to school year go easier for everyone there are a few things you can do to prepare.

First, prepare early. As soon as the "back to school" sales start, go and get the necessary equipment like binders, paper, composition books, pens and pencils.

Second, find out what your school's uniforms are and purchase them if you need to get new uniforms before the school year begins. The school district has a variety of uniforms for different schools in Philadelphia. They vary from white, blue and yellow shirts to blue, black and khaki pants. You can visit the following website to look up the uniform for your school in Philadelphia: <http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/osm/uniforms/>

Third, prepare your children for getting up early again. During the summer most children have a later curfew and bedtime. Start sending them to bed at the school year bedtime a week or so before school starts so they can get used to the school schedule again. It will make it easier for you when that first day of school arrives.

Timely Tips Don't talk to strangers, but what if there is an emergency?

Children often go to and from school by themselves and as they get older they may go to the corner store alone or with a buddy so it is important for the children to understand why they should not talk to strangers. Make sure your children understand that strangers can be dangerous. Just because someone "looks" harmless doesn't mean that they are. It is important that they know which strangers they can talk to in an emergency situation. Explain to your children that sometimes it is important to find the right person to talk to, if you are not there, during an emergency. Instruct your children to look for people like police and firefighters or teachers and librarians and always talk to them in a public place. Practice finding safe strangers when you are out with your children. Help them

Upcoming Foster Parent Trainings

Please contact your office for dates, times and topics.

Recruitment

The recruitment unit welcomes Tenisha Williams to our team. Tenisha transferred to recruitment in August and will be based in the Center City office. Tenisha brings case management experience to her new recruiter position as well as personal parenting experience. Supervisor, Sandie Caulder and recruiters Shep Garner and Taren Daniels along with the entire New Foundations' staff wished Kirsten Hontz a fond farewell on August 24. Kirsten will be moving from the area to begin her life as a newlywed. Best wishes from all, Kirsten.

In spite of personnel transitions, the recruitment team approved sixteen resource homes this quarter. Welcome to all our new families.

In addition to providing pre-service training and performing home studies, Shep and Kirsten assisted at the Annual Foster Parent and Kinship Caregiver Conference at Temple University on June 3 and all recruiters took part in a presentation on foster care and adoption at the East Falls branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on June 14. Taren provided literature and information about foster care to interested parents during registration in June for the Starshooterz Summer Camp in Chester. The recruitment staff enjoyed a luncheon together at Bertucci's in Springfield in July, as appreciation for a job well done by all this past year.

Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

The New Foundations SCOH program continues working with our Philadelphia area families. The SCOH casemanagers have been working hard over the summer with some of the children who needed to attend summer academic programs. SCOH has discharged six families in the last quarter. The families continue to appreciate all of the hard work and effort that the casemanagers put forth on their behalf.

Adoption

We are pleased to share that New Foundations adoption staff has successfully finalized nine adoptions between June 1, 2006 and September 1, 2006. We would like to extend our congratulations and ongoing support to the families who finalized their adoptions to date.

We are currently working on 12 Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through the Philadelphia Department of Human Services. Through our SWAN contract, we are currently working on 11 units of service with Delaware County CYS and two units of service with Somerset County CYS. Yvette Lassiter is the South East Regional Technical Assistant for New Foundations, Inc. A site visit was held on July 24, 2006 at the New Foundations

Center City office.

Our Adoption Coordinators, Amy Morris and Jill Chiciak, attended the SWAN Statewide Summer Meeting in Harrisburg from July 11-12. While at the conference, they attended a workshop titled "Finding Permanent Connections for Adolescents in Foster Care." They also attended a matching brunch to help match our waiting families to children available for adoption.

Amy and Jill attended the monthly DHS forums and Delaware Valley Adoption Council (DVAC) monthly meetings. The DHS forums focused on developing the family profile and the requirements of Act 160. The DVAC meeting in June was a training titled "Preparing families to Adopt Children from Foster Care."

We would like to extend our

congratulations to Jill Chiciak, who was presented with a Fellowship to George Washington University. Jill's last day with New Foundations was July 19, 2006, and we wish her luck and success at GWU. We are pleased to announce that Sabrina Bell will be our new Adoption Coordinator effective August 1, 2006. Please join us in welcoming her to our adoption unit. Amy continues to attend graduate school at West Chester University and continues to maintain a 4.0 average. Amy and her husband celebrated their third wedding anniversary on June 27, 2006 and Amy celebrated her 29th birthday on August 31, 2006. If you, or anyone you are connected with is interested in learning more about adopting a child, please contact our adoption coordinator at (215) 203-8733.

Aftercare

Aftercare Services are provided to children and families who have achieved permanency through Reunification and Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC). Services are provided by New Foundations Aftercare case managers for 12 months post permanency.

New Foundations Aftercare program services 22 families. Both Aftercare

case managers combined have successfully discharged 14 families from the Aftercare Unit in the last quarter.

New Foundations Aftercare case managers report that Tiffany and Christine have both had improvements in their final report cards, they received all A's and B's. Talissa has

successfully completed middle school.

The Aftercare supervisor and case managers have demonstrated a genuine commitment to empowering our children and families and have provided excellent service during the last quarter.

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A New Beginning For Children
and Families

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DON'T FORGET...

Don't forget that we are always looking for new foster parents so we are better able to match the children coming into our care with qualified and caring foster families. If you, or anyone you are connected with is interested in learning more about foster parenting, please contact our recruitment or case management staff at (215) 203-8733, (610) 876-4474, 1-877-NFI-4KID (1-877-634-4543) or visit our website at www.nfi4kids.org.

Resource Family

The new term for foster, kinship and adoptive parents: "Resource Family"

Recently the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania along with the Statewide Adoption Network, (SWAN), the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, (PAE), and the Department of Public Welfare, (DPW) have changed the title of our families, who include foster parents, kinship parents and adoptive parents. Our families are now called "resource families".

A foster parent is defined as a person who provides nurturing and parental care to a child who is not related through legal or blood ties to them. Our foster parents work closely with the foster child or children. They clothe them, feed them and engage in recreational activities, like going to the park or to sporting events with them. The parents also take the child or children to medical and dental appointments and do the things they would do for their own children. These children stay in their homes for a planned period of time until they can go home to their families or another option is utilized such as permanent legal custodianship, (PLC),



or even adoption by the foster family or another adoptive family.

A kinship parent is similar, however that person is of a blood tie to the child or children. A kinship parent can be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, cousin, sibling or even close friend of the family. The key is that parent is related or close to the child and family. These children are also generally with the family for a planned period of time. Kinship parents also provide nurturing and guidance to the children as foster parents do as well as doing fun things with the children, like traveling and having picnics together. Kinship parents are also responsible for making sure the children attend dental and medical appointments.



An adoptive parent is one who voluntarily and legally takes a child of other parents as his or her own child. In this case the adoptive parent may start off as a foster or kinship parent, but a child in their care may not be able to go back to his or her mother or father and the child may become eligible for adoption. Other adoptive parents may have family profiles completed so that

they can become a "waiting family", so when a child is in need of an adoptive home, they may be called upon to begin the adoption process with that child. Usually a child must live in the home for six months before the adoption process can be started with that family. Visits may occur before that to determine if the home is appropriate for the child and the child is appropriate for the family. The adoptive family takes this child on as their own, legally. Again, they feed and clothe the child as well as taking the child to medical and dental appointments and do recreational activities with them as a family. The difference with an adoptive family is that legally that child is theirs, just as if the child was his or her own by birth. The biological family has no legal ties to the child.

The responsibilities of foster, kinship and adoptive families are very similar. They all provide a resource to the child. The resource is one of love, nurturing and parenting to the child. Because of this close tie in responsibilities and qualities between the families, they have taken on the new name of "resource families". New Foundations would like to welcome all of our foster, kinship and adoptive families under the new title, "resource families".

