



# New Foundations, Inc.

## Welcome

Welcome to New Foundations' second 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

© "About 5% of all unintentional home poisoning deaths are caused by carbon monoxide not involving a residential fire. Carbon monoxide can be emitted by burning wood, kerosene or coal as well as by sources of gas or motor vehicles."-source [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org) "The State of Home Safety in America-2002 Survey" Of course, children and senior citizens are most susceptible to illness, however we should all be careful. Carbon monoxide detectors are available at most hardware and discount department stores for \$20 to \$45. Remember to place your carbon monoxide detectors close to the ground because carbon monoxide sits low to the ground and does not rise as smoke does.

## 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 has successfully completed our annual SCOH and DPW inspections. We are pleased to report that both inspections went extremely well, and New Foundations staff was highly commended for providing quality service to our children and families. New Foundations maintains full licensure for our foster

care, kinship care, adoptions, and SCOH programs though DPW and the Philadelphia Department of Human Services.

New Foundations held a staff picnic on July 29, 2005. All staff that were able to attend reported having a good time, on a gorgeous weather day. Foster parent appreciation

events for both offices are being scheduled in September, and the upcoming months.



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## Center City Office

Promoted to supervisors earlier this year, Deatrice Fields and Charles Mensah continue to do an outstanding job supervising both units in the Center City office. New Foundations welcomes Tenisha Williams to the Center City office as part of the case management staff. The Center City office is fully staffed with case managers, secretaries, and transporters, who are

dedicated workers that genuinely care for the children by ensuring their safety while in New Foundations care. Since June 1, 2005 the Center City office has worked hard to achieve permanencies for 10 kinship care children and 17 foster children, who were either reunited with bio-family, adopted, or achieved permanent legal custodianship. The Center City office

currently has over 120 children in care with the greatly appreciated help of the foster parents who make it all possible, as they care for the children on a daily basis.

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## Chester Office

Promoted to supervisor earlier this year, Sherron Samuels continues to do an excellent job in supervising the Chester office. Sherron is continuing to work toward a Master's Degree in Community Counseling at Wilmington College, and received an "A" in her Group Counseling Course. Well done! We would also like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the Chester staff during this time of transition. Your long time service and commitment to our children and families is beyond comparison, and greatly appreciated. The New Foundations Chester office would

like to welcome Stephanie Edwards and Shayvonne Jackson, who were both added to our case management staff in July, 2005. We would also like to congratulate Aaron Cooper on his acceptance into graduate school and Michelle Celestino on her upcoming wedding and move to her new home. We will miss you both. Since June 1, 2005 the Chester office has worked hard to achieve permanencies for kinship care and foster care children, who were either reunited with bio-family, adopted, or achieved permanent legal custodianship. The Chester office continues

### Timely Tips

- ☺ It is back to school time and we must remember to be careful when children play in playgrounds.
- ☺ "Check equipment for signs of deterioration or corrosion, including rust, chipped paint, splitting or cracked plastic components or loose splinters. Beware of entrapment or entanglement hazards. A child's head can be trapped in openings between 3.5 and nine inches wide." -source [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)
- ☺ Always remember to monitor what your children are doing at the playground so if there is an accident the child can be treated immediately.

to work closely with Delaware County Children and Youth services (CYS) and currently has a whopping 21 CYS children in care to date. The Chester office has facilitated several successful discharges with CYS, so keep up the good work!

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## Recognition

### Staff

\* Hats off to Robert Akens, case manager at New Foundations, who received employee of the month for July 2005,

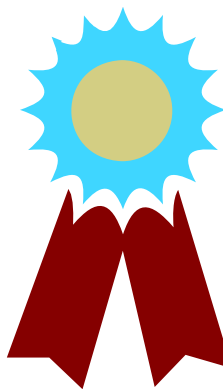
\* Case Managers JoVon Pressley and Nikki Davis celebrated their one year anniversaries with New Foundations, Inc. during August, 2005. Nikki Davis will celebrate her one year anniversary with New Foundations in September, 2005. Special recognition goes to Lois Loftin, who celebrated her five year anniversary with New Foundations on April 19, 2005. We take this opportunity to congratulate all of them for their commitment, service and performance.

\* Congratulations to Amy Morris, adoptions coordinator, who has been accepted into graduate school at West Chester University.

She will be working on her master's degree in Education for Elementary School Counseling. She will begin her classes in January of 2006.

### Child and Family:

The Center City office would like to congratulate all of the school age children who have been successfully promoted to the next grade, as well as those who received academic honors. We would also like to recognize special academic achievements by our children in care in the Center City office over the last quarter. Shaqueena left for college at Lincoln University on August 14, 2005 to begin her freshman year. Debra will be returning to Penn



State at the end of August 2005 as a sophomore. Tanya will also be returning to Bloomsburg University as a sophomore. Kurtis is on a college tour with his foster parent to help him select the college he wants to attend. We wish our college students luck and success in their academic endeavors.

### Foster Parent:

Raymond and Maureen Krok, who received foster parent of the month for July 2005

Upcoming trainings available in the Center City office:

September 2005 " Managed Care"

October 2005 " Fire Safety and Plans"

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## Recruitment

The recruitment staff has been busy over the summer, meeting and approving new foster and kinship resource families. There are now 182 approved families working with New Foundations, including 12 families approved over the summer.

New Foundations welcomed Recruiter Shep Garner to our team early this summer. Although new to the field, Shep has become an integral part of the recruitment unit. Recruitment Supervisor, Sandie Caulder, reports that Shep possesses an intense interest in learning all that he can about the foster care system and is an eager and willing team member. Shep has worked extensively with children and youth over the years as a volunteer mentor and athletic coach. With the addition to our team, we are now able to offer additional

classes to prospective foster parents in our Center City office. Recruiter Kirsten Hontz also continues to conduct monthly trainings in the Center City office as well as updating and continuing to develop our website.

Congratulations to Recruiter Taren Daniels on the birth of her new son, who weighed in at well over seven pounds. Hard to believe, but Kirsten Hontz and Sandie Caulder were able to surprise Taren with a baby shower in the Chester office in June. The date coincided with our monthly foster parent training, so Taren had best wishes from all. Mother and baby are both doing well and we look forward to Taren's return in October. Sandie Caulder will continue the trainings in the Chester office until Taren's return.

New Foundations took part in the Community Health Fair on July 23 at 23<sup>rd</sup> & Market Streets at the PECO building.

### Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

The New Foundations SCOH program is currently servicing 37 families in the Philadelphia area. For the month of July, we accepted seven new families and discharged three families successfully. Two of our families moved into new homes with the help of SCOH and Philadelphia DHS. Our children are involved at the neighborhood community centers for the summer and they are having a blast.

The New Foundations SCOH program has successfully completed their annual inspection with Philadelphia DHS. Congratulations and appreciation is extended to the SCOH supervisory and case management staff for their dedication and hard work on behalf of children and families.

preparation curriculum. 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.

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## Adoption

New Foundations is pleased to share that the adoption staff has successfully finalized six adoptions over the last three months. We appreciate the dedication and commitment of our adoption coordinator. All staff would like to extend our congratulations and appreciation to the families who finalized their adoptions to date.

New Foundations Adoption Coordinator, Amy Morris, attended the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) Summer Statewide meeting in Harrisburg, PA on June 16, 2005. The theme for the event was "New Initiatives and Resources

through SWAN". She also attended the SWAN Spring Fling in Philadelphia, PA on May 10, 2005. The theme for the event was "Child Preparation".

New Foundations, Inc. continues to complete Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through Philadelphia county and SWAN adoptions through Delaware and the surrounding counties. A proposal has been submitted to SWAN for New Foundations to become an approved provider of the Child Preparation Unit of Service, which will allow New Foundations to prepare children for adoption by using an approved child

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## 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 employs two new Aftercare workers, Lisa Naklicki and Kemi Odeniyi. Please help us in welcoming them into our organization.

New Foundations Aftercare program services 34 families. Services provided include: case management support, financial management and budgeting,

resource connection, life skills education and parenting education.

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

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(215) 203-8184 (Fax)



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

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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 or (610) 876-4474 or visit our website at [www.nfi4kids.org](http://www.nfi4kids.org).

## October is National Fire Safety Month

New Home Safety Council research disclosed that nearly 90 percent of all fire-related deaths occur in the home. To help combat this preventable tragedy during October, which is National Fire Safety Month, New Foundations would like to provide you with information from the Home Safety Council about ways to prepare your homes and families before a fire occurs.

### Installing and Testing Smoke Alarms

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement. For additional protection, the Home Safety Council recommends installing additional smoke alarms inside each bedroom or sleeping area.

- Smoke rises, so smoke alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.

- Choose an installation location that is well away from the path of steam from bathrooms and cooking vapors from the kitchen, which can result in false, or "nuisance" alarms.

- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.

- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions, which typically involves pushing the

"test" button on the face of the alarm cover. Install fresh batteries at least once a year.

- Smoke alarms should be replaced at least once every 10 years.

- If you are building a new home or remodeling your existing home, also consider installing an automatic home fire sprinkler system. Smoke alarms give you early warning of the fire while sprinklers immediately suppress and even extinguish the fire, often before the fire department arrives.

### Develop a Family Fire Escape Plan

- Sketch out a floor plan of your home, including all rooms, windows, doors, stairways, and smoke alarms. Make sure that every family member is familiar with the layout.

- Select two escape routes from each room and mark them clearly on the plan.

- Find and fix anything in your home that could interfere with a quick escape, such as windows that are stuck or heavy furniture blocking an exit.

- If you have a multi-story home, consider if you need to purchase fire escape ladders for upstairs bedrooms. If so, they should be part of your fire drill, deployed safely from a ground-floor window for practice.

- Push the "test button" on a smoke alarm to ensure everyone will recognize the sound of the

alarm if it goes off.

- Parents and caregivers should be aware that children often sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm even when the alarm is installed in or near their bedrooms. When planning a family fire drill, make assignments for those who will be responsible for assisting children and others who need help to awaken and respond properly.

- Ensure that family members with special needs, such as someone who is ill or frail, or small children, have a buddy to help them get out safely. If anyone in the household has a hearing impairment, purchase special smoke alarms that use strobes and/or vibrations to signal a fire.

- Designate a place to meet outside so that everyone can be accounted for and someone can be assigned to go to a neighbor's to call 911, or the local emergency number.

- Make copies of the escape plan sketches and post them in each room until everyone becomes familiar with them.

- Practice makes perfect. Every second counts during a real fire. Hold family fire drills frequently and at various times until the escape plans become second nature. For other useful safety links, visit SBE's online Safety Corner at <http://www.sbxchange.com>.

