

# fostering FUTURES

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

No. 6 – Issue 9 – October 2007



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## The Educational Needs of Kids in Care

*“As a group, foster kids test far behind their peers, are more likely to drop out, repeat grades, be in special-ed classes, and be suspended or expelled.” —Paulson, 2005*

The first thing you should know about the educational needs of children involved with the child welfare system, especially those in foster care, is that they often struggle in school. Common areas of difficulty and concern include the following.

**Poor academic performance.** In general, children and youth in foster care get lower grades and score lower on standardized tests than their peers (Christian, 2004). For example, Blome (1997) found that most youth in foster care receive “C” grades, compared to control groups, which receive a mix of “B” and “C” grades. In another study, youth in foster care who had completed the 10th or 11th grades were reading, on average, at only a seventh grade level (Courtney, et al., 2004).

**Inappropriate special education services and placement.** Children involved with the child welfare system may be at risk either for being underserved or overserved by special education programs. Some who need special education services are overlooked. Others, because of temporary behavioral problems caused by placement

continued on Pg. 10

# Dr. Day Care

Dear Dr. Day Care,

I am a foster parent in the process of renewing my license. I have been told that I need to get a physical in order to complete this process. I am self-employed and don't have health insurance. I'm not sure how to get a physical because I don't have a primary care physician and I probably couldn't afford it anyway. Do I have any options?

Signed,

Can't Afford Check-Up

Dear Can't Afford Check-Up,

You are not alone in facing this problem. Unfortunately, many foster parents in Rhode Island are without adequate health insurance. In an attempt to address this challenge, each year the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association works with legislators to introduce a bill in the General Assembly that would allow foster parents to get RIte Care health coverage. I am sorry to say that so far, this has not gone through. In the meantime, you do have a couple of potential solutions. The first question I need to ask you is whether or not you are a relative caregiver. Your options depend on your situation. Let me explain:

If you are NOT a relative caregiver, you should take the following steps:

1. Contact the nearest community health care clinic.
2. Ask if you can arrange a sliding scale payment. (This means that your payment is determined based on your income)
3. Schedule your appointment.
4. If your exam was required for re-licensing, speak to your social worker to ask if DCYF can process an 005 to reimburse you for your exam expense.

If you ARE a relative caregiver, you have more options:

1. You can elect to follow the steps above
- or
2. You can elect to decline the foster care board and go to the Department of Human Services to apply for the Family Independence Program (FIP) for the child only. This will allow one adult caregiver (either you or your spouse) to receive RIte Care benefits. It is important to note, that the FIP rate of reimbursement is slightly lower than the DCYF foster care board rate. (The difference is marginal if you are only caring for one relative child, but the difference is more pronounced if you are caring for a sibling group of two or more children.) You need to factor in the financial benefit of free RIte Care for the primary caregiver. Please make sure you weigh the financial impact against your health care needs and make the decision that is best for your family overall.

In the meantime, the folks at the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association will continue working tirelessly to get the state to recognize the need for health care coverage for ALL foster parents. Our goal is to make RIte Care available for all par-

ents, including those who foster kids in care. Good luck with your physical and feel free to contact the Association at (401) 438-3900 if you need more help with this issue.

*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.*



**SHARON O'KEEFE, ESQ.**

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

## Adoptions

- DCYF\*
- Private
- Step Parent

**401-247-1740**

*\*Accepts DCYF subsidy as payment*

## We need your Donations!

**Fall means cleaning up and clearing out. Whether you are raking leaves in your yard or reducing clutter in your closets, fall is a great time of year to donate unused items in your home.**

### **Our Cribs, Beds and Clothes... Oh my!**

donation exchange program currently needs child care items that are still in good condition including playpens, strollers, and clothes for infants, toddlers, children and youth of all ages. To donate in-kind items to this program, please contact the Association at (401) 438-3900. Funding is also needed to support the purchase of car seats, beds and other items not readily available in inventory.



**Thank you!**

## The Department of Children, Youth and Families

# B · U · L · L · E · T · I · N

### NEW and IMPROVED Foster Parent Referral Program

Recruit a new home for teenagers, receive \$500 in “bonus” payments!

Current foster or adoptive parents are the best source of inspiration to potential foster parents. By recruiting new foster parents you may be eligible to earn a bonus through the new and improved Foster Parent Referral Program!

If you refer an individual or couple for foster care, you will receive a “bonus” payment of \$25 when the prospective foster parent completes and submits and application for foster care to DCYF. A second “bonus” payment of \$75 will be made once the prospective foster parent completes all of the licensing steps and is licensed as a foster home. Finally, the referring foster parent will receive a final “bonus” payment of \$250 when the prospective foster parent(s) accept their first placement. And, if the first placement is a teenager, the “bonus” payment is \$400. The prospective foster parent will have to report the name of the referring foster/adoptive parent in order for the “bonus” payments to be processed.

For more information regarding this new referral incentive, please contact the Association at 401-438-3900.

### HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT

Money is available for youth in the custody of DCYF to attend Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, or the Community College of Rhode Island. This grant money can fund the gap between other financial aid and the full cost of tuition, room and board, books, and related expenses. Youth are eligible to apply if they have:

- been in the custody of DCYF for a minimum of 24 months at the time of the recommendation;
- received a high school diploma or GED not more than 1 year prior to the date of recommendation;
- been accepted into either CCRI, RI College, or URI;
- applied for financial aid;

To qualify, applicants must also be under 21 years of age and enrolled as full time students.

Contact the Independent Living Coordinator, John O’Riley, at 401.528.3764 to apply or for more information.

### Please update your files

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

### 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
Bacon, Cindy	528.3612
Gloria, Kate	528.3783
Jordan, Mary-Ann	528.3607
Khan, Zafar	528.3617
Kramer, Joyce	528.3658
Logan, Pat	528.3620
Loungo, Laura	528.3608
St. Jacques, Sara	528.3615
Steiner, Phil, Supervisor	528.3622
Administrative Assistant	528.3548

#### CLINICAL TRAINING SPECIALISTS

Robins, Maureen, Supervisor	528.3799
Dybala, Margie	528.3709
Geiselman, Lori	528.3703
Iannotti, Angela	528.3739
Prescott, Richard	528.3483
Uriati, Jennifer	528.3741
Robin, Perez, Recruitment	528.3700

#### ADMINISTRATOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

Savage, Kevin	528.3629
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#### FIRE INSPECTORS

DiCarlo, Deke	528.3674
Killilea, Dennis	528.3668
Ouellette, Russell	528.3675

#### DAYCARE UNIT

Almeida, Brenda, Supervisor	528.3623
Ahly, Cheryl	528.3614
Prado, Indira	528.3611
Gagnier, Linda	528.3610
Hall, Pam	528.3618
Perez, Redentora	528.3672
Iociofano, Linda	528.3671
MAIN LINE	528.3504
Mastrangelo, Linda	528.3616
Mendoza, Nelly (sec.)	528.3621

The **mission** of the Association is to **provide education** and other forms of **support** to families that provide substitute care, and to the community-at-large, in order to further the cause of **children** who cannot live with their **parents**.

# Calendar of Events: free!



## DESSERT AND DISCUSSION SERIES

Sponsored by Adoption Rhode Island and Casey Family Services

Please join us for one or more of our facilitated discussions on a variety of topics unique to adoption. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with others. Space is limited so you must reserve a spot for any of the discussions. Please call Raquel at 781-3669 to register.

### ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES

October 18, 2007 at Adoption Rhode Island  
6:00 - 7:30pm

What has your experience been like with the adoption process? What has parenthood been like for you? How do your joys and challenges affect day-to-day parenting? Are the support systems what you thought they would be? What advice do you give others that are beginning this process? Join us and share your experiences.

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### OPEN ADOPTION

November 29, 2007 at Adoption Rhode Island  
6:00 - 7:30pm

Did anything specific motivate you to seek an open adoption? How did you feel about the process in the beginning? Open adoption ranges from letters once a year to ongoing visits with birth family. What is your range of openness? Share with us how you have managed birth family relationships and how these relationships affect your child's adjustment. Would you recommend open adoption? Come and share your experiences on this topic.

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### UNDERSTANDING SPECIAL EDUCATION

January 17, 2008 at Casey Family Services  
6:00 - 7:30pm

Is your child receiving special education? Do you have questions regarding working with school departments and meeting your child's needs at school? Do you want to learn about your rights in accessing special education and available services? Come, share, and discuss.

### CULTURAL IDENTITY CHALLENGES

February 28, 2008 at Casey Family Services  
6:00 - 7:30pm

Is maintaining your child's cultural ties important in your family? Does your child ask you why he or she looks different? What can you do when your child asks you about his or her cultural backgrounds and want to explore them? What are the resources for families like you? Please come listen and share your experiences with other parents.

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### BIRTH FAMILY HISTORY

April 3, 2008 at Casey Family Services  
6:00 - 7:30pm

Do you question what to share with your child about his or her birth family history? Do you wonder when to start discussing this? How much information should you disclose to your child? Come, discuss, and learn from other parents with similar experiences.

### JIM CASEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

October 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, and 29, 2007  
at Casey Family Services  
4:00-6:30pm

Contact Natasha Leavitt at the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association at 438-3900 x105.

## LEVEL I SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

Tuesdays (6 sessions) Starts October 2, 2007  
at Casey Family Services 4:00 – 5:30pm

A 6-week social skills group for adopted children between the ages of eight (8) and ten (10). Facilitated by Michael Friend (LICSW) and Judy Paz (MSW). Please call Michael or Judy at 781-3669 to check availability.

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## MOVIE, PIZZA & DISCUSSION GROUP

Every other Thursday (6 sessions) Started September 27, 2007 at Casey Family Services 4:30-7:15pm

A 6-session group for adopted youth between the ages of ten(10) and fifteen (15). This is a therapist facilitated co-ed group to provide adoptees the opportunity to meet other adoptees and explore adoption core related issues. Six films with adoption themes will be shown and discussed in a clinical setting. The group participants will be guided in enhancing their ability to talk about their adoption experience. This is also a great opportunity to improve social skills! Facilitated by Raj Subedi (LICSW, ACSW). Please call 781-3669 to check availability.

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## PARENTS EDUCATION/SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays (8 weeks) Started September 24, 2007  
at Casey Family Services 5:30-7:00pm

An 8-week therapist-facilitated group for new and experienced adoptive parents. This group will provide adoptive parents with the opportunity to discuss the trials, tribulations and joys of parenting behaviorally-challenging adopted children. Light dinner is provided. Day care not available. Space is very limited. Please call Binh Tran (LICSW,LCDP) to check availability – 781-3669.

### 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.*



**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.

## ADOPTION ATTORNEY

**Joseph A. Palmieri, Esq.\***

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

**“Just Call”  
(401) 258-3371**



\*Joseph A. Palmieri, Esq. is a private attorney and is not associated with DCYF.

# A Recipe for Success!

On August 30, supporters of the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association escaped to paradise to attend our 5th annual Cheeseburgers in Paradise fundraiser at the beautiful Botanical Center at Roger Williams Park. Highlights of the evening included guest host Margie O'Brien from News Channel 10, the "Rhode Island Dreams" auction, live music, raffles, a down home barbeque and hamburgers by Fine Catering by Russell Morin.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association, we'd like to thank the many corporate sponsors, individuals, attendees and donors that contributed to our annual fundraiser. Your generosity helped to raise over \$5,000 for the Youth Enrichment Fund. Thanks to you this event was a recipe for success!

## Our Event Committee Members:

Cynthia Corbett  
Patricia Corbett  
Jackie Dowdy  
Linn Freedman  
Lisa Guillette  
Adam Harvey  
Dorin Jones  
Natasha Leavitt  
Mary Jo Lober  
Walt Mattison  
Michelle Saunders  
Mary Ann Shallcross Smith



^ RIFPA Board Member Mary Ann Shallcross Smith and her husband Ron Smith, along with Tammie and Bill Delmage get into the "Cheeseburgers" spirit!



^ Cheeseburgers Committee member Cynthia Corbett and RIFPA Board Vice President Patricia Corbett take a break from selling raffle tickets to enjoy the fun at their table!



^ Placement Solutions staff enjoy the evening.



▲ Cheeseburgers committee member Adam Harvey (center) relaxes with Gina DiSpirito and the rest of the GLADWORKS creative team!



▲ Members of the Casey Family Services Team take a break from the fun to pose for a picture.



▲ Margie O'Brien shares her emcee duties with her daughter Laney

## Our Silent Auction Donors:

AAA of Southern New England	Linn Freedman
At Your Door Dry Cleaners	Loon Mountain
Attorney General Patrick Lynch	Mark Arsenault
Bellanni Maternity	Method Fitness
Boathouse Restaurant	New England Aquarium
Boston Harbor Hotel	Newport Golf Club / Peter DiBari
Boston Sports Club	Nocera's Liquor Store
Cheryl DaCosta	The Porch View
Dr. Day Care / Mary Ann Shallcross Smith	Providence Children's Museum
Fine Catering by Russell Morin	Providence Journal
Getty Gizaw	Shaw's Supermarket
IParty	Siemens Power Systems / John Ledbetter
Jasper School of Dance	Trinity Repertory
Just Playin' Sport Magazine	Uno Chicago Grill
Kathy Borchers	Waterfire, Providence
Laurie Tapozada	Providence Journal
	Photos by Bob Thayer and Kathy Borchers

## Our Sponsors:

AAA of Southern New England	GLAD WORKS
About Families	The Groden Center
CEDARR Center	Just Playin' Sport Magazine
ABS Printing	Neighborhood Health
At Your Door Dry Cleaners	Plan of Rhode Island
CareerBuilder.com	Nocera's Liquor Store
Casey Family Services	OCE North America
Castle Equipment Company	Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers
Danny's Place	Rhode Island School Age Children
Dr. Day Care	Verizon Telecompioneers: WJ Denver Chapter
Family Resource Community Action	Verizon Telecompioneers: WJ Providence Chapter
Gem Plumbing and Heating	
Gencorp Insurance Group	

# News You Can Use

In the months ahead, you'll find even more in each issue of Fostering Futures. We know it's hard to find time to open your mail, never mind the time to actually read it. That's why we are pleased to introduce our monthly section of News You Can Use. You will find quick, easy to read tips from our colleagues, our readers and fellow foster parents, but we'll need your help. **Take a look!**



**FREE! Movie Passes**

if we print your idea!

Email to [kara.duffin@rifpa.org](mailto:kara.duffin@rifpa.org)



## Click of the Month

Federal Citizen Information Center (Español)

[www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov)

For over 35 years, the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC) has been a trusted one-stop source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. Consumers can get the information they need in three ways: by calling toll-free 1 (800) FED-INFO, through printed publications, or through information posted on FCIC's family of websites.

Be sure to check out the Consumer Information Catalog. If you think great deals only happen on

game shows, then the new edition of the FREE catalog will thrill you. It's chock-full of more than 200 free and low-cost government publications on topics such as health, personal finance, housing, travel, and more. With so much valuable information, you won't be able to say "no deal" to it.

**Here is a small sample of what you will find:**

*66 Ways to Save Money*

*ID Theft: What It's All About*

*Growing Up Drug-Free*

*Ask, Listen, Learn--How to Talk to Your Adolescent About Alcohol*

*Help Your Child Improve in Test-Taking*

Check it out – you will be amazed!

### Do you have a web resource you think we should consider for our Click of the Month?

Sites can be professional, informative, educational or organizations. Our primary criteria is that a site be unique in some way and offer it's readers useful information and insight. Please send an email to [kara.duffin@rifpa.org](mailto:kara.duffin@rifpa.org) with your suggestion.

*(Please note: RIFPA cannot be held responsible for content on any external website. In the event you encounter content that is inappropriate or offensive, please let us know.)*

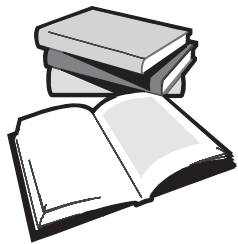


# Parent to Parent

Real parenting advice from the folks who know best...our readers.

### Do you know a clever parenting tip?

Send us your tricks of the trade for babies, teens and in-between! We're looking for unique, creative ideas that are fast and fabulous. Do you know the secret to a better bedtime? How about a recipe for picky eaters? A creative idea to celebrate holidays? Perhaps you have a tip specific to foster families? Please send an email to kara.duffin@rifpa.org and share your tip today!



# Share Your Story

**Don't worry** – this is easy. We're not looking for a whole story, just a sentence or two that gives insight, hope or encouragement to fellow foster parents. Who knows...your words of support could make the difference for a kid in care.

Here's how it works: Each month you will find a question or statement. Simply 'fill-in-the-blank' and email your reply to kara.duffin@rifpa.org. This month's story is –

"The best thing about being a foster parent is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_."

Email your (short) story to kara.duffin@rifpa.org.  
**FREE Movie Passes if we print your story!**

## An Opportunity for Youth:

Your foster child (age 14 or over) may be eligible for a **FREE** program that offers tutoring, mentoring, career exploration, leadership development, job coaching and work experiences.

Contact Paul Haroian at 861-0800 x 53 to sign up for an information session.



*Brought to you by your local workforce board*

# FAMILY COURT ADOPTIONS



### Adoptions

- Private
- DCYF
- Step Parent

**Qualified for DCYF Subsidy**

**Timothy J. Morgan, Esq.\***

**401.826.3344**

\* Timothy J. Morgan Esq. is a private attorney and is not associated with DCYF.

continued from Cover.

disruptions or entry into care, receive special education services even though they don't really need them (McNaught, 2005; Courtney et al., 2004).

At least 30% to 41% of children and youth in care receive special education services (Yu, 2003). Once they enter special education classes, children in foster care seldom return to the regular classroom. One study found that only 2% of children in out-of-home care in special education classes ever return to the regular classroom, compared to 10% of children not in foster care (Carter, 2002).

Behavior problems in school may indicate that a child is disengaged from academics (Alex-ander et al., 2001). Kids in care have more school behavior problems and are much more likely to be classified as behaviorally disturbed than other children, more so even than other children involved with child protective services (Smithgall et al., 2005).

High rates of suspensions and expulsions. Compared to their non-foster care peers, children and youth in foster care are suspended, expelled, and subject to other school disciplinary actions at very high rates. Smithgall and colleagues (2005) found that nearly 70% of children in foster care in Chicago had been suspended; 18% had been expelled.

Repeating grades. In her review of the research literature, Yu (2003) found that 26% to 40% of youth in care repeat one or more grades.

One study found that students in foster care who are NOT identified as educationally at risk are actually the most likely to be held back (Rosenfeld & Richman, 2004). This supports the idea that although children with serious problems are likely to get help, children struggling at a marginal level often fail to get the support they need (CASCW, 2000).

Lower graduation rates. Most studies have found that children in foster care graduate from high school at a rate at least 10 percentage points below the graduation rate of comparison students (Conger & Rebeck, 2001). In Chicago's public schools, 32% of teens in foster care graduate, compared with 59% for their non-foster peers (Smithgall, et al. 2004).

Low rates of postsecondary education. Most youth in foster care have high educational aspirations. When researchers interviewed teens in care at age 17 and 18 as they prepared to leave the child welfare system, most said they hoped and expected to graduate from

college eventually (Courtney, et al., 2004).

Few do. Although interviews with foster care "alumni" found that four in ten (42.7%) received some education beyond high school, only one in five (21.9%) alumni age 25 and older had completed a vocational degree. Alumni obtained a bachelor's or higher degree at a rate that was dramatically lower than that of the general population: 2.7% for alumni versus 24% for the general population (Pecora et al., 2005).

## Consequences

Researchers recently examined outcomes for 659 young adults who had been placed in family foster care as children. They found that 20% were unemployed, 33% lived at or below poverty rate, 33% had no health insurance, and 22% had been homeless for at least one night (Pecora et al., 2005). It seems reasonable to assume that the kind of educational difficulties described above contribute in some way to these negative long-term outcomes.

## How Foster Parents Can Support the Schooling of Kids in Care

- **Set Positive Expectations.** If we expect children to perform poorly, they will often fulfill this expectation. Therefore, express positive expectations at all times.
- **Take an Active Interest.** Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school-related functions or meetings. Monitor homework, classroom assignments, and behavior. Talk openly with the youth to help her identify roadblocks and educational needs. Encourage the youth to develop independent learning and self-advocacy.
- **Talk with Your Child's Teacher.** Explain your role and limitations as a foster parent. Ask the teacher about his expectations of the youth. Discuss resources, needs, and any identified obstacles for the child.
- **Talk with Your Child's Social Worker.** Clarify your role, responsibilities, and expectations related to the child's education. Specifically, talk about school-related decisions such as enrollment and signing permission slips for field trips or sports and shared parenting techniques. Ultimately, the educational needs of children in care should be addressed collaboratively by all the adults involved in the child's life. This information

should also be shared with the schools since schools are not always clear on who is responsible for the child in regards to these matters. Your child's foster care worker or your licensing worker can also let you know about any trainings or support groups related to education.

- **Be an Advocate.** Educational advocates should develop relationships with school staff and other relevant partners. Be persistent but flexible. As an advocate, you should be committed to what is in the best interest of the child.

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## National Foster Parents Association - Walk 2008

### Can You Help?

This first-ever nationwide walk, conducted by and for foster families, will take place in May of 2008 throughout the entire country. Many organizations do walks, but only a few have done a walk of the size and scope of this one. Even fewer walks will have the impact this event can have on society.

We need your help to secure national sponsorships. Please take a minute and email your answers to the following questions. We want to let Walmart and UPS know that we support their organization, so they should support ours!

1. Do you shop at Walmart?
2. How much (on average) do you spend each week at Walmart?
3. Do you ship packages/letters via United Parcel Service (UPS)?
4. How much (on average) do you spend each month on UPS?

Email your answers to [kara.duffin@rifpa.org](mailto:kara.duffin@rifpa.org) by October 19. Please take 2 minutes to help the National Foster Parents Association. Your answers may help us secure national sponsorships with Walmart and UPS.

Thank you for helping kids in care!

## Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

### Executive Board

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Jacqueline Dowdy

#### Vice President

Patricia Corbett

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Catherine Hanrahan

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Michelle Saunders

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## FREE CHILD CARE for Children in Foster Care

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

We work with over 20 child care centers and family child care homes in Rhode Island. We are waiting to offer your foster child a fun and exciting learning experience, call Rita at 401.475.7707 x250.

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

RIFPA  
Attn: Newsletter Editor  
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East Providence, RI 02914