

# fostering FUTURES

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

No. 7 – Issue 2 – February 2008



## Inside this issue:

**Dr. Day Care and Moving to a New Home - page 2**

**We're Making Real Connections - page 3**

**Tips & Tools for College - pages 4 & 5**

**Shop @ Shaw's and Help Kids in Care - page 7**

**Tax Advice You Can't Afford to Miss - pages 8 & 9**

## Call for Nominations

**John H. Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care**

The John H. Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care is presented annually to a foster parent who is a model for others. Once again, we are asking for help with the nomination process. If you are a foster parent, foster child, family member, DCYF staff, teacher, school administrator, doctor, practitioner, neighbor, and/or community member. Please take a moment to reflect on those foster parents who demonstrate excellence in how they support children in their care.

If you know of a foster parent(s) that you would like to nominate for this award, please complete the Nomination Form on page 10 of this issue and return to RIFPA by March 21, 2008. Multiple nominations from nominators with a wide range of experience with and exposure to the nominee(s) are encouraged. The winner will be notified prior to the Appreciation Dinner, and the award will be given to them that evening. Thank you for your help.

# Dr. Day Care

Dear Dr Day Care,

I am a single mom who needs to move my family to another home. Our new address will not be located in the neighborhood where we presently reside. My younger son is not in school, so I feel he will respond to this transition well. However, my daughter is in middle school and I predict that she will be very upset leaving her school and friends.

How do I explain the move to my daughter and ease her pain?

Signed,

New Neighborhood

Dear New Neighborhood,

Moving can be a difficult transition for a family and yet, it often can be a fun experience. It sounds to me that you feel it is going to be a difficult change for your daughter. To alleviate some of her discomfort or fears, may I suggest taking her out to a local restaurant and having a one on one conversation with her about the move.

Note your positive and negative feelings about the move on a list as a talking point. Sometimes when mothers and daughters talk about emotional topics the mind can go blank because of the emotional nature of the topic. I suggest that you let her know you understand the ups and downs of a teen moving to a new home (because you were once a teen too!)

Explain, with a positive attitude, why the family is moving. You may think she already knows the reasons, but her information may not be as accurate as you would like it to be. Then, utilize the list that you have developed and discuss your thoughts. Let her know that, at any time, she can interrupt you and you will listen to her thoughts.

Next, I suggest discussing some ideas that will help the transition. One idea is to paint her new bedroom and allow her to choose the color. If she wants to paint it herself, that might be a possibility too and would give her a sense of control. Moves for teens can be made easy if a parent zooms in on the child's new bedroom. That way they can picture their furniture and belongings in their new room.

Explore ways she will be able to continue her relationship with friends and listen attentively. Remember

that she is a teen who is still developing herself, and peers are a very important part of who she is.

Visit her new school before moving, and if it is possible, have her meet her teachers to see the location of her new classrooms and locker. This will help her have less anxiety in her new school.

In the event you move again in the future, you can include your children in the process by having them tour 2-3 of your final home choices.

*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](mailto:drdaycare@kidsklubri.com).*



## SAVE THE DATE!

The 2008 DCYF Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 1 at the Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston. Formal invitations will be mailed in early April. This is the 21st 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!

### **Joseph A. Palmieri, Esq.\*** **Adoption Attorney**

- Step Parent Adoptions
- DCYF Adoptions  
*(will accept DCYF Legal Subsidy as Full Payment)*
- FREE Pre-Adoptive Telephone Consultation

**"Just Call" (401) 258-3371**

*The RI Supreme Court does not license or certify any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.*

## REAL CONNECTIONS MENTOR HONORED FOR NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Did you know that January was National Mentoring Month? In honor of this occasion, the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership sponsored the Excellence in Mentoring Awards Ceremony and Reception on January 17. We are proud to announce that Gordon Bradburn, a Real Connections mentor, received an award at this event. Gordon was among our very first group of mentors trained in March 2007. He was chosen for this award because he demonstrates unlimited faith in his mentee. In addition, he shows a high level of commitment and perseveres with his mentee to ensure that he is working towards his goals. Gordon also returns his monthly mentor-check in forms thoroughly completed and on time every month! As an active participant in Mentor/Mentee events Gordon maintains consistent communication with Real Connections. We are very lucky to have Gordon as a mentor in our program. Congratulations on your well deserved award, Gordon!



## JCYOI FEBRUARY TRAININGS

### Financial Literacy Training

When: Thursday, February 21, Friday, February 22  
 Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm  
 Food will be provided.  
 Where: Casey Family Services  
 1268 Eddy St  
 Providence, RI 02905

For more information contact Natasha Leavitt at 438-3900 x 105.

## Susan M. Fink, Attorney

- Adoptions and guardian ad litem matters
- Qualified for DCYF Adoption Subsidy
- 272 - 9666

*The RI Supreme Court does not license or certify any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.*

## MENTORING IS A GREAT THING TO DO, CREATE REAL CONNECTIONS TODAY!

Real Connections is a community approach to identifying adult connections and lifelong supports for teens in care. The goal of the Real Connections program is “to ensure that all youth leave state care with permanent, positive adult connections and options for a successful future.” The program focuses on teens that are vulnerable to “aging out” of state care without positive, consistent adults to rely on.

Real Connections identifies adults from a youth’s own network as well as community adults who want to provide support to a youth in care. Adults are trained in how to help youth attain employment, education and other adult transition goals. If you already know a youth in care for whom you would like to provide more support or if you are interested in helping a teen in need please contact Emily Buckbee at 401-438-3900 x103 or Emily.buckbee@rifpa.org.



 Real Connections Relationship Coordinator, Emily Buckbee, with our honoree and Real Connections Mentor, Gordon Bradburn.



### SHARON O'KEEFE, ESQ.

*(Former R.I. Assistant Child Advocate)*

### Adoptions

- DCYF\*
- Private
- Step Parent

**401-247-1740**

*\*Accepts DCYF subsidy as payment*

# GOING TO COLLEGE?


## THE HELP YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

### College Planning Center of Rhode Island



Do you have foster youth who are planning on furthering their education? Educational Counselors from the College Planning Center of Rhode Island will discuss everything from filling out admissions applications to completing the financial aid forms, and how the process may differ for adolescents in state care. They are a non-profit agency that offers FREE one on one help with the entire college process.

You can check out their website at [www.cpcri.org](http://www.cpcri.org), or for a more personal approach you can call for an appointment at 401-736-3170. The College Planning Center of RI is located at the Warwick Mall and their hours are Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 7:00 PM, with expanded hours and locations in January, February and March. Remember, all of their services are absolutely FREE.



## THE ORPHAN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA/CASEY FAMILY SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for OFA/Casey Family Scholarships. See below for information on eligibility and deadlines, and to access the online application.

### Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

The following requirements apply:

1. Must have been in foster care for one consecutive year at the time of your 18th birthday or high school graduation

OR

Must have been adopted or taken into legal

guardianship out of foster care after your 16th birthday

OR

Must have lost both parents to death before the age of 18 and not been subsequently adopted. In this instance, copies of the death certificates must be provided.

2. Must be accepted into or enrolled in an accredited post-secondary program (university, college, community college or vocational/technical institute).
3. Must be under the age of 25 on March 31, 2008.

## Scholarship Application Deadlines

Please note that in order for your applications to be considered they must be received by the following deadlines:

1. Part I (online portion): deadline midnight Monday March 31, 2008
2. Part II (printed portion): must be postmarked by Tuesday April 15, 2008

You can access the online portion of the application at <https://scholarships.orphan.org/index.shtml>



## NATIONAL FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Foster Parents Association (NFPA) offers scholarships for foster youth, adopted youth, or biological youth of currently licensed foster parents, who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational and job training, and correspondence courses, including the GED. Foster parents must also be members of NFPA.

The following requirements apply:

### 1. College/University

- must be in their senior year of high school (regardless of age)
- must provide copy of high school transcript
- must provide documentation of cost from

college/university

- must return application and all other requested documents by March 31, 2008
  - must be accepted by an accredited college/university before receiving funding (proof of this will be a copy of school acceptance letter)
  - must return unused portion or appropriate percentage if withdrawing from college/university or does not maintain grade point averages required by institution
2. Vocational/Job Training/Correspondence GED/Other Educational Pursuits
- must be at least 17 years of age (either in school or out)
  - must provide documentation of cost from the school, training center, or other educational facility
  - must return application and all other requested documents by March 31
  - must be accepted into accredited program before receiving funding (Proof of this will be a copy of acceptance letter)
  - must return unused portion or appropriate percentage if withdrawing from course/program or is unable to maintain grade point average required by the course/program

Each applicant must submit:

- A completed application form
- A minimum of two (2) letters of recommendation from: foster parent(s), social worker(s), residential center, principal/teacher/guidance counselor, employer, etc. will be required with each application.
- A typewritten statement in 300-500 words on "Why I want to further my education and why I should be considered for a National Foster Parent Association Scholarship" will also be required.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2008!**

**ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS INCLUDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION & TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE MAILED TOGETHER!**

*Mail applications to:*

NFPA Scholarship Committee  
National Foster Parent Association  
7512 Stanich Ave, Suite 6  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

## **FOSTER YOUTH: Tips for Completing the FAFSA**

Each year the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators updates a Tips for Foster Youth Worksheet on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This guide is for financial aid administrators in helping youth in foster care complete the FAFSA. It addresses difficulties that youth in foster care and wards of the court may experience when filling out the FAFSA. The website contains many other helpful resources on student financial aid. Go to <http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/ParentsStudents.html>.



### **FosterClub All-Star Applications**

FosterClub is taking applications for its 2008 summer internship. Selected youth will attend an intensive leadership training session at the FosterClub headquarters in Seaside, Oregon. They will receive training in public speaking, presentation, advocacy, and professional development to accommodate planning and facilitation of events. Applications are due March 1, 2008. Go to <http://www.fyi3.com/allStars/details.cfm> for details.



# Fostering Friends

## **Thank you to Hasbro and the Holiday Hope Fund for Making a Real Difference for Children in Care**

Hasbro's commitment to children in DCYF care during the holidays over the years cannot be overstated. Through their support all 5,700 children in DCYF care, from infants to twelve year olds, are assured to receive a holiday gift. This year, as always, they donated some of their most popular toys. In addition, through the Holiday Hope Fund and in collaboration with the Providence Journal they also donated new, beautiful hat and mitten sets featuring characters kids love like Snoopy and Dora the Explorer. What a wonderful gift to have Hasbro headquartered here in Rhode Island and so supportive of children in care!

### **Textron and Other Local Companies and Organizations Purchase Gifts for Teens in Group Home Care at Record Levels in 2008**

This holiday season companies both large and small from across Rhode Island truly rose to the challenge of ensuring that no teen in group home care would go without. The number of teens in group homes that were sponsored for the holidays through the campaign rose to 500 this year and donors purchased an average of \$90 in gifts for each teen.

Over 300 Textron employees participated in the campaign purchasing three gifts each for 100 youth. They then held a special wrapping party to make sure each gift was beautifully packaged. The agencies and the youth that received the gifts could not believe the care that had been taken to get just the right things from the teen's wish lists. It was truly heartwarming.

The stories of generosity are endless and truly inspiring. In next month's newsletter we will include a list of all individual, company and organization contributors to the Holiday Campaign.

### **Individuals, Companies and Local Organizations Hold Steady in Cash Contributions to the Holiday Gifts for Teens Campaign**

Cash contributions to the Holiday Gifts for Teens Campaign ensure that no teen in DCYF care goes without during the holiday season. This year, despite the difficult economy and layoffs to state workers, individuals and organizations held steady and slightly increased cash contributions to \$37,000 for this year's campaign. This is particularly amazing given that many of the campaign's contributors come through the letters that go out to over 18,000 state workers during the holiday season. It shows the tremendous generosity that people can have in times of trouble. As a result of more group home sponsorships, led by Textron, the campaign's cash donations were able to go much farther this year enabling the campaign to fully meet the needs of all teens in care during the Holiday season.

# FREE MONEY!

## Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program

Help us raise money for kids in care with the Shaw's/Star Market Receipt Rewards Program.

Everybody has to shop for food, but what if food shopping meant you could also help raise money for the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association?

Now you can! Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program is a unique fundraiser that returns 1% of purchases\* to RIFPA!

This is fast and easy. Simply save your Shaw's and/or Star Market register receipts and mail them to:

RIFPA

55 South Brow Street

East Providence, RI 02914

While you are at it, go ahead and collect receipts from family, friends, business associates, relatives, neighbors, anyone who shops at a Shaw's or Star Market!

RIFPA will then submit receipts to Shaw's, and they will send The Association a check for 1% of eligible purchases\*. It's that easy!

### THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

There is no limit to the amount of register receipts we can collect and submit. However, only original register receipts will be accepted. Register receipts will not be returned.

\*Some items are excluded from this program, including but not limited to tax, postage stamps, money orders, lottery tickets, gift cards, phone cards, prescriptions, photo processing, milk, tobacco and other items prohibited by law.

Don't leave money on the table! This is a great opportunity for us to work together and earn money to help kids in care.



## Isn't it worth 1 minute

to help support  
**Fostering Futures?**

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 [kara.duffin@rifpa.org](mailto:kara.duffin@rifpa.org) and type "Save Money" in the subject line.

A simple e-mail address can help kids in care. **Thank you so much.**



**Call Neighborhood  
to learn about our  
many benefits!**

**1-800-459-6019**



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

# BUILD A BETTER FUTURE YOU'VE EARNED IT!!

## FREE INCOME TAX FILING

**Services Families with Incomes of Less than \$42,000**

**All Preparers Certified by the IRS**

**E-filing for FAST returns**

Filing Status	No Qualifying Children	One Qualifying Child	Two or More Qualifying Children
Single or Head of Household	\$12,590	\$33,241	\$37,783
Married Filing Joint	\$14,590	\$35,241	\$39,783
Max Credit	\$428	\$2,853	\$4,716

**Get your Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit**

- **If you didn't file your tax return you still have a time to file for years 2004, 2005 & 2006 our site is open starting 1/15/08.**

*If you have a bank account & do direct deposit your refund will be faster.*

Family Resources Community Action 245 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895 401- 766-0900 <b>Call for Appointment</b>	Mon., Thurs., Fri. 2 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Tuesday: 9A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Wednesday: 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.	Saturday: 9:00A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
---	--	----------------------------------

## ⇒ BE SURE TO BRING:

- Social Security Card(s), birth certificates for self, spouse and all dependents
- Picture ID for you and your spouse if married filing a joint return
- All W-2s & 1099s, SSI, TDI, Unemployment & FIP.
- 2007 Adjusted Gross Income: bring 2006 Federal Tax Return
- Child & Dependent Care Expense – Tax Identification Number (SSN, EIN) of the care provider
- For direct deposit – bring a check, or a Savings Account Number with Routing Number
- For more information call: (401) 766-0900. For other locations, call: 211
- For property tax relief please bring rent receipt, full name and address of landlord and all household income.

**EARN IT! KEEP IT! SAVE IT! YOU DESERVE IT!**  
A STATEWIDE EITC COALITION



# CONSTRUYE UN MEJOR FUTURO TU LO GANASTE!!

## Gratis Aplicaciones de Declaracion de Impuestos

**Servicio a Familias con Ingreso Menos de \$42,000 Todo  
Technico esta Certificado por el IRS**

**Aplicaciones electronicas para que su Devolucion sea ma rapida**

Filing Status	Ninos no Cualificado	Un Nino Cualificado	Dos,Mas Nino Cualificados
Soltero o Jefe De Familia	\$12,590	\$33,241	\$37,783
Casado aplicando junto	\$14,590	\$35,241	\$39,783
Credito Maximo	\$428	\$2,853	\$4,716

**Recibe el credito de tu ingreso ganado y el Credito de Ninos**

- **Si usted no a aplicado sus impuestos todavia usted tiene tiempo de aplicar por los anos 2004, 2005 & 2006 nuestras oficinas**

*Si usted tiene una cuenta de banco y hace deposito directo tu refund sera mas rapido.*

Family Resources Community Action 245 Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895 401- 766-0900 <b>LLamar para citas</b>	<b>Lunes, Jueves, Viernes:</b> 2 P.M. a 5:00 P.M. <b>Martes:</b> 9A.M. a 12:30 P.M. <b>Miercoles:</b> 5 P.M. a 7 P.M.	<b>Sabados: 9:00A.M. to 12:00 P.M.</b>
--	--	--

## ⇒ Traer la siguiente informacion:

- Tarjeta(s) de Seguro Social, Certificado de Nacimiento de usted, esposo(a) y de todos los dependientes
- Tarjeta de Identificacion de usted y su Esposo(a) si es casado y aplican juntos
- Todos los ingreso W-2s & 1099s, SSI, TDI, Desempleo & FIP
- 2007 Ingreso Ajustado Sucio: Traer 2006 Impuestos Federal
- Gastos de Cuido de Ninos – Numero de Impuestos (SSN, EIN) de el proveedor de cuidados
- Para deposito directo – Traer un cheque, o un Numero de cuenta de ahorro con Numero de rotacion
- Para mas informacion llamar: (401) 766-0900. Para otras locations, llame: 211
- Para ayuda de impuestos de Propiedad property Favor traer recibo de renta, nombre completo y direccion del landlord y todos los ingreso en el hogar.

**TE LO GANASTE! RECIBELO! AHORRALO! TU TE LO MERECE!**  
A STATEWIDE EITC COALITION



Rhode Island Foster Parents Association  
55 South Brow Street  
East Providence, RI 02914  
(401) 438-3900 phone  
(401) 438-3901 fax

## NOMINATION FORM

### 2008 John H. Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care

Name of foster parent(s) being nominated for the Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Foster Parent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Foster Parent's Tel. # : \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us why this foster parent deserves the award. How have they supported the child(ren) in their care?:

---

---

---

---

---

---

What are the first name(s) and age(s) of the children they have supported?: \_\_\_\_\_

---

How long has the nominee been a foster parent?: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail nominations to: RIFPA, Attn: Chafee Committee, 55 South Brow Street, East Providence, RI 02914; or fax to the RIFPA at 438-3901; or e-mail to Lisa Guillette at [lisa.guillette@rifpa.org](mailto:lisa.guillette@rifpa.org)

**Deadline for nominations is March 21, 2008. Thank you for your participation!**

# DCYF Worker of the Year Award

Each year outstanding foster parents are recognized at the annual Appreciation Dinner. This year, RIFPA would also like to honor an outstanding DCYF Worker for their efforts to support foster families and the children for whom they care. Do you know an outstanding DCYF Worker who should receive this honor? Nominate them today for this new award! All nominations must be received no later than March 21, 2008. The winner will be notified prior to the Appreciation Dinner, and the award will be given to them that night.

## 2008 DCYF Worker of the Year NOMINATION FORM

Name of DCYF worker being nominated for the Award: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us why this DCYF worker deserves the award. How have they supported foster parents and the children for whom they care?: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

How long has the nominee been a DCYF worker?: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of any additional references who can speak to the nominee's experience as a DCYF Worker:

---

---

Please mail nominations to: RIFPA, Attn: Lisa Guillette, 55 South Brow Street, East Providence, RI 02914; or fax to the RIFPA at 438-3901; or e-mail to Lisa Guillette at [lisa.guillette@rifpa.org](mailto:lisa.guillette@rifpa.org)

**Deadline for nominations is March 21, 2008. Thank you for your participation!**



RIFPA

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association  
55 South Brow Street  
East Providence, RI 02914

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PROVIDENCE,  
RI  
02904  
PERMIT NO.  
3056

web <http://www.rifpa.org> email [rifpa.org@verizon.net](mailto:rifpa.org@verizon.net)

## Free Child Care & Therapeutic Day Care for Children in Foster Care

Comp Services offers free preschool to all foster children ages 3, 4, and 5.

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

We work with over 20 child care centers and family child care homes in RI. We are waiting to offer your foster child a fun and exciting learning experience.

For details call Rita at 401-475-7707 ext. 250 or email [drdaycare@kidsklubri.com](mailto:drdaycare@kidsklubri.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.



RIFPA

*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: [kara.duffin@rifpa.org](mailto:kara.duffin@rifpa.org), entering "Newsletter" in the subject line, or mail to:

RIFPA  
Attn: Newsletter Editor  
55 South Brow Street,  
East Providence, RI 02914