



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

Every family should have an **emergency plan**. When a disaster strikes every adult and child should know where to go, who to go to and how they should all contact each other. The first thing you may want to do is ask your local government what types of disasters may strike in your area. This will help you to prepare an emergency kit. The next thing will be to find out where emergency shelters are in your area as well as where you will be able to get disaster supplies. For your home emergency kit, always have batteries and flashlights. Keep a battery operated radio available. Have candles, matches and maybe even a lighter available. As far as food, you will need some non-perishable items. Canned food is good, but remember you still will need to warm some of it up so try and find a food heater that runs on batteries and don't forget a can opener. Have plenty of bottled water and some canned juice so you have some sugar. You may want to have a few unopened boxes of cereal so it will not become stale. If you have time to plan, you can get other items that do not go bad too quickly. If you have these items at your disposal an emergency can be handled calmly and without too much worry. For more information go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/documents/ruready.doc>

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 197 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 Kyrus Birckett, transporter and case aide, to our staff. He will be assisting casemanagers with transportation for children in both offices. Although Kyrus attended Penn State and majored in Engineering and Computers, he had previously worked with children while in high school and may be interested in pursuing a career working with

children in social services. New Foundations also welcomed three resource families and children from PSI in April.

All New Foundations employees completed their certification or re-certification in infant, child and adult CPR in March. A week long training in Reality Therapy/Choice Theory was completed by 16 staff members in April. Many of the participants

mentioned that it was an enjoyable week as well as a great learning experience. Thanks to Kim Olver for continuing to provide this training for New Foundations over the years.

New Foundations will be taking part in the 13th Annual Foster Parent and Kinship Caregiver Training Event "Kids Are People Too!" on Saturday, June 3 at Temple University.

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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 140 children placed in resource homes (foster and kinship) 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 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 their resource parents who make their work possible by providing love and nurture to the children in our care.

Congratulations to Ms. Della Jackson, foster parent of the month for February, Ms. Erika Braxton, for the

month of March and Ms. Dena Diarra, for the month of April. Each foster parent was awarded a certificate of appreciation and a gift card to Wal-Mart.

A special thank you goes out from staff and foster parents to foster parent Sylvia Atchison for her excellent presentation, "Reading is Fundamental" on April 25, 2006.

Congratulations to our children, who continue to work hard in school to attain their goals. Special congratulations to Amy on her acceptance to Penn State. Congratulations to Kurtis on the successful completion of his first year at Community College of Philadelphia and his upcoming transfer to Mansfield University in the fall. Best wishes to Amy, Asina, Jean and Kneisha who will be attending their Senior Proms.

Congratulations to Randy and Eric on making the Honor Roll and special congratulations to Kevin who not only made Honor Roll the last report card period, but also made a drastic improvement with his behavior both at home and in school. The Center City team is proud of each and every one of our children.

Center City casemanager, Sayjelah Lundy, is continuing her education at the University Of Phoenix, majoring in Business. Congratulations also to casemanager, Alicia Louis, who celebrated her one year anniversary with New Foundations in March.

Chester Office

Office supervisor Sherron Samuels continues to do an excellent job in the Chester office. Casemanager Nicole Thompson welcomed a new addition to her family recently. Nicole and her son are enjoying their new puppy "Chiquita". Casemanager Naomi Muse will be attending a four day workshop titled "Training for

Trainers" in Georgia in June.

Congratulations to our children, who continue to work hard to attain their goals. Congratulations to Genera for maintaining Honor Roll and best wishes on Graduation. Congratulations to Maria also for being honored as a distinguished student at Vo-Tech. Congratulations to our younger children also: Dominic enjoyed his karate lessons so much that he will continue with his lessons, Thomas will be graduating from Head Start in June, Shydaya is learning to ride her new tricycle, Janaya is starting to crawl and Lashay is starting to talk.

The Chester office recognizes all of our children who have worked hard in school this year and salutes

all of our resource parents for their hard work and dedication to providing our children with the love and nurturing which enables the children to achieve their goals.

Timely Tips

Rainy day ideas:

When it is warm outside, the worst thing is for the rain to be coming down. No one wants to have to be inside during the summer, but some days are inside days. To avoid boredom and watching TV all day, keep craft items on hand. One easy craft is making magnets with your children. With scissors, glue, magnets, markers and foam sheets, they can be made easily. The foam can be cut in different shapes and glued to the magnets. Markers can be used to decorate the magnets even more. Another easy craft is making placemats. The supplies needed are: contact paper, construction paper, scissors, glue and pictures from magazines. Simply place an 18" x 11" sheet of clear contact paper, sticky side up, on a flat surface. Then place shapes made from the construction paper and the magazine pictures on the contact paper. When you are done placing the pictures, put another 18" x 11" piece of contact paper over your work with the sticky side down, covering what was just made. Trim the edges to make it neat and you have a new placemat. You can design the mats with words or names on them too. Take your children with you to an arts and crafts store to look for projects you would like to do together. It can make a rainy day much more fun when you are creating something with your children.

(source: www.kidsdomain.com/craft/sprung.html)

Timely Tips

Teens and jobs:

- ☺ Many children start their first job as a summer job. Here are some teen regulations:
- ☺ The minimum age for children to work is 14
- ☺ 14 and 15 year old children may work 30 hours a week during the summer and only 6 hours a day. During the school year they may work 15 hours a week and only 3 hours a day
- ☺ 16 and 17 year old children may work 8 hours a day during the summer for a total of 40 hours in a week. During the school year they may work a 4 hour day for a total of 20 hours a week.
- ☺ Late night hour regulations apply to children under 16 years old. During the school year they may not work after 7:00PM. During the summer they may not work after 9:00PM
- ☺ There are no federal restrictions for late night hours for children 16 and older, however the suggestion is that those children should not work past 10:00PM.
- ☺ Make sure your children are safe at their jobs. Meet their employers and take a tour of the facility they will be working in. Talk to your children often about their job and what it is like to work where they work. Ask the employer about their safety training. Monitor your child and make sure they are not too tired from working too much and that they still have time to do the things they like to do.
- ☺ States vary in regulations so if you need specific information on rules in Pennsylvania call 800-932-0665
- ☺ (Source: <http://www.stopchildlabor.org/USchildlabor/kidprime.htm#state>)

Upcoming Foster Parent Trainings

Please check with your office regarding dates and topics

Recruitment

The recruitment staff has been very busy over the last quarter. Supervisor, Sandie Caulder, reports that fourteen new resource homes have been approved since March. Welcome to all our new foster and kinship families.

All recruitment staff attended the CPR certification training and Recruiter Taren Daniels attended the Reality Therapy/Choice Theory training. Recruiter Kirsten Hontz has been working with the Free Library of Philadelphia, East Falls branch, and answered questions on foster care and adoption at an event in March. All recruiters will be taking part in a larger presentation there on June 14th at 7PM. Recruiters Shep Garner and Kirsten joined the Pennsylvania

State Foster Parent Association at the Department of Human Services on April 28th to kick-off May as National Foster Care Month in Philadelphia. Shep and Kirsten will also be on hand at Temple University for the 13th Annual Foster Parent and Kinship Caregiver Training on June 3rd. Many of our resource parents are planning to attend and it should be an informative and enjoyable day for all.

New Foundations wishes Kirsten special congratulations and warm wishes to her and her fiancé on their upcoming nuptials. In spite of her busy schedule, Kirsten announced her engagement in May. The wedding is being planned for next year.

Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

This past quarter SCOH has successfully discharged 8 families. SCOH services were a great asset to those needy families. Several changes have taken place within the SCOH regulations throughout the quarter but the casemanagers have adjusted to all of the changes and jumped right back into working on behalf of these families. The SCOH staff would like to congratulate our June graduates, honor roll students and all students for a successful 2005-2006 school year.

Adoption

We are pleased to share that New Foundations adoption staff has successfully finalized five adoptions between March 1, 2006 and June 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 16 Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through the Philadelphia Department of Human Services. Through our SWAN contract, we are currently working on 13 units of service with Delaware, Chester, Northampton and Somerset Counties.

Our Adoption Coordinators, Amy Morris and Jill Chiciak, attended the SWAN Spring Fling on May 10, 2006. Jill and Amy also attended a CPR class on March 8th and Reality Therapy/Control Theory training from

April 24th to April 28th, 2006. Amy attended trainings at PCCYFS on April 21, 2006 titled "Conflict Resolution," and on May 11, 2006 titled "Cultural Competence." Jill attended a PCCYFS training on April 10, 2006 titled "Child Development: Why Children Act The Way They Do" and on April 21, 2006 titled "Using Art With Children To Encourage Communication."

Amy and Jill also attended the monthly DHS forums and Delaware Valley Adoption Council (DVAC) monthly meetings. The DHS forums have been focused on developing the family profile and the requirements of Act 160. The DVAC meetings included training on the special ways children communicate with their new parents, interstate compacts in PA, NJ, and DE and the implications for adoption.

New Foundations continues to complete Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through Philadelphia county and SWAN adoptions and Child Preparation through Delaware and the surrounding counties. We would like to thank our Adoption Coordinators for their continued dedication and commitment. Amy celebrated her two year anniversary at New Foundations in April 2006 and continues to attend graduate school at West Chester University, achieving a 4.0 this semester. We would like to wish Jill a happy 32nd birthday, which she celebrated on April 8, 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 28 families. Both

Aftercare case managers combined have successfully discharged 10 families from the Aftercare Unit during the last quarter.

New Foundations Aftercare case managers reported that they have 2 children on their caseload who are currently taking college courses. Rhonda and Chanel are both doing a good job

balancing college and working part-time jobs. Kiera also has a part-time job.

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.

Center City Program Office
1341 North Delaware Avenue · Suite 502
Administrative Office · Philadelphia, PA 19125
(215) 203-8733
(215) 203-8184 (Fax)
1-877-NFI -4KID (1-877-634-4543)

New Foundations, Inc.
A New Beginning For Children
and Families



Chester Program Office
One East 9th Street
Chester, PA 19013
(610)-876-4474
(610) 876-1944 (Fax)



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.

Summer Safety

Summer is rapidly approaching. Many people like to spend time taking vacations over the summer. People travel to the beach, to resorts that have swimming pools, to the mountains and many other destinations all over the country. New Foundations wishes everyone a happy summer and hopes these tips will help make your summer a safe one as well.



First, remember to talk to your case manager about taking your foster children out of state or on overnight trips. Permission from the biological family or the county worker must be obtained by New Foundations. Please give your case manager a sufficient amount of time to obtain this. The agency must know where you are going, how you are getting there and how long you will be there. If for some reason permission cannot be granted for the children, a respite family may be used for the time the resource family is away, but the agency will do their best to get permission. That is why it is so important to let your case manager know as soon as possible about plans for vacationing.

Many people vacationing will be spending time in the sun. It is important to protect yourself and your children. For infants, sun exposure should be avoided. Clothe them in pants and long-sleeved shirts that are lightweight and

have them wear a brimmed hat. It may also be appropriate to apply minimal sunscreen to babies, that is safe for them, to their face and hands, if sufficient shade is unavailable. Children should wear lotion with a SPF, (sun protection factor), of at least 15. It should be applied 30 minutes before going into the sun. Remember to re-apply sunscreen after a child has been in the water.

(source:<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/tanning.htm>)

While on vacation, you and the children you care for may choose to go swimming in a pool or in the ocean. Always remember to monitor children when they are swimming.



Never leave them alone in a pool or in the ocean. Be in arms-reach of toddlers in the water. If you own your own pool, make sure you have rescue equipment near your pool such as a life-preserver, a shepherd's hook, which is a long pole with a hook at the end, and a portable telephone near the pool. Avoid inflatable swimming aids like "floaties". They give children a false sense of security and are not a substitute for life vests.

(source:<http://www.aap.org/family/tippool.htm>)

During the summer the creepy-crawly bugs tend to come out even more. Children and adults are at-risk

for bites from mosquitoes, fleas, ticks and other insects. Sometimes these insects carry diseases so it is important to be protected from the 'buggers'. Avoid using scented soaps, perfume and hairspray. They attract bugs. Avoid areas where insects congregate like stagnant pools of water and flower beds. Clothing with bright colors and flowery prints can attract insects so avoid dressing in them. Insect repellents containing DEET are most effective, however sprays containing DEET cannot be used on children under 2 months of age. There are other products that don't contain DEET that are also effective that can be used if you are not comfortable or cannot use a product containing DEET.

For more information on DEET and the source of this information visit:

(source:<http://www.aapnews.org/cgi/content/full/e200399v1>)

If you follow these simple tips you can have a safe and enjoyable summer and vacation without worry. Remember that children come first so they must be protected and monitored at all times. Enjoy the fun times spent with all of the children. It will leave memories for many years and don't forget to take pictures. Children grow up before we know it and it is nice to have something to remember them when they were young.

