

fostering FUTURES

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

No. 8 – Issue 3 – April 2009



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A Personal Journey

What do foster families, bike riding and cross country travel have in common? You'll be surprised!

For most adults, summertime means a slower pace, relaxing outside, taking a longer lunch break to enjoy the weather. But for Reverend Marilyn Ricci, Associate Pastor of Seekonk Congregational Church, this summer means a 53 day, 3,847 mile bicycle trip.

Reverend Ricci will begin her trip on June 7 in San Francisco, CA and finish in New Hampshire on July 28. In her words, Marilyn is "peddling across country as a small way to honor the foster care system and especially foster parents." After speaking with Marilyn it is easy to understand why she and her "middle-aged body" are taking on this challenge.



"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race." ~H.G. Wells

Marilyn entered state care at the age of six. She was lovingly welcomed into a family with two biological children along with her younger sister and brother. With the good news that her foster parents were expecting their third biological child, also came the bad news that they could not support six children. Marilyn was sent to her foster mom's parents – her foster grandparents. Her siblings were sent to another family.

continued on page 9

Dr. Day Care

Dear Dr. Day Care,

My mother-in-law has been a preschool teacher for over twenty years. She feels she is an expert in the field of young children and she constantly tells me how to raise my daughter. She never says a word to my wife. I am a first time dad, my baby is 8 months. How do I tell her I do not want hear her advice any longer?

Signed,

Has a Know It All Mother-in-Law

Dear Has a Know It All Mother-in-Law,

Sometimes relatives have expertise in certain areas and they like to share their knowledge with family members. A person's attitude, personality and relationship with other individuals will make or break how the message is delivered.

It is clear that you do not want your relative's advice. I suggest you talk with your wife and let her know your feelings. Make a decision to join together and let your wife's mother know your feelings.

Together, contact your mother-in-law and plan to meet. Sit down with her and have a conversation about your daughter's development. Explain, in a concerned, calm, direct voice that you realize she has a lot of experience in the area of early childhood, but that you prefer she refrain from giving advice about her granddaughter.

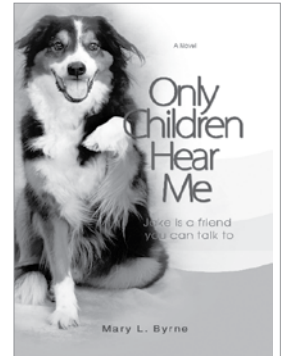
Let her know, that as a first time Dad, you want to figure out parenting on your own. Also let her know that if you need her help with parenting, you will seek her advice. Listen to her perspective and understand her position, but keep to your goal of the meeting, which is to keep her from interfering with your parenting.

You might feel a little uneasy after you have this conversation with your mother-in-law. Simply, pick up where you left off - you being the Dad and she being the Grandmother.

Dr. Day Care is actually Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, Ed.D., owner of Dr. Day Care Enterprises which encompasses Kids Klub, Inc., Dr. Day Care's Child Development Center for Learning and Play, Comprehensive Child Care Services of Rhode Island, Women's Business Talk Show, and is also co-founder of Child Care Connection. Dr. Day Care welcomes your questions as they relate to child care. Please contact her at 1-877-333-1393 ext. 222 or email her at drdaycare@kidsklubri.com.

Never Stop Talking

Only Children Hear Me. Jake Is A Friend You Can Talk To is a novel geared to 9-12 year olds and written by Rhode Island resident, Mary Bryne. The 118 page story is told from the perspective of Jake, an English Shepherd who is no ordinary dog. Jake has a special gift – he can talk to children. It is through this format that the author (and Jake!) teach children the importance of talking to a trusted adult – even when it's hard.



You can learn more about Jake and order a copy of the book at www.onlychildrenhear.me.com.

Only Children Hear Me. Jake Is A Friend You Can Talk To is also available at amazon.com, Borders, and Barnes and Noble.

Resolve to Make A Difference in 2009

DCYF Adoption and Foster Care Information Nights

Wed, April 29 | 6:30PM–8:00PM

Wed, May 27 | 6:30PM–8:00PM

DCYF Region 3 Office
650 Ten Rod Road
North Kingstown

For more information, please call Robin Perez,
DCYF Foster Parent Recruiter, at 401.528.3700



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Make a Difference. Be a Real Connection.

**Please join us for our next
two-day training session!**

Where: RI Foster Parents Association
55 South Brow Street
East Providence

When: Wednesday, April 1, 6:30PM to 8:30PM
Saturday, April 4, 10:00AM to 2:00PM

You must attend both days.

To register or for further questions, please contact:

Real Connections
Relationship Coordinator
Emily Buckbee, MSW, LCSW
401-438-3900 x103
Emily.buckbee@rifpa.org

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine 11th Annual Conference April 17 and 18

**Finding Your Voice in Advocacy
Bangor, ME**

Designed for:

Foster and Adoptive Parents – Kinship Providers –
Case Workers – Adoption Workers – CASA – Judges
– Attorneys – Educators – Advocates

For more details go to www.affm.net

ASPIRE Financial Literacy Training

(formerly known as JCYOI)

April @ Providence Youth Center

Tuesdays
4:00PM to 7:00PM
4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28

April @ RI Foster Parents Association

Sunday
10:00AM to 3:00PM
4/19 and 4/26

May @ Providence Youth Center

Tuesdays
4:00PM to 7:00PM
5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26

May @ RI Foster Parents Association

Sunday
10:00AM to 3:00PM
5/10 and 5/17

Directions:

Providence Youth Center*
1 Reservoir Avenue
Providence
Bus 21, 22 from KP

**Use door at back of building to access Youth Center.*

RI Foster Parents Association
55 South Brow Street
East Providence
Bus 33 from KP

Tips for Relative Caregivers

to Implement the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act

1. Get Informed

Learn more about the legislation regarding kinship care and child welfare at RI Foster Parents Association (www.rifpa.org); Center for Law & Social Policy (www.clasp.org); Child Welfare League of America (www.cwla.org); Generations United (www.gu.org); National Foster Care Coalition (www.nationalfostercare.org); Voices for America's Children (www.voices.org); and many others.

2. Share What You Have Learned

Talk with your friends, family, and neighbors about your experiences, pass on helpful advice or information, and collaborate with local advocates to get your stories out there!

3. Communicate with Child Welfare Agencies, the Governor's Office, and State Legislators

Ask them what they are doing to implement this new law and remind them of the importance of this legislation. You can contact the Department of Children, Youth and Families at www.dcyf.ri.gov/contact.php, Governor Carcieri's Office at www.governor.ri.gov/contact, and your state representative or senators at www.rilin.state.ri.us.

4. Keep up the Momentum to Create Positive Policy Changes for Grandfamilies

This legislation is only the beginning of the effort to provide needed support for relative caregivers. Continue the efforts to gather and share information! Reach out to your local paper, television or radio station to talk about why implementation will help children in your state.

5. Continue to Provide the Much Needed Support to Children

Take the time to acknowledge the work that you are doing. Your work to provide children with a strong permanent family is the greatest gift we can give our country.

Adapted from Top 10 Tips for Relative Caregivers to Implement Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 produced by Generations United. For more information on the new law, this resource, or how to get involved in federal and state policy please call Kat Keenan at 401-438-3900 x106 or kat.keenan@rifpa.org

Voice Your Support

Members of The Voice attended the Children's Policy Coalition Legislative Reception on March 5, 2009. At the reception youth spoke with Senators and Representatives about the importance of Senate Bill 407 and House Bill 5626, bills that seek to increase state funding for the Higher Education Opportunity Grant that helps former foster youth attend college at CCRI, URI or RIC. At the reception, Representative Walsh, prime sponsor of H5626, affirmed her commitment to the bill and to the youth it will serve. Please take a moment to thank Representatives Walsh, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, M Rice and Slater and Senators Goodwin and Miller for their leadership on this important legislation.

For more information on S407 or H5626 please contact Kat Keenan at kat.keenan@rifpa.org.



From Left to Right: Marcella Vega, Matrix Jackson, Danphargie Saint Franc and Rodeline Saint Felix

Joseph A. Palmieri, Esq.* Adoption Attorney

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Act Today to Support Higher Education for Foster Youth!

By Lindsay Adamski

House bill 5626 (sponsored by Representatives Walsh, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, M Rice and Slater) and Senate bill 407 (sponsored by Senators Goodwin and Miller) increase funding for the Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant. The Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant was established in 2000 to aid former youth in foster care in attending CCRI, URI and RIC full-time.

Most former foster youth have very limited financial ability to pay for college. Nationally only 54% of youth who have aged out of foster care graduate from high

school and only 2% earn college degrees. This fund helps to enhance educational opportunities for Rhode Island foster youth and improve long term outcomes as they transition to adulthood. When the fund was created, it was capped at \$200,000 per year. However, more and more youth are accessing this fund and these limited resources are being stretched to capacity. Higher education is a critical factor in a successful transition to independence for all young adults. This is particularly true for foster youth “aging out” of state care amidst the tough economic times we are experiencing.

We are working to get this legislation passed this year. To do this, we need your support. Please fill out the letter below and send it back to Lindsay Adamski at the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association to let your legislators know that this issue is important to you and ask for their support of this legislation.

We know that youth who access higher education have a better chance of improving their outcomes after they leave state care. As a state we must provide the funding and opportunity for these youth to go on to higher education and successfully transition to adulthood.

Please detach and send to Lindsay Adamski at RIFPA, 55 South Brow Street, East Providence, 02914

Higher Education is Key

National outcomes for youth who have aged out of foster care show:

50% were unemployed

90% were earning less than \$10,000 annually

25% experienced homelessness four years after leaving state care

My name is _____

As a constituent in your district I urge you to support House Bill 5626 and Senate Bill 407.

This legislation provides for a \$50,000 increase to the Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant for foster youth. The grant allows former foster youth to access higher education at URI, CCRI and RIC. As a state we must invest in a well-educated workforce to remain competitive and to help attract new businesses to Rhode Island. The investment in education is a wise one that will continue to pay off in the future.

This issue is important to me and I look forward to your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, Zip Code _____

Legal Standing for Foster Parents

From the moment I began working as a lawyer in Rhode Island's child welfare system, my admiration for foster parents was sealed. As closely as I worked with children as a CASA attorney (starting in 1989!), I knew that foster parents needed to possess formidable emotional reserves to function successfully as DCYF foster parents. Foster parents provide the direct care and love all our DCYF kids deserve, with the expectation that they support all potential permanency outcomes – from reunification with the birth family to becoming adoptive parents to facilitating the transition of a child to a pre-adoptive home. In opening their homes, foster parents must take part in a social service and judicial system that can be challenging, if not overwhelming.

A Right to Be Heard

Rhode Island law clearly limits the legal role of foster parents. Rhode Island General Laws section 40-11-12.1 directs the Family Court to conduct a “permanency hearing” within twelve months of a child's placement in the Department's care. Paragraph (C) gives foster parents a right to be heard:

“At the permanency hearing, all parties shall be allowed to be heard and the foster parents, any pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for the child shall be provided with notice of, may attend and present a report, oral or written, containing recommendations as to the best interest of the child, except that this subsection shall not be construed to require that any foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child be made a party to such a review or hearing solely on the basis of such notice and opportunity to be heard.”



The statute invites foster parents to be heard, but cautions that they do not become a party to the case. The constitutional rights of the biological parents remain paramount unless and until the Department can prove they are unfit. A child's best interests, which foster parents may recognize from the start, cannot be considered until lack of fitness is proven.

The Court routinely reviews a child's case at least every six months. Cases also come before the court for arraignment, pretrial, trials and motions. Only those annual hearings designated as permanency hearings invite foster parent participation. Despite the day to day familiarity with a child that results from living under the same roof, foster parents have limited ability to communicate directly to the court.

Proactive Communication

Other avenues exist for input. DCYF social workers and CASA attorneys thrive on the direct knowledge of foster parents when it comes to the child's well being. Foster parents should be proactive about learning who the CASA attorney is and offering important information on the child's behaviors and well being.

Foster parents also have the ability to have adoption petitions filed on behalf of their foster children. RIGL section 42-72-5.1 allows foster parents of a child who has been committed to the Department and who has resided in their home for at least two years to file an adoption petition. Good fortune seems to end with the filing. In order to grant the petition, the court must find that DCYF has made “every effort” to involve the natural parent in planning for the child, as opposed to the “reasonable efforts” required when DCYF files a termination of parental rights petition. The foster parents must also prove that the natural parents failed to exercise reasonable visitation. Practically speaking, a foster parent has no ability to meet this burden of proof. If the Department could meet the burden, it would proceed: funding, state and federal laws demand it. The cost of bringing such a suit privately would be prohibitive. Termination is seen as the prerogative of DCYF and the Court.

RIGL 42-72-5.1 is not without benefit. It can serve as a useful tool in bringing the parties to the table to speak realistically about a child's future. Faced with such a petition in the court file, a judge might order the Department to file a termination petition. He or she might encourage biological parents to talk about long term planning for their child that includes some contact rather than a closed adoption.

Legal Standing for Foster Parents

(Continued from page 6)

Knowledge is Power

Perhaps the most confusing point in the legal proceedings is when the time comes for that discussion regarding permanency, frequently at the pretrial or case management conference on a termination petition. Foster parents obviously have a lot at stake, and a critical role, in determining the arrangements for post adoption contact. Although you are a party to the adoption petition, the agreement precedes the natural parent's consent; in other words, the parties are working on the termination petition rather than the adoption petition. For a variety of reasons, each party is motivated to arrive at an agreement; foster parents, though, are left to fulfill their decisions. Some social workers forewarn foster parents of the "direct consent" hearing; others do not. I have had clients call with the statement that an agreement was made, but they had little or no input into the contract that they must sign. Changing Decrees of Open Adoption after the natural parent has signed is difficult and risks withdrawal of their consent.

Recently I was present in the courtroom when another attorney argued before the judge to be heard on the record regarding an open adoption agreement. The judge attempted to explain that the foster parents were not a party to the action and not permitted to be heard. The attorney was befuddled. The judge commented that despite their lack of standing, the foster parents could still use legal guidance.

Remember that knowledge is power. Make certain you ask questions before offers are made and documents are signed. Better yet- call an attorney. There are a few of us who practice in this area almost exclusively and would be happy to take your calls.

Susan M. Fink started at CASA in 1989, joined the DCYF Legal Staff in 1994 and became a DCYF Hearing Officer in 2000. She is currently a partner at the Law Offices of Greenwood & Fink.

"Legal Standard for Foster Parents" is part of a paid advertisement. The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not represent an endorsement by the RI Foster Parents Association.

Your SNAP Benefits Are Going Up!

As of Oct. 1, 2008, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program.

Why are my benefits going up?

There is a new law called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. You might have heard it called the stimulus package.

Because of the law, you get more Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp Program. SNAP may have a different name where you live.

How can I use the extra benefits?

Use your extra benefits to buy food at your grocery store. In some places, SNAP also offers nutrition education to help you and your family learn to choose healthy food on a budget and be more active.

How do I get the extra benefits?

You get the extra benefits starting April 2009. The extra benefits will be added automatically to your EBT card. You do not have to do anything.

How much extra do I get?

Some households with 1 or 2 people who get the minimum benefit of \$14 a month may get \$16 a month starting in April. Others may get more.

Need More Information About Food Stamps?

Call CCAP's Social Service Component at 467-9610 or contact one of the CAP agencies listed below

Blackstone Valley CAP—www.bvcap.org/

Comprehensive CAP—www.comcap.org

Eastbay CAP—www.ebcap.org

Family Resources CAP—www.famresri.org

Providence CAP—www.procapri.org

South County CAP—www.sccainc.org

Tri-Town CAP—www.tri-town.org

Westbay CAP—www.westbaycap.org

Got Skills? CCAP Can Help.

With continued funding from the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, CCAP continues to expand services at its Providence Youth Center located in the NetworkRI One Stop located at One Reservoir Ave. Providence, RI

The program will provide year-round services to all youth ages 14-24. The program will outreach to all youth living in Rhode Island

The Providence Youth Center will offer programs and services for youth still in school, for youth who have completed high school and are looking to improve their job skills or youth that have dropped out of school and would like to get their GED.

CCAP staff will provide a full range of services to meet the short and long term academic and workforce needs of youth.

- Value added services include:
- Job Readiness
- Computer Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Career Assessment

Hours Of Operation :

Mon, Wed, & Fri 8:00AM—4:00PM

Tues & Thurs 8:30AM—8:00PM

Help Us Earn Much Needed Funds—It's Easy & FREE

Earning money for the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association (RIFPA) is now easier than ever. Just by shopping with your Shaw's Rewards Card on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, you can earn money for kids in care. Just shop with your registered Shaw's Rewards Card and RIFPA will receive a percentage of all the eligible purchases you make.

You don't even have to save your receipt!

Simply, follow these easy steps to register your card:

1. Go to www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards
2. Click on "Shoppers login or register with your Rewards Card first."
3. Login using your Shaw's Rewards Card # and your phone number
4. Click on "Login"
5. Enter the ID # for RIFPA: 49001018910
6. Click on "Add an Organization"
7. Click on "Update Now"

Give back for RIFPA. One cart at a time.

Your Privacy is Important!

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We are proud to partner with DCYF and the RI Foster Parent Association in supporting foster parents and the children in their care.



A Personal Journey

(continued from cover)

Under the loving support of her “Gran and Gramp”, Marilyn’s love affair with biking and the outdoors



flourished. One of her most vivid childhood memories is leaving her bike at the tracks—her only possession – only to have it stolen. This sad memory was replaced with joy on her 13th birthday when she received “the best bike from Benny’s, a 2-speed, hi-low dream come true.”

Not only does Marilyn hold a special place in her heart for foster families and biking, She also has sentimental feelings around cross country travel. In 1929, her foster parents (Gran and Gramp) walked across country, from Rhode Island to the state of Washington, just for fun. When she was 16, her family did the reverse route via car.

“The hardest part of raising a child is teaching them to ride bicycles. A shaky child on a bicycle for the first time needs both support and freedom. The realization that this is what the child will always need can hit hard.” ~Sloan Wilson

Marilyn turned 59 in November and decided it was time “to get the wheels turning.” She began making practical and physical preparations for her trip. In addition to finding a bike tour, getting in shape, and taking time off from work, she has to raise money to cover her trip expenses.

It is Marilyn’s hope that she can also raise money for the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association’s Youth Enrichment Fund.

“I will be happy if I can raise more money for the Youth Enrichment Fund, than for myself. This is a great way to give back to kids. The Youth Enrichment Fund embodies the reasons for my trip. The best way to see a kid gain confidence is to get them involved in the type of activities the Fund supports. I truly hope I can help kids in need.”

For more information on how to support Marilyn in her quest, please go to www.geocities.com/bxwmer@verizon.net/ or www.scc-ucc.com/

Susan M. Fink
Law Offices of Greenwood & Fink
273-8202

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Please consider advertising with us. Your ad will get noticed and you’ll be helping to ensure the quality of this publication for Rhode Island’s foster families.

We have a package to fit your needs, start with an 1/8 page ad or show your support with a cover sponsorship!

Contact Kara Duffin at karaduffin@comcast.net for details.

Save the Date!

The 2009 DCYF Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner will be held on Friday, May 8, 2009 at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick. Formal invitations will be mailed in early April. This is the 22nd annual dinner to celebrate the tireless efforts of our state’s foster parents. The evening includes a short program, dinner and dancing. Please save the date! It is the perfect opportunity to meet other foster parents and enjoy a night out that’s all about you!

ASPIRE Financial Literacy Training - Nomination Form

Formerly the RI Jim Carey Youth Opportunities Initiative

General Information:

Referral Date: _____

Name of young adult: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email Address: _____ Referred By include relationship to young adult: _____

Where was the youth born city and state of residence at birth? _____

Has the youth experienced foster care at age 14 or older? YES NO

Current Living Arrangement: _____

Caseworker/Region: _____ Phone: _____

Participated in Life Skills Class YES NO

Does the young adult have a state ID? YES NO

Does the young adult have a driver's license? YES NO

Does the young adult have access to their social security card? YES NO

If yes please provide social security number: _____

Does the young person have access to their birth certificate? YES NO

Educational Information:

Is the young adult presently in school? YES NO Highest Grade Completed _____

Name of present school or GED Program: _____

Address: _____

Employment Information:

Is the young adult currently employed? YES NO

If yes, provide the name and location where the young adult is employed? _____

Has the young adult ever been involved with Work Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.?

YES NO Dates: _____

Refer this young adult for employment services? YES NO

Referral Disposition – for office use only

Status: _____

Financial Literacy Training: _____ Participate in _____

Start Date _____ Completion Date: _____

Assigned to: Agency: _____

Worker: _____ Date: _____

The Department of Children, Youth and Families
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Answers to your questions are a phone call away...

Keep this list of contacts on hand. Answers to your questions are just a phone call away.

FOSTER CARE UNIT

Aldridge, Don.....	528.3673
Altieri, Darlene.....	528.3612
Gloria, Kate.....	528.3623
Jordan, Mary-Ann.....	528.3607
Kettle, Roxanne.....	528.3609
Khan, Zafar.....	528.3617
Loungo, Laura.....	528.3608
Mack, Brandy.....	528.3619
St. Jacques, Sarah.....	528.3615
Administrative Assistant.....	528.3548

CLINICAL TRAINING SPECIALISTS

Robins, Maureen, Supervisor.....	528.3799
Dyballa, Margie.....	528.3709
Iannotti, Angela.....	528.3739
Uriati, Jennifer.....	528.3741
Robin, Perez, Recruitment.....	528.3700
Harden, Antonia (sec.).....	521.3483

ADMINISTRATOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

Savage, Kevin.....	528.3629
--------------------	----------

FIRE INSPECTORS

Lally, Steven.....	528.3668
Ouellette, Russell.....	528.3675
Rita, Richard.....	528.3674

DAYCARE UNIT

Almeida, Brenda, Supervisor.....	528.3605
Gagnier, Linda.....	528.3610
Gentile, Annette (sec.).....	528.3618
Hall, Pam.....	528.3618
Lewis, Cheryl.....	528.3614
MAIN LINE.....	528.3504
Mastrangelo, Linda.....	528.3616
Mendoza, Nelly (sec.).....	528.3621
Perez, Redentora.....	528.3672
Prado, Indira.....	528.3611

DCYF Higher Educational Opportunity Grant & Chafee Educational Training Voucher Programs

Youth currently in out of home care or who were in DCYF out of home care on their 18th birthday may be eligible for financial assistance to attend a post secondary educational program (e.g., college or trade school) through the DCYF Higher Educational Opportunity Grant Program and/or the Chafee Educational Training Voucher Program (ETV).

A pre-requisite for receipt of these funds is a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). No applications for the DCYF Higher Educational Opportunity Grant (HEOG) or for the ETV Program will be accepted without a completed FAFSA. For assistance with the completion of the FAFSA, youth may contact the RI Educational Opportunity Center at 455-6028. In order for youth to access these funds, a completed application and required materials must be returned to DCYF by November 3 for the January 2009 Semester. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Final awards for these two grant programs will be determined November 24 for January 2009. If the youth is enrolled in a full academic year program, any award granted will be intended to cover the full academic year.

Send Applications to:

DCYF–Foster Care Recruitment
 101 Friendship St.
 Providence, RI 02903

Please update your files

If an opening becomes available in your home, please call the **Placement Unit: Michelle at 528.3782**

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Your e-mail address is all we need to help combat rising printing and distribution costs for our monthly newsletter, Fostering Futures. Please opt to receive your issues of Fostering Futures via e-mail and help us keep costs down. Simply send your Email address to karaduffin@comcast.net and type "Save Money" in the subject line. A simple e-mail address can help kids in care. **Thank you so much.**



Rhode Island Foster Parents Association
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RIFPA East Providence, RI 02914

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web <http://www.rifpa.org>

Therapeutic Child Care for Children in Foster Care

Therapeutic Child Care is available for children from infant through middle school.

We work with area child care centers in Rhode Island where your foster child will be integrated with their typically developing peers for a fun and exciting learning experience.

For more information please call Rita at 401.475.7707 ext. 250 or email rboie@tccsri.com.

Foster Parent HelpLine

The Foster Parent HelpLine is a peer support service that is available statewide. It is staffed by foster parents who understand the issues and situations you face on a daily basis. Foster parents are encouraged to call the helpline with their questions or when they simply need someone to talk to.

Call the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association's HelpLine:
1.800.655.7787

24 Hours. Your call will be confidential.
A service of the Mentor Program.

RIFPA STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE MANDATED REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT LAWS.



Fostering Futures is published monthly by the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association, and partially funded through DCYF, to keep foster parents and others informed and aware of the issues and activities that affect them. Please send your ideas, suggestions, tips, and input via e-mail to: karaduffin@comcast.net, entering "Newsletter" in the subject line, or mail to:

RIFPA

Attn: Newsletter Editor

55 South Brow Street,
East Providence, RI 02914