



New Foundations, Inc.

Welcome

Welcome to New Foundations' fourth 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

using "time-ins" vs. "time-outs"

Most of us use time-outs when disciplining children. A time-out is when a child is sent to their room or to sit on a "time-out" chair for a period of time. It should be one minute for each year, so if the child is four years old, he or she should receive a four minute time-out. The problem with using time-outs, alone, is that sometimes the child does not understand what they have done wrong, but only that the caregiver is upset with him or her. "Time-ins" should be incorporated into using the time-out. The child must understand what they have done wrong and how they can do things differently. Take the time to sit with the child who has drawn on the wall and redirect that impulse by showing him or her that they can draw on paper and that is acceptable, but drawing on the wall is not. For the child who doesn't want to clean up his or her room, explain to the child that you will help him or her and show the child how to do it appropriately. Foster children feel differently than other children as it is. They are away from their families and everything that is familiar to them. It is difficult for them to be isolated, like when they are given a time-out. By using "time-ins" we can be more effective in the discipline process and the child learns better ways of doing things.

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 170 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 wishes a fond farewell to Mr. James Scott who will be retiring from his position as a case aide/transporter on March 24th. Staff and children alike will miss his ever-present smile as well as his willingness to help whenever needed for whatever is needed. Mr. Scott has been with New Foundations for over six years and has touched many lives with his

upbeat personality and sincere interest in our children. Although retiring from New Foundations, Mr. Scott will continue his work with children, as he has done through the years, as an umpire for baseball and softball and a referee for basketball. We all wish him a long and happy retirement. Congratulations also to Pat Ackason, Department of Public

Welfare inspector, on her retirement in February. Ms. Ackason has worked for many years with New Foundations and will also be missed. We all wish her the best. New Foundations will be providing all staff with CPR certification training in March and will be holding a week long training on Reality Therapy/Choice Theory starting April 24th.

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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 almost 140 children placed in foster and kinship 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 also gives special thanks to all of their foster parents who make their work possible by providing love and nurturing to the children in our care.

Congratulations to Ms Brenda

Crabbe , foster parent of the month for December and Mr. Cleveland and Mrs. Gail Best, foster parents of the month for January. Starting in 2006, the Center City team will include a gift card to Wal-Mart in addition to a certificate of appreciation for the foster parent of the month award.

Congratulations to our children, who continue to work hard in school to attain their goals. Amy has completed another report card period with Distinguished Honors at Overbrook High School. Brittany plans on joining the US Navy after her graduation in June and Kneisha

has obtained her driver's license.

Center City casemanager Tenisha Williams is continuing her education in Business Administration and secretary Yvone Jones is majoring in Criminal Justice and Business Management at the University of Phoenix. Keep up the good work!

Chester Office

Office supervisor Sherron Samuels continues to do an excellent job and is enjoying her counseling courses at Wilmington College. Case manager Shayvonne Jackson has announced that she is expecting her first child in September. Foster parent Lavinya Walker has announced her engagement and will be walking down the aisle this summer. Foster parent Sharon Pompili will be graduating this month from PGA as a para-legal. Congratulations to all. Special congratulations to foster parent Arlyne Craig on her nomination for the Points of Transformation

Award. In addition to being a foster parent with New Foundations, Mrs. Craig has been a "Family Living Provider" for Elwyn Inc. for over twelve years.

Congratulations to our children also. Dominick has completed his karate lessons. Dominick and Ashley are now taking gymnastics. Cameron has received an award for reading 180 books. Great work, Cameron! Tia has obtained her driver's license and will be graduating in June. Genera will also graduate this June and is deciding on which college to attend. The Chester office staff honored foster parent Frances Taylor with a

Timely Tips

- ☺ **Parents: Internet-Related Safety Tips for Teens and Kids.**
- ☺ Don't give out personal information about yourself, your family, your family situation, your school, your telephone number, or your address.
- ☺ Call the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 if you become aware of sharing, use, or viewing of child pornography.
- ☺ You are able to contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) if someone harrases you on the internet.
- ☺ Never meet with a person you are talking to on the computer. A friend you meet online may not be the person you are talking too. You may think you are speaking with a person your age but in reality you are speaking with an older adult looking for young children.
- ☺ If you or a friend feels they are ready to run away to the person they are talking to on the computer please call the National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000.
- ☺ www.missingkids.com

gift basket for her dedication and community service in working with the Salvation Army in feeding the homeless.

Upcoming Foster Parent Trainings

Chester office
March 24, 2006-*How to Communicate with Your Teenager*-will be rescheduled due to staff training

Center City
March 20, 2006 - *The Difference Between Discipline and Punishment*



Recruitment

The recruitment staff enjoyed the holiday festivities and especially enjoyed having recruiter Shep giving out gifts in the red suit in the Chester office. Supervisor Sandie Caulder reports that her staff has returned from the holiday as busy as ever. The recruitment staff has approved thirteen families in the last quarter. In addition to providing training for prospective foster parents and completing home studies, recruiter Taren Daniels has been reaching out to families in the Chester area through Chester Eastside

Ministries events. Taren also attended the Chester City Hall Senior Citizen Outreach Luncheon on December 21. Recruiters Kirsten Hontz and Shep Garner have been reaching out to families in Philadelphia. Kirsten attended the Statewide Adoption Conference and Training on the Resource Family Registry in State College, PA on January 24 and 25. Congratulations to Sandie on celebrating her 10th anniversary with the agency in February.

Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

The New Foundations SCOH program continues working with our Philadelphia area families. Two families have had additions to their households recently. One family welcomed a healthy baby boy in December and another family welcomed a healthy baby girl in January. All mothers and babies are doing well. SCOH had five families discharged 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 four adoptions between December 1, 2005 and March 1, 2006. We would like to extend our congratulations and ongoing support to the families who finalized their adoptions to date. We are in the process of finalizing 17 PBC adoptions through Philadelphia County and are currently working on sixteen units of service in conjunction with Delaware County Children and Youth Services and the State Wide Adoption Network (SWAN).

Our Adoption Coordinators, Amy Morris and Jill Chiciak, attended the SWAN Winter Statewide Conference at Penn State from January 23-25, 2006. Trainings included: A Framework and Measures for Youth

Permanency and Child Profile Computer-Based Training Curriculum. They also attended the SWAN SE Regional Meeting on February 8, 2006. The meeting provided information on the services offered by the Center for Schools and Communities.

Amy and Jill also attended the monthly DHS forum and Delaware Valley Adoption Council (DVAC) meetings. The DHS forums have been focused on developing the family profile and the requirements of Act 160. The DVAC meeting in January provided a training on Resiliency in Maltreated Children. The DVAC meeting in February provided a training on Early Intervention and Support in the Attachment Process for Children Adopted After 5 Months of Age.

Elisa Esh, resigned from her position

with Family Design Resources as our South East Regional Technical Assistant effective 1/2/06. We wish her good luck in her new position as the Director of Resource Family Recruitment with Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries Adoption and Foster Care Services. Yvette Lassister has been assigned as the new South East Regional Technical Assistant for New Foundations.

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. 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 currently services 28 families. Both Aftercare case managers

combined have successfully discharged 5 families from the Aftercare Unit in the last quarter.

New Foundations Aftercare case managers, Lisa Naklicki and Kemi Odeniyi, report that they have 2 children on their caseload who are on honor roll. Rhonda will be graduating from Girls High School this year. Quintera received A's and B's on her report card this semester. She is

enrolled in college preparatory classes. Coacia, along with her father and two brothers was recently baptized in her church.

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
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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.

Teens in Care

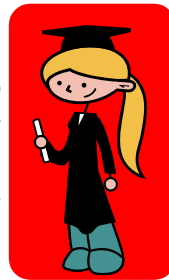
There are many teenagers in our area that need foster homes. These children can be the most difficult to place in foster homes because of the challenge that comes along with parenting teens. Foster parents may feel that teens are too difficult to discipline or that they are set in their ways, but we must remember that they are people too and need our love and understanding to become model citizens. They are our next generation.



Many of these children feel they have lost control in their lives and sometimes act out to show that they are in control of their own lives. They can be angry, as anyone would be, about what has happened throughout their lives. It is our responsibility as members of the foster care team to help them to attain roots, to help them feel loved and to help them feel valued.

Commitment to the children is the way to do this. It is important that all children know that we care about them, their interests and their fears. It may take longer to attach to a teenager in your home and for them to attach to you, but it doesn't mean it won't happen. It takes continuous love and commitment. These children are capable of attaching to you and to improving their behavior.

New Foundations' staff remembers one child who had to be moved to several foster homes because of her "typical teen behavior". She ended up with a family that showed her she could do more with her life. Now she is attending college. She still sees her foster mother during breaks and even keeps in touch with her old case managers. Another child went on to independent living and was able to do so because of the life-skills her foster mother taught



her. She is successful at her job and is considering going on to further her education.

These children, like all children, needed consistent love and attention to turn their lives around. They were able to do so because someone took the time to care about them and forgot that they were "teenage" foster children and remembered that they were young adults who are an important part of our society. New Foundations is always in need of homes for children of all ages, but the greatest need is for our teenage children and we have the least amount of homes for this age group. If you or anyone you know are willing and interested in working with our teens, please tell your case manager or inform one of our recruiters. Remember our teens are the adults of tomorrow.

