



Geauga County Job & Family Services Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter February 2012



It is the great month of February. February is often referred to as the month of love. Valentine's Day is February 14th, and a profitable day for card makers. While this is often thought of as a romantic month, it can also be seen as a time to show those that are important in our lives how much we care and appreciate them.

There are simple ways to show someone that you care:

- *Sending a short note, or putting a note in your child's lunch box, just to let someone know you are thinking about them, can put a smile on their face.
- *Baking an extra batch of cookies and dropping in to a friend's just to catch up and say "Hi".
- *Sitting down and playing an old fashioned board or card game and talking about "Things."

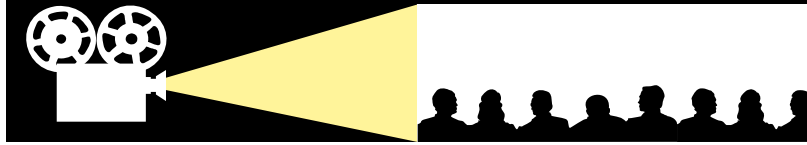
It is often the little things that we do for others that are remembered. When kids are asked "What is their favorite memory?" it is not usually the "trip to Disneyland". It is more likely that the strongest memories are: playing catch, going to the beach, or the simple, every day, activities that the child does with someone who is important in their life.

This month take time to do the little things with a child, and anyone else that you care for, and see what blossoms. You may be surprised to find out years from now what a simple afternoon of baking cookies really meant to someone.



Isn't it worth 1 minute to help support the Geauga JFS Foster/ Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter? Your e-mail address is all we need to help combat rising printing and mailing costs for our monthly newsletter. Please opt to receive your issues of our monthly newsletter via e-mail and help us keep costs down. Simply send your email address to Kathi Serafino, LSW @ serafk@odjfs.state.oh.us or Dawn Bates at batesd@odjfs.state.oh.us

Community Information:



“Child Spotlight of the Month”

KALEIGH

Enclosed with this month’s newsletter is a flyer for Kaleigh who is looking for an adoptive family.

Could that family be you? Or do you know someone who might be able to provide the forever family that Kaleigh is looking for? Take a look and let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in adopting Kaleigh.

Need help paying for your medications? The Northeast Ohio Drug Repository can help!

The Drug Repository is operated by the Lake Health District Fund in partnership with the Lake County General Health District. They are able to offer medications at the following prices for **Geauga County Residents:**

*Up to 30 days of a Brand Name medication for \$19.00

*Up to 90 days of a Generic medication for \$10.00

OR

*Up to 30 days of a Generic medication for \$4.00

Each is dependent on availability of the medication.

All medications will be shipped directly to your home!

You can register by calling 440-350-2056

This program has been made possible by the generous funding and support of the Geauga Department on Aging, Geauga County Job & Family Services, Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, United Way Services of Geauga County and the Lake County General Health District.

Free Tax Preparation Services again available this year for residents of Geauga County!

Get free help with your federal and state taxes, if your income is less than \$60,000.

Call 2-1-1 or 1-888-386-3194 to make an appointment.

“Women Supporting Women” Educational Grant.

Bainbridge Women’s Club is a civic group that serves women in Geauga County.

This grant will choose an applicant who is a woman living in Geauga County who has been, or would like to start working toward a college degree, a GED, certification classes, or any sort of educational program that will help her and her family reach lifestyle goals and financial independence.

The grant amount is \$1075. There are only 15 applications available and can be obtained from Sara Shininger at 440-285-1263. Only Serious applicants should turn in their applications to Sara Shininger by March 31st, 2012..

Technical Skills Training Program

There is a training opportunity that is being offered by Cuyahoga Community College for long-term unemployed. Opportunity to learn CISCO computer software.

Information session February 9, 2012, Burton Public Library, 5:30-7:30pm. Phone 440-285-1108 and talk to Ann Marie for additional information.

Volunteers Needed

*Do you have a little extra time on your hands? Would you like to make a big difference in a child's life?

Geauga County Job & Family Services is looking for caring, motivated adults to participate in our Volunteer Tutoring Program.

The Volunteer Tutoring Program matches volunteers with area elementary students who need extra help in basic reading and math skills.

An information meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2012 at 9am at Geauga County Job & Family Services, 12480 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon, OH.

Please contact Sara Shininger, Community Support/Volunteer Coordinator at 440-285-9141, ext. 1263 to register or for more information.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Winter Crisis Program

The Winter Crisis Program provides financial assistance to low-income households that are threatened with disconnection of their heating source; have already had service disconnected; need to establish new service or pay to transfer service; or have 25% or less of the fuel capacity in their tank.

Geauga County residents may make application for assistance, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**, at

Geauga County Job & Family Services
12480 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, OH 44024

To be income eligible, a household must have a total household income for the last 12 months or 90 days equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines. The WCP program runs November 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012

To make an appointment to apply for the HEAP Winter Crisis Program
Call 440-285-9141.

Hope for Troubled Families

Families Anonymous (FA) is a Twelve-Step, self-help support group for family and friends of substance abusers, and others, with behavioral problems. The purpose of the group is to help the family – and not the problem person.

A Family Anonymous group has been formed in Geauga County. It meets in Bainbridge Township each Wednesday evening at 7:30pm at Lord of Life Church, 17989 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. For information call John T. at 440-241-5368. All contacts are confidential.

NOACA & ODOT to Conduct Year-Long Travel Survey in NE Ohio

The Northeast Ohio Area wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) are sponsoring the Northeast Ohio Regional Travel Survey to gain a better understanding of Northeast Ohio's transportation needs now and in the future as well as to assess how and why people travel in the area. NOACA has contracted with GeoStats, a nationally known survey research firm, to collect and analyze the transportation data.

Between January and December 2012, travel data will be collected from 4,250 randomly selected households in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. Participants will be asked to wear a Global Positioning System (GPS) device or use a travel diary for several days to record travel details.

The information collected will be used to develop a better understanding of why and how people make decisions about their daily trips and activities and to update NOACA's travel forecast model. Ultimately, the information will help planners develop transportation projects that serve the region's needs.

So, if you are one of the households contacted to participate in this important study, NOACA strongly encourages you to say "yes."

For more information about the survey, visit the survey website at www.neohiotravelssurvey.com, or contact Gayle Godek, Senior Communications Specialist at NOACA, at 216-241-2414, ext. 283; or Steve Jones, Principal Planner, at ext. 352.



This year we are going to give you some things that make you say hmmm. . . .

1. If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?
2. Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
3. If I save time, when do I get it back?
4. Why do signs that say "Slow Children" have a picture of a running child?
5. If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?
6. How is it possible to run out of space?
7. How do you get off a nonstop flight?
8. Which is the other side of the street?
9. What is the speed of dark?
10. Are you breaking the law if you drive past those road signs that say "Do Not Pass"?



Recipes: Pinwheel Italian Calzones

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

½ cup ricotta cheese
1 t Italian Seasoning
¼ t salt
¼ c grated Parmesan cheese
½ c shredded mozzarella cheese
½ c chopped pepperoni

¼ c finely chopped fresh mushrooms
¼ c finely chopped green bell pepper
2 T finely chopped onion
1 (8 oz) can refrigerated crescent roll dough
1 (14 oz) jar pizza sauce



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a medium bowl, stir together the ricotta cheese, Italian seasoning, salt, Parmesan cheese, mozzarella cheese, pepperoni, mushrooms, green pepper and onion. Set aside.
3. Unroll the crescent roll dough and separate into 4 rectangles. Press the remaining perforations together to seal. Spread the filling evenly onto the rectangles. Roll up the filling inside the dough starting at the short side. Slice each finished roll into four slices, and place cut side down onto a baking sheet.
4. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until lightly browned. While the pinwheels are baking, warm the pizza sauce. Serve the pinwheels with pizza sauce in small cups for dipping.

Blueberry Coffee Cake

Servings: 6

Ingredients:

¼ c butter, softened
2/3 c sugar
1 egg
1 1/8 c all-purpose flour
½ t baking powder
½ t salt
½ c milk

1 c fresh or frozen blueberries
1 (3 oz) package cream cheese, cubed

Topping:
2 T all purpose flour
2 T sugar
1T cold butter



Directions:

1. For batter, in a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in egg. Combine 1 cup flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Toss blueberries with remaining flour. Stir blueberries and cream cheese into creamed mixture (batter will be thick). Transfer to a greased 8-in. square baking dish.
2. For topping, in a small bowl, combine flour and sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter. Bake at 375 degrees F for 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES:

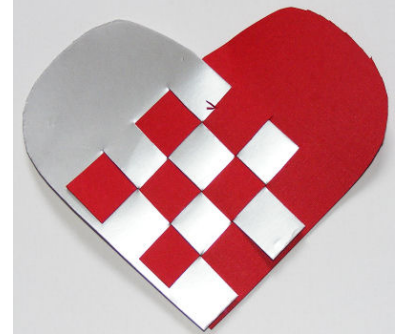
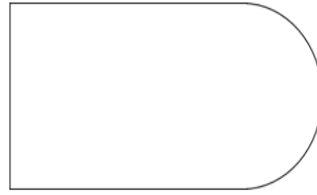
Woven Heart Craft

Supplies:

Card stock or construction paper in 2 colors

Directions:

1. Cut 2 pieces of paper in this shape.
2. Cut 3 slits into the straight edge of each paper stopping just before the shape curves.
3. Take one piece and weave the first strip into the other piece of paper; under, over, under, over. With the second strip weave the other way so over, under, over, under. Repeat with the other strips. Look at picture for help.



An Encouraging Friend

**“What creation is more beautiful, what treasure more valuable,
than a warm, encouraging friend? William Arthur Ward**

TRAINING REMINDERS:

- ❖ Even if you are not currently a certified foster or adoptive family with us, you are still welcome to attend our trainings. All we ask is that you call to register.
- ❖ **Please remember that if there are less than 5 people signed up for training, a week prior to the training, the training will be cancelled.**
- ❖ To register for training you can call the county directly, call the Foster Parent Training Line at 1-866-294-3787 or contact [Julie Hayden](mailto:Julie.Hayden@ocwtp.com), at 330-379-1976.
- ❖ Want to know what trainings are being held by other counties? Visit the Northeast Regional Training Center website at <http://www.ocwtp.com/neortc.htm>

Geauga County Job & Family Services On-Going Training Schedule

Tuesday, February 7, 2012: Substance Use And Abuse Among Children And Teens: Prevention Recognition And Intervention
Trainer: Stacy Simera Time: 6-9 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2012: Dealing With The Impact Of Early Sexual Trauma
Trainer: David Zidar Time: 6-9pm

Geauga County Job & Family Services Pre-Service Schedule

Pre-Service will be held starting February 25, 2012 on Saturdays through March 31, 2012.

**Lake County Job & Family Services
On-Going Training Schedule
440-350-4218 or 440-918-4218**

Thursday, February 16, 2012: ZZZ's To A's: Supporting Sleep For Better Functioning
Trainer: Stacy Simera Time: 6-9 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2012: From Bullying To Befriending: Helping Youth Change The Culture Of Bullying
Trainer: Anthony President Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 22, 2012: Discipline Your Children Without Punishing Yourself
Trainer: Beth Philley Time: 6-9 pm

**Lake County Job & Family Services
Pre-Service Training**

Pre-Service will be held starting February 4, 2012 through March 14, 2012.

**Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
On-Going Training Schedule
440-998-1811**

Thursday, February 2, 2012: Working with Birth Parents: Making it A Positive For Everyone
Trainer: Sherry Doherty Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, February 16, 2012: Suicide Risk Among Children And Adolescents: Recognition and Intervention
Trainer: Ruth Simera Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 15, 2012: Substance Use and Abuse Among Children And Teens: Prevention, Recognition and Intervention
Trainer: Stacy Simera Time: 6-9 pm

Thursday, March 22, 2012: Beauty And The Beast: Providing Trauma Sensitive Care To Children
Trainer: Kathleen Terry Time: 6-9 pm

**Ashtabula County Children's Services Board
Pre Service Training Schedule**

Pre-Service will be held starting March 1, 2011 on Thursdays through May 2011.





KALEIGH

“The Little Things in Life Make Her Happy”

DOB: February 28, 1998

Kaleigh has been described as being caring of others, very observant, and a good conversationalist. She has a big heart, and always wants to “help” others.

Kaleigh enjoys drawing, coloring and painting pictures. Her favorite foods are pizza, crab legs, and pepperoni. Her favorite restaurants are McDonald’s and Red Lobster. She goes to the library weekly to get books that spark her interest. Kaleigh is someone who enjoys being outside, whether it be playing on the playground equipment, or just taking a walk. During the winter months she enjoys sledding and making snowmen. Kaleigh also likes to spend a lot of time with her baby dolls. Like many girls her age, she enjoys listening to music, dancing, and having her hair styled. Her favorite characters are Sponge Bob and Winnie the Pooh.

Kaleigh is in the 6th grade. She has an IEP for reading and math. Overall, she does well in school, and puts forth her best effort. While she has a difficult time socially, she has made progress in this area.

Kaleigh needs a family that will provide her with structure, support, and a great amount of patience and understanding.

Would you like to learn even more about Kaleigh?

Agency: Geauga County JFS
Contact: Danette Richards
Telephone: (440) 285-1288

