



New Foundations, Inc.

Welcome

Welcome to New Foundations' first 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.

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Mission Statement

New Foundations, A New Beginning for Children and Families

Timely Tips

☺ Attention reptile owners! Remember to monitor children when they handle reptiles. Some can be more aggressive than others. All reptiles may carry salmonella bacteria, which can cause illness in humans. Make sure that children and adults wash their hands with antibacterial soap after handling reptiles. Don't allow children under five years old to handle reptiles at all because young children are more susceptible to getting sick.

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 187 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 has consolidated the Center City and Oak Lane offices. This consolidation occurred in December, 2004 and both offices have completed a successful transition. The consolidation has resulted in New Foundations serving the community from two locations, Center City and Chester. The address for the Center City office is 1341 N. Delaware Avenue, Suite 502, Philadelphia, Pa. 19125. The telephone number is

(215) 203-8733 and the fax number is (215) 203-8184. The address for the Chester office is One East Ninth Street, Chester, Pa. 19013. The telephone number is (610)876-4474 and the fax number is (610) 876-1944.

Recently, some long time employees were promoted to supervisory positions within our organization. Charles Mensah and Deatrice Fields were pro-

moted to Center City Unit Supervisors. Sherron Samuels was promoted to the Chester Office Supervisor. Please join us in welcoming them to our management team!



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Center City Office

In addition to her promotion to Center City office supervisor, Deatrice Fields is also attending graduate school at Lincoln University to obtain a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. The Center City office welcomes Kareemah Johnson and Sayjelah Lundy to their case management staff. Although we are sad to see Ayesha Davenport leave, best wishes from all will accompany her on her move to Argosy University in Arizona to pursue her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology.

While our staff pursue their educational goals, our children have been achieving honors in their

Congratulations to Charles Mensah, office supervisor, on completion of his MBA. Case managers are also continuing their education. Jo'Von Pressley is currently working on her second BS degree, in Nursing. Sabrina Bell is pursuing a Master's degree in Business.

Oak Lane welcomes Alicia Louis and Jamar Snell to their case management staff. Charles reports that he is very happy with the progress they have made in learning the work, adjusting to the job and

educational endeavors as well. Sharday made Honor Roll in Kindergarten and Takirah made Honor Roll in first grade. Special congratulations to Amy, who has maintained Honor Roll every year. Amy is in the 11th grade. Best wishes go out to Samantha and Tracey, who have completed all of their required classes through Achievement Independent Center (AIC) and will be moving on their own into their apartment in the Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program.

Congratulations to foster parent, Gail Best, who has completed all the necessary training to start her own private daycare and parenting

the willingness with which they accept tasks.

Oak Lane currently has over sixty children in care. Of that number, we have three students in college and all are doing well in their studies. Many of our high school students have expressed their intentions of continuing their education as well. Congratulations to all of our high school and elementary school students who have attained Honor Roll.

service to assist young mothers. As soon as she gets her license and inspection completed, her business will be called Best Family Daycare.

Foster Parent Training

Center City - June 20, 2005 and June 24, 2005
- Working with Sexually Abused Children

Chester - June 24, 2005 - Learning Differences
July 25, 2005 - Knowing When to Have Your Child Evaluated for Therapeutic Services

August 25, 2005 - Exploring Your Child's Talents

All prospective foster parents should call the office closest to them for the dates of the next orientation and training sessions.

Oak Lane has discharged twelve children since January. These children either reunified with their biological parents or attained permanency through adoption or legal custodianship.

Many thanks to foster parent Sylvia Atchison., principal at one of Philadelphia's elementary schools, for providing an excellent training titled: "Special Education - To Be or Not To Be" for our foster parents and staff in March.

Chester Office

Sherron Samuels has transferred to the Chester office and was promoted to Office Supervisor in March. Sherron is also working toward a Master's Degree in Community Counseling at Wilmington College. New Foundations welcomed Debra Gibson to the case management staff in April and welcomed case manager Naomi Muse back from leave.

New Foundations would like to congratulate Ebony on her high school graduation and acceptance at Lincoln University. Ebony plans to study Criminal Justice. Best wishes to Genera, who is up for a promotion to manager at Burger King and Maria, who continues to do an excellent job as a volunteer with the children at her YMCA.

Congratulations also to foster parent Maribel Blythe on her graduation from Nursing School and best wishes in her new position at Lankenau Hospital.

Recruitment

The recruitment staff has been busy meeting and approving new foster and kinship families. There are 178 approved foster families working with New Foundations and we continue to conduct orientation/training sessions in each office monthly. Recruiters Taren Daniels and Kirsten Hontz have attended cultural and community events in Delaware County and Chester and took part in the Caring for Caregivers Event at Temple University and the Educating the Whole Child Conference in Philadelphia. Kirsten has been working hard developing our website and we are all thrilled that it is now up and running. We have been getting

responses from prospective foster parents and hope to provide a better understanding of foster care to all who visit our website. The recruitment staff has done and continues to do an excellent job of recruiting and training prospective foster parents. Supervisor Sandie Caulder has been actively involved in developing the New Foundations Newsletter and continues to work at ensuring the Recruitment Unit provides quality services to families.

Timely Tips

© Make sure you and your family have a fire evacuation plan for your home. Know how to get out of your home quickly and check your smoke detectors monthly.

Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

Supervisor Danielle Williams and her staff have been busy working with 15 new families during the last quarter. They have assisted with parents starting work programs, children achieving Honor Roll and one child that has done so well in their Behavioral Alternative School that they are recommending transfer to an area Charter School. The SCOH staff have successfully closed two cases and Danielle reports that the families have been very appreciative of their services, and have even in one case sent a thank you card.

Adoption

We are pleased to share that New Foundations adoption staff has successfully finalized eight adoptions up and through May, 5, 2005. We would like to extend our congratulations and appreciation to the families who finalized their adoptions to date.

Our Adoption Coordinator, Amy Morris, attended the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) Winter Statewide meeting in State College, Pa. from January 24 to January 26, 2005. The theme for the event was "Family Preparation and Family Profiles". She also attended the SWAN Spring Quarterly Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. on April 27, 2005.

The theme for the event was "Post Permanency".



We anticipate finalizing an additional four adoptions by June 1, 2005. We also continue to complete Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through Philadelphia county and SWAN adoptions through Delaware and the surrounding counties. 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.

Agency Events

- First Annual Cultural Day was held at our Center City office on Friday, April 29, 2005. Dishes from various countries and cultures were brought in for staff to share and exchange recipes.
- The Philadelphia DHS and provider event entitled, "Educating the Whole Child: Partnering for

Success" was held on Thursday, May 26, 2005. New Foundations case management and recruitment staff attended to present information about New Foundations to existing and prospective foster parents, and well as other child welfare professionals.

- The Foster/Kinship care parent

training entitled, "Caring for the Caregiver" was held on June 4, 2005 at Temple University. New Foundations staff and foster parents were invited to the event and planned to attend.

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1341 North Delaware Avenue · Suite 502
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(215) 203-8733
(215) 203-8184 (Fax)

New Foundations, Inc.
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 or (610) 876-4474 or visit our website at www.nfi4kids.org.

May is National Foster Care Month

Many children in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas are in some way involved in the foster care system. Foster children can be children who have been abused and neglected or children who have had serious losses. Foster children are much like other children, but because of their losses, they may need the help of additional support services in the community.



The goal of the team at New Foundations Inc. is to help these children cope with the circumstances surrounding the separation from their families and to give them a safe and nurturing home until

they can be reunified. This is done through the recruitment of quality foster homes throughout the city. Our foster parents embrace our foster children and nurture them while they are with them. They feed, clothe, love and support the children. With the help of our foster families, case managers and therapists, our children can heal over time, and go on to be productive and successful members of the community.

When one becomes a foster parent, training is provided in a variety of areas including: discipline, child development and basic first aid. To become an approved foster parent, child abuse and state police clearances are completed along with a "home study", which is an information sharing process as well as a home safety inspection.

After a foster parent is approved, they will be called upon for the placement of a child. Each child has a case manager, who is a support for the child, their biological family and the foster parent. The case manager will visit the child and foster parent in the home. If a child requires additional support services, they are referred to an outside community resource.

Children are in foster homes for a period of time that varies from case to



case. During that time, the biological family must do what is court ordered of them, in addition to achieving their individual and family service plan goals. In the event the family is unable to complete their goals and reunify with the children, New Foundations Inc. will look for an adoptive home for the child within our agency. Our goal is to keep the child safe and to give the child every opportunity to be a part of a permanent family.

Foster care can be both challenging and rewarding as the foster child becomes a part of your family. New Foundations, Inc. and our foster families work together to give the child the love and support they need to be successful. If there is room in your home and heart for a foster child, please call New Foundations Inc. at 215-203-8733 or 610 876-4474 or visit our website at www.nfi4kids.org.