



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



May is National Foster Care Month

May is recognized as **National Foster Care Month**. This month we show our gratitude to the foster parents around the county for the job they do working with children and families in the community. Geauga County Job and Family Services values the job that our foster parents do to ensure a bright future for foster youth. We celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

The work that our foster families do requires commitment, hope, understanding and patience. Our families work hard with the children placed in their homes as well as the birth relatives and others that are important in the child's life. The primary goal of foster care is to help reunify the child back with their birth parents or relatives. For many of our families this is one way they give back to their communities and enrich the lives of others.

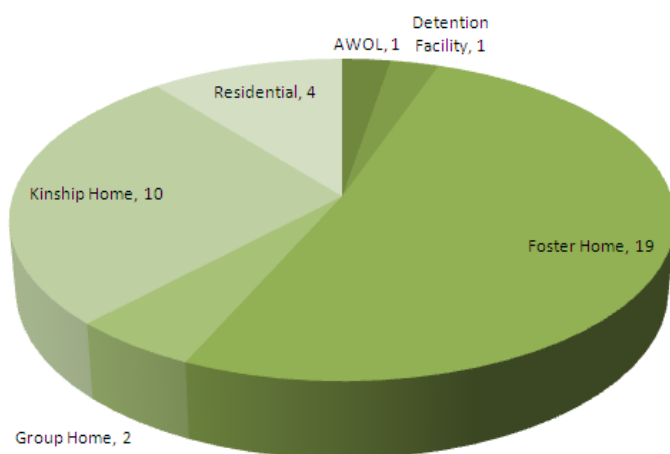
While homes are needed for children aged birth to eighteen, we are particularly in need of homes for school-aged children and teens. If you know someone that may be interested in becoming a foster parent or if you are a kinship parent and would like more information about becoming a foster parent contact a permanency planning worker at 440-285-9141.

To all of our caregivers thanks for all you do for the children of Geauga County.



Where our Children are Placed

April 2012 - Geauga County Had 37 Children in Custody



Foster and Kinship homes provide a safe temporary home to a child while the birth family works towards a safe reunification. Foster and Kinship families who open their homes and hearts play a vital role in helping children and families heal.

When a suitable foster or kinship home is not an option, or if the child's needs are better served in a different setting the child may be placed in an facility that is able to provide for the child's special needs.

Often foster and kinship families choose to adopt the children that have been placed with them when reunification with the birth family is not possible.

Child Welfare in Ohio

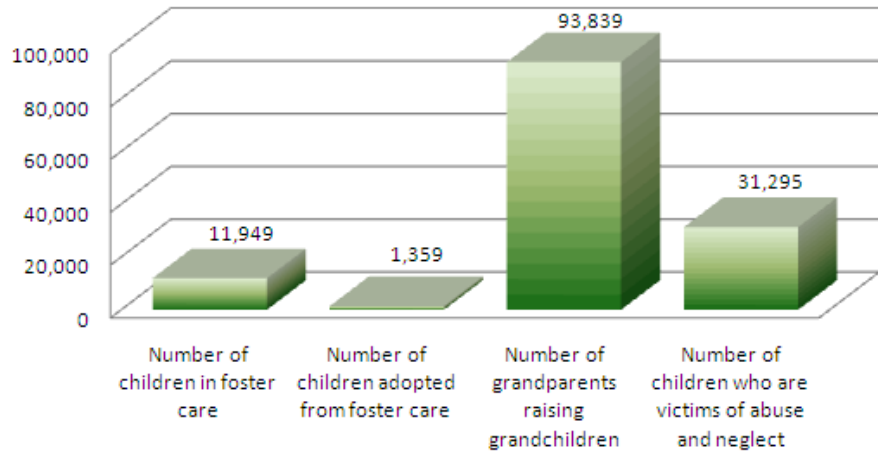
2,746,459 children live in Ohio

A child is abused or neglected every 17 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.

Data from Children's Defense Fund

Child Welfare in Ohio



Child Spotlight of the Month Kayla— DOB January 1995



Kayla is usually pleasant and takes pride in her appearance. Kayla is a very sociable and energetic child. She has been consistently doing well during the school day since being placed in an all girls group home. She is able to sit nicely, stay on task, raise her hand, stay in the program, etc. She enjoys listening to music as well as art. Kayla's favorite sport is volleyball, which she plays, but also enjoys basketball. Kayla takes pride in the things she is able to cook and bake.

Kayla is on medication to help her with her depression and it seems to be working pretty well.

Kayla would like to maintain contact with her sisters and aunts. They have consistently been a part of her life and she would like it to stay that way.

Would you like to learn even more about Kayla? Contact Kelly Conroy at Geauga County Job and Family Services, 285-9141 ext. 214.



Training Reminders

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, 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>

Foster Parents you can receive up to 1/3 of your training hours through **Foster Parent College**. That means that you can get up to 13 hours over 2 years of your training hours online. For more information go to www.fosterparentcollege.com.

Foster/Adoptive parents **Online** training presented by **Foster Care & Adoptive Community, Inc.** www.fosterparents.com/training 818-998-4462. This online training program allows parents to get training when their schedule allows and they are low cost trainings. for more info see above.

The “Re-Do” - A Second Chance

Trust-Based Relational Intervention training provided a great deal of helpful hints in working with our children that have experienced trauma. Over the next few newsletters we will be sharing tips and techniques from the training.

“The Re-Do”

The “Re-do” is an opportunity for a second try; a chance to do it the right way without being punished and to have the situation result successfully.

- ◆ Incorrect behavior occurs i.e. An 11 year old girl storms off stating she is leaving and going to watch a movie.
- ◆ Offer your child a chance to “re-do” the scenario.
 - ◆ Calmly ask her to come back, make non-threatening eye contact
 - ◆ Hold her hand in an attempt to calm and connect with her
 - ◆ Ask her to try again by asking to watch the movie instead of telling that she is going to do this. Other phrases may include: “Let’s try that again with respect,” “Can you try that again?” Whoa, let’s go back and do this again differently.”
- ◆ Once the “re-do” occurs then the scenario becomes a win-win for both. She gets to watch the movie and you were asked in a respectful manner.

For more information on “Re-do” or other techniques visit www.child.tcu.edu.

Crafts & Activities

With the warm weather around the corner, kids love to be by water. Here are a couple of crafts that kids can do by the water.

Homemade Boat

There are lots of ways to make a boat that will float.

For base of boat you can use:

- ◆ A plastic bowl
- ◆ An aluminum pan
- ◆ Aluminum foil

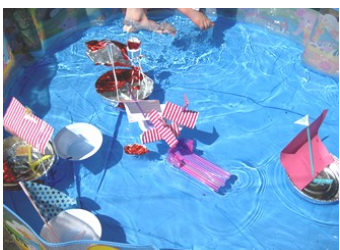
Mast poles can be made from Straws, Pipe cleaners, etc.

Sails can be made from wrapping paper, foil, plastic notebook cover, etc.

Directions:

Take the base and tape a mast to the bottom on the inside. Add sails and add your own personality and you are ready to set sail.

Have your child look around to see what is in the recycling and laying around the house to personalized their boat .






Float Your Boat

Materials:

Half-gallon juice carton
 Scissors
 Colored duct tape
 3 chopsticks
 2 (1 1/4- by 2 1/2- inch) pieces of thick plastic (we cut ours from a detergent bottle)
 Rubber band
 Plastic bag

Directions:

1. Use scissors to cut a carton in half length-wise. Cut the top from one half, then slip that half inside the other, forming a box. 
2. Cover the box with duct tape, attaching a chopstick to each side. For motor paddles, cut a slit halfway through the middle of each plastic piece, then slide them together, creating an X. Assemble the motor by stretching a rubber band between the two chopsticks, centering the paddle on the rubber band, and taping it in place. 
3. For the sail, cut a 7-inch square from a plastic bag. Line two edges of the square with duct tape, attach a chopstick mast to one edge, then cut the plastic into a triangle. 
4. Use scissors to poke a hole in the top of the boat and insert the mast. To launch the boat, wind up the paddle, set the boat in the water, and let it go.

Save the Date—Hot Dog Picnic

Geauga Children's Alliance will hold it's annual Hot Dog Picnic on Thursday June 7th at the Rookery, 10110 Cedar Rd., Munson Township. The mission of Geauga Children's Alliance is to prevent the abuse, neglect and abandonment of children through community awareness programming and community support of services which strengthen Geauga Families.

The event includes dinner, door prizes and activities for the children. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students with a maximum of \$30 per family.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Dawn Bates at 440-285-1102.



Tell Us What You Think



Please take a moment to help support the Geauga JFS Foster/ Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter by completing the enclosed survey. An envelope has been included in this mailing for your convenience.

Recipes

Pizza Casserole

Prep time: 30 min
Cook time: 30 min
Serves 7

Ingredients:

2 cups uncooked egg noodles
½ pound lean ground beef
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup sliced pepperoni
10 oz pizza sauce
4 T milk
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Cook noodles according to package directions.
3. In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, brown the ground beef with the onion, garlic and green bell pepper. Drain excess fat. Stir in the noodles, pepperoni, pizza sauce and milk, and mix well. Pour this mixture into a 2-quart casserole dish.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 20 minutes, top with the cheese, then bake for 5 to 10 more minutes.

Frosty Freezer Pie

Prep time; 10 min
Serves: 8

Ingredients:

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow crème
2 cups raspberry sherbet, softened
2 cups whipped topping
1 (9 inch) graham cracker crust

Directions:

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and marshmallow crème until smooth. Stir in sherbet. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into crust. Freeze until firm. remove from the freezer 10 minutes before serving. The pie may be frozen for up to 3 months.



Geauga County Job & Family Services - On-Going Training Schedule

Tuesday, May 8, 2012: Working with Birth Parents: Making it a Positive for Everyone
Trainer: Sherry Doherty Time: 6-9pm

(Cancelled) Saturday, May 19, 2012: Managing the Hurt: When Your Foster Child Leaves
Trainer: Kathy Lowery Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, May 22, 2012: Standing in the Gap: Becoming an Advocate for Your Foster/Adopted Child
Trainer: Regina Kupecki Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, June 5, 2012: Mood Disorders Among Children and Adolescents: Recognition and Intervention
Trainer: Stacy Simera Time 6-9pm

Saturday, June 9, 2012: A Special Child: Recognizing and Responding to Special Needs in Infants and Toddlers
Trainer: Katie Terry Time: 9am -4pm

Saturday, June 16, 2012: Foster Families and How They Grow: Understanding the effects of Fostering
Trainer: Ronna Johnson Time: 9am -4pm

Tuesday, June 19, 2012: Pro-Social Skills
Trainer: Dave Zidar Time: 6-9pm

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

Thursday, May 3, 2012: Opening The Door To Independent Living, Part 1 – Overview
Trainer: Kathleen Lowery Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, May 15, 2012: Suicide Risk Among Children And Adolescents: Recognition And Intervention
Trainer: Ruth Simera Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, June 5, 2012: Working With Birth Parents: Making It A Positive For Everyone
Trainer: Sherry Doherty Time: 6-9pm

Tuesday, June 19, 2012: Working With Aggressive Children
Trainer: Madeleine Rybicki Time 6-9pm

Thursday, June 21, 2012: Anxiety Disorders Among Children And Adolescents: Recognition And Intervention
Trainer: Stacey Simera Time: 6-9pm

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

Tuesday, May 15, 2012: Talk, Talk, Talk: What's Too Much? Issues of Confidentiality
Trainer: Pam Reid Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, May 24, 2012: Taking Back The Night: Protecting Young Women From Sexual Assault
Trainer: Beth Philley Time: 6-9pm

Thursday, June 7, 2012: Working With Aggressive Children
Trainer: Sr. Madeleine Rybicki Time: 6-9pm

Monday, June 11, 2012: Helping Children of Mentally Ill Parents
Trainer: David Zidar Time: 6-9pm

Monday, June 25, 2012: Caring For Children Who Have Experienced Trauma – Module I And II: Trauma 101
Trainer: David Zidar Time: 6-9 pm

Spring Foster Parent Conference

May 10-12, 2011

Summit County Children Services Education Center Building Akron, OH 44306

Thursday, May 10, 2012: Healing ADD in Children and Adults

Trainer: John Ward

Time: 9am – 4pm

Thursday, May 10, 2012: Substance Abuse, Chemical Dependency and Kids

Trainer: Brian Lowery

Time: 9am – 12pm

Thursday, May 10, 2012: Don't Talk . . Don't Trust . . Don't Feel: Growing Up With an Addicted Parent

Trainer: Brian Lowery

Time 1-4pm

Thursday, May 10, 2012: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): Understanding The Role of The Guardian Ad Litem in Child Welfare

Trainer: Beth Cardina

Time: 6-9pm

Friday, May 11, 2012: Difficult Conversations: Why Do I Have To Live With You And Not My Mom?

Trainer: Gene Smiley

Time: 9am-4pm

Friday, May 11, 2012: Introduction to E-Track

Trainer: Jodie Hembree, Julie Hayden

Time: 9am – 12pm

Friday, May 11, 2012: "Leaders of Tomorrow" Youth Panel

Trainer: Michelle Dufore

Time: 1-4pm

Friday, May 11, 2012: Sufficient Time To Regroup and Mend: Preventing Placement Disruption in Foster Care

Trainer: Gene Smiley

Time: 6-9pm

Friday, May 11, 2012: Effective Dealing With Children Issues in Visitation

Trainer: Susan Tucker

Time: 6-9pm

Saturday, May 12, 2012: "Do" Able Discipline

Trainer: Jim Still-Pepper

Time: 9am-4pm

Saturday, May 12, 2012: Compassion Fatigue For Foster Parents Caregivers: A Short Course

Trainer: Patty Harrelson

Time 9 am-4pm

In an effort to provide information to our Foster/Adoptive/Kinship families that is valuable, we are asking for your help. Please complete the short survey regarding our newsletter and return it in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your input and time.

Your Permanency Planning Team.

1. How often do you read our newsletter?

- Always
- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Rarely

2. Which items in the newsletter do you find most useful?

- Training
- Recipes
- Crafts
- Upcoming Events
- Child Spotlight of the Month
- Articles about foster care or adoption

3. Would you prefer to receive the newsletter via email?

- Yes - Email address _____
- No

4. How often would you like to receive this newsletter?

- Quarterly
- 3 times a year (Spring, Summer & Fall/Winter)
- Every other Month

5. What additional topics would you like to see included in future newsletters?

6. What can we do to improve?
