



Resource Family Connection

News, Events and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County

February 2014



Twenty Ideas for Keeping Connections to Racial and Cultural Identity

By: Coalition for Children, Youth and Families

Parenting a child of a race or culture other than your own will likely be one of the most rewarding experiences in your life, but it is also likely to be one of your biggest challenges. When you adopt a child who is of a different ethnicity or culture, it's important for your whole family to develop as a multi-cultural family.

Wisconsin foster and adoptive parent Mary Jane Proft and her husband Tom have adopted 13 children from different backgrounds and abilities, and she says about her kids, "They have enhanced our family. We have learned things about other cultures and adoption that we never would have if we had not adopted them."

She goes on to say, "We also have more empathy for other minorities. We have learned to advocate for our kids and learned how to teach them how to do the same."

Your family will probably want to understand the importance of celebrating not only your child's culture, but other races and cultures, as well.

Here are some helpful ways that you can help your family and child embrace ethnicity and culture.

1. Have children's books in your home that represent people of different cultures and races.
2. Learn a folk tale or song about different ethnicities or cultures and have your child illustrate it.
3. Have magazines in your home that represent different cultures.
4. Celebrate both your children's heritage and your own when decorating their rooms. (Of course, when your kids are teenagers, all bets are off as to what they'll want!)
5. Have multicultural pictures and artwork in your home. Some examples, African masks, Hmong tapestries, Norwegian rose-maling, Native American pottery, and instruments and costumes from various cultures.
6. Learn some new words or simple phrases in your child's native language or dialect of the culture.
7. Watch TV shows and movies that represent all types of ethnicities in a positive manner.
8. Start a group - or join one that already exists - where families get together to celebrate different ethnicities. Try having a pot-luck with multicultural food - from pot stickers to collard greens to Irish soda bread and everything in between.
9. Include your child in helping prepare a meal that represents their ethnicity or culture as well as other cultures.
10. Attend different cultural festivals in your community. A good place to start is the Wisconsin Department of Tourism site, travelwisconsin.com.
11. Go to specialty grocery stores to purchase some food or some spices. See if they also sell music, books, art, toys, and clothing that represent your child's ethnicity and culture.



12. Visit a local museum and see an exhibit that depicts different cultures.
13. Identify a positive mentor or advisor for your child who is of the same cultural heritage.
14. Discuss current events with your child that involve his ethnicity or culture, as well as other cultures.
15. Identify cultural resources within your community like theaters, recreational centers, and camps.
16. Take trips to places that represent and reflect your child's heritage. This could be a trip to your child's old neighborhood, a museum, or even your child's place of birth.
17. Regularly attend a religious institution frequented by your child's ethnic or cultural group.
18. Educate your child about various cultures by teaching them about people who have made a positive contribution to the world.

19. Take your child to hear a speech by a prominent community leader or a business leader who represents the same ethnicity or culture as your child.

20. Reside in a neighborhood that is rich with cultural diversity and provides the opportunity for your child to come into contact with other people who are of the same race or culture as they are.

To honor their kids, the Profts have done a lot of the suggestions on this list. "For each culture, we have a room decorated with artifacts, furniture, and flavor of that culture," says Mary Jane. "There is no doubt that everyone knows where the Asian, African American, Hispanic, and Native American rooms are!"

"We made an effort to learn authentic recipes/meals from each culture and eat them regularly. On birthdays, the kids can request whatever meal they want. They usually request a meal from their culture - even if they don't like it!"

All families benefit from racial and cultural diversity. Education is an important piece for blending a multicultural family, and it doesn't happen with a few social outings, but rather is gained over years. It requires the same perseverance needed in the adoption process that brought your child to your family.

The rewards are immeasurable. As Mary Jane says, "We are better people for the experience."

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

Eve Altizer & Rebecca Hollister
Child and Family Division
Supervisors

2014 is off to a great start for the Child and Family Division! We have a number of initiatives that we are working on related to trauma. We have a Trauma Informed Care Professional Development Series to increase staff awareness, knowledge and skills at providing services in a trauma informed manner; secondary trauma awareness and intervention to increase staff awareness, knowledge and skills at understanding secondary trauma, it's signs, effects and appropriate interventions; a new partnership with Anu Family Services & the Casey Foundation to provide intensive trauma related grief and loss intervention along with family finding resource location services to increase permanency options and success; and the continuation of the Trauma At-Risk Pre-school program which is the early intervention and prevention of developmental delays associated with trauma in youth 0 -5 placed in out of home care – just to name a few! We are also excited to announce that we will be offering the Trauma Informed Parenting series twice in 2014, so please make sure to check our Training Announcement section for details.

We also have had a few staff changes. In the Permanency Services unit, Samantha Comaris switched divisions and took a position with the Access/Intake unit. On December 30th, Chelsey Nisbet took her place on the unit. Chelsey started working in our division as an intern, then a part time LTE, then a full time LTE. Chelsey just completed her MSW and APSW and has experience in child welfare working as Access/Intake and Ongoing as well as worked with children with special needs. In the Child and Family Unit, on January 16th, after 30 years with Waukesha County, Mark Sasso retired! We are really excited for him and his next chapter! Jessica Larsen joined the unit in Mark's place. Jessica has her MSW and APSW and has experience in working in Adoptions and Ongoing, owned her own business, and was an LTE for Permanency Services. Lastly, Suzanne (Suzie) Arnold has announced her retirement after 16 years with Waukesha County. We are sad to see her go but very excited for her and the new chapter she is about to start! We will be hiring for her replacement, so stay tuned!

As always, thank you for all that you do for the children of Waukesha County!

Sincerely,
Rebecca



Clothing Closet Corner

We need the following items for the Clothing Closet:

- Winter gear such as coats, snow pants and boots
- High Chair
- Gift Cards



A Special Thank You!

Thank you to DaySpring Baptist Church for hosting their annual foster family Christmas Party.

The party was held on December 19, 2013. There were 36 foster children who attended the party from 15 different families in the area.

DaySpring Baptist Church was able to provide each child with 2 presents and a stocking.

What a great opportunity for foster families to celebrate the holidays and spend time with one another. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is sincerely appreciated.

New Sesame Street Resources

Young children face big challenges every day. Getting dressed, saying goodbye, waiting in line, and going to bed can feel like big hurdles to a young child. Sesame Street has created new resources that provide parents, caregivers, and educators with daily activities and positive routines to help children (ages 2-5) build resiliency skills.

These FREE materials include the following:

- Multimedia bilingual resource kit with a Sesame Street DVD and Family Guide
- SesameStreet.org/Challenges website with all resources available for downloading
- [Educator Activity Guide](#) with tips and activities to be used in classrooms with children
- [Tip sheet](#) for parents and caregivers
- Breathe, Think, Do app for children to use with adults on tablets and phones, available on [Google Play](#), [the App Store](#) and the [Amazon Appstore](#)
- YouTube.com/SesameInCommunities featuring playlists of videos related to the initiative

For more information, e-mail challenges@sesame.org

Tax Resources

Free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) tax preparation service, sponsored by AARP, is available to those with an annual household income of less than \$50,000.

Two Landmark sites are available, and appointments are required:

**2400 N. Grandview Blvd.
Waukesha**
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Beginning February 4, 2014
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Please call (262) 796-4500

**9515 W. National Avenue
West Allis**
Thursdays
Beginning February 6, 2014
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Please call (262) 796-4500

Turbo Tax - Visit landmarkcu.com and login to Online Banking for details!

If you request an electronic refund of your income taxes, please use these numbers: Landmark's Routing Number 275079714. To credit checking, use the bottom center number on your checks (in full). For savings credit, use your full member number plus the 2-digit account number.

Local Activities

Waukesha Public Museum - Lunch and Learn Program Series

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, visit the museum for lunch and a new presentation with different themes! Each program lasts from 11:30am-1pm. Fee: \$8 per Member and \$9 per Non-Member, includes lunch and museum admission. Registration is required by the Monday before each program date. To register, call the Education Department at (262) 521-2859, ext 224 or email at education@wchsm.org.

- ★ February 12, 2014, "Freedom Riders" – To celebrate the museum's Underground Railroad exhibit, Carroll University will be here to show a portion of the documentary "Freedom Riders" and then lead a panel discussion with university professors. Sponsored by Wisconsin Energy Foundation.
- ★ March 12, 2014, "The Chronicles of Whitefish Bay" - Wander through a history of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, told largely through the letters and recollections of early residents of the village.

Discovery Club

Families with children 3-5 years old can join us for Discovery Club once a month, with a new theme and activities each time! Each program is led by the museum's Education Department, and includes games, storytelling, I-Spy, music, and crafts. Programs run from 10-11am. Fee: \$4 per child, \$3 per non-member adult, museum member adults are free; fee includes museum admission to all exhibits including the new Les Paul exhibit. Registration required by the Tuesday before each program date, call the Education Department at (262) 521-2859, ext 224 or email at education@wchsm.org. All programs are 10-11am

- ★ Thursday, February 20, 2014: "Color Splash!" – It's time to get the creative juices flowing so we can make some wonderful artwork! Participants will paint like the animals (using special 'paws' and tools!), create Australian dot art, mix primary and secondary colors, and design a stained glass window.
- ★ Thursday, March 20, 2014: "Builders Bonanza" – Put on your hardhat and let's get building! Participants will build a block city, make a car racing bridge, and even build a protective container for an egg before we drop it down the stairs!

Kids' Night Out!

Kids rule the museum after hours! Children 5-10 years old will enjoy a pizza dinner, then art activities, games, experiments, and much, much more! Kids' Night Out is from 5:30-8pm. Cost is \$20 per child per evening, pizza dinner is included. To register or for additional information please call the education department at 262-521-2859, ext. 246 or email at as-wanson@wchsm.org.

- ★ Saturday, February 8, "Ancient Wonders!" – Marvel at the genius of the ancients as we travel to the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World! We will decipher the Hieroglyphs on the Pyramids of Giza, build your own Greek Temple, craft a model Colossus and investigate the ways Ancient Alexandrians harnessed the power of light. Registration deadline is February 5th.
- ★ Saturday, March 15, "Diggin' the Past" – We will explore the past by searching the world beneath our feet. Learn the tricks archaeologists use to decipher past civilizations and journey to the Jurassic as we take on roles of paleontologists as we investigate what the world was like when dinosaurs ruled the earth. Registration deadline is March 12th.

Passage to Freedom Event

Saturday, February 22, 2014; 10am – 3pm

In honor of Black History Month and our newest exhibit, the Waukesha County Museum will be hosting an event to explore our community's role in the Underground Railroad. Passage to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad Exhibit (on display February 1 – June 13): Travel back to the 1800s to learn about slavery, the escape route called the Underground Railroad, and the challenges freedom seekers faced if they finally reached the "Promised Land" of Canada. Additional activities available during the event February 22 from 10am- 3pm:

- ★ Secret quilt code craft project
- ★ Continuous showings of the film "The Abolitionists," provided by Carroll University
- ★ Mystery meaning of Underground Railroad music challenge
- ★ Theatrical performance of Caroline Quarles, the runaway slave that traveled on the Underground Railroad and was helped by the people of Waukesha County. There will be two performances, 11:00am and 1:30pm.

All activities Feb. 22 will be free with museum admission. No registration is required, and seats for the performances will be on a first come, first serve basis.



Working With Birth Parents

February 10th 2014

6:00pm–8:00pm

\$15/participant \$60/agency group

6682 W. Greenfield Ave. Suite 310

Or attend via webinar

Register online at cyfbirthparents.eventbrite.com or contact info@coalitionforcyf.org or call 414-475-1246

Like many skills in foster care and adoption, working collaboratively with birth parents is one honed over time, with patience and a bit of guidance. Join us for an educational evening with a trainer who has been there, done that and wants to answer your questions. Learn new skills for engaging and communicating with birth family members who have come into your life through fostering children. This may also be an insightful training opportunity for those who have continued connections post adoption.



About the Trainer
Peg Cadd, Foster/Adoptive Parent
A trainer, mentor, and parent through foster care, adoption, and birth. She and her husband Rick have been foster parents for over 30 years. Their family includes 14 children. Peg believes in shared parenting and keeping contact with birth families. Peg also has had over 20 years in the early childhood field including Head Start. She firmly believes that, "if we work together as a team, we can make a difference in the lives of our children."



Coalition for Children, Youth & Families
formerly Adoption Resources of Wisconsin
6682 W. Greenfield Avenue, Ste 310
Milwaukee, WI 53214
1-800-762-8063
info@coalitionforcyf.org

In partnership with



FosterClub All-Star

Two teams of young people will be selected to serve as FosterClub All-Stars. Could you be one of them?

The team of All-Stars will be provided intensive leadership and public speaking training - then will travel to youth conferences to inspire their younger peers still in the foster care system. In addition, All-Stars raise awareness for the approximately 400,000 young people in foster care and 26,000 young people that age out of foster care every year.

Two Sessions:

Choose your session:
For the first time, FosterClub is offering two sessions over the summer. On the application, you'll indicate which session works for you:

Session A: May 20 - July 11
Session B: July 8 - Aug 25

What's provided:

- Travel expenses
- Shared housing (bunk-style lodging in the resort community Seaside, OR)
- Weekly living stipend
- Cell phone reimbursement
- \$1,500 end-of-summer stipend

Requirements:

- Between the ages of 18 and 24 at the start of the internship
- Spent time in foster care

Apply at: fosterclub.com
Applications due by February 15th!



fosterclub
the national
network for
young people
in foster care

apply by Feb. 15!

www.fosterclub.com

*check the fosterclub.com website for complete details

Training and Events



Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café

Parent Café's are an educational opportunity for parents to come together and deal with the stressors, worries and challenges of parenting in a supportive environment.

February 25, 2014

April 1, 2014

June 3, 2014

August 5, 2014

October 7, 2014

December 2, 2014

5:30 to 8:00 PM

Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha

To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-548-8080.



Waukesha County Foster Parent Orientation

Waukesha Department of Health and Human Services invites you to attend a foster parent orientation meeting. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested in learning about our foster care program. If you are currently in the process of becoming a licensed foster parent, you are required to attend an orientation session prior to approval of your foster care license.

We encourage you to complete the online foster parent pre-placement training prior to attending this information session. The training can be found online at <http://wcpds.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training/>. Please save the certificates after you have completed each module. These are required to become licensed.

When:

February 3, 2014, March 3, 2014, April 7, 2014, May 5, 2014, June 2, 2014, July 7, 2014, August 4, 2014, October 6, 2014, November 3, 2014, and December 1, 2014

All orientation sessions occur from 6:00- 8:00 PM

Where: Human Services Building, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188

To register for an orientation session, contact:

Madeline Prange, Foster Care Coordinator
(262) 548-7267

mprange@waukeshacounty.gov

-Or-

Libby Sinclair
Foster Care Coordinator
(262) 548-7277

esinclair@waukeshacounty.gov

Relative Caregivers Support/Education Group

Third Tuesday of each month.

January 21, 2013

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

Free childcare available. Please call Parents Place to reserve your spot.

Waukesha County Relative Resource Families

Please RSVP to Janis (262-896-8069) or Libby (262-548-7277)

Foster Parent Foundation Training For Level 2 Foster Homes

A new session of Foster Parent Foundation Training will be starting in February in Waukesha County. If you need to complete this training, please sign up as soon as possible. To register for the training, please go to <https://pdsonline.csod.com/client/pdsonline/default.aspx>. If you have not signed up for training in PDS Online before, please go to <http://wcpds.wisc.edu/pdsonline/fosterparents.aspx> for instructions. If you have difficulty signing up, contact your foster care coordinator or contact the PDS Online Helpdesk at (608) 264- 4357 *option 1.

All of the Spring Session trainings will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30 pm-8:30 pm at the Health and Human Services Building (514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188). Here are the dates of the trainings:

- ◆ February 25, 2014 Module 1, Partners in Permanency
- ◆ March 4, 2014 Module 2, Cultural Dynamics in Placement
- ◆ March 11, 2014 Module 3, Maintaining Family Connectedness
- ◆ March 18, 2014 Module 4a, Child Abuse & Neglect Part 1
- ◆ March 25, 2014 Module 4b, Child Abuse & Neglect Part 2
- ◆ April 1, 2014 Module 5, Impact of Maltreatment on Child Development
- ◆ April 8, 2014 Module 6, Attachment
- ◆ April 15, 2014 Module 7, Separation & Placement
- ◆ April 22, 2014 Module 8, Guidance & Positive Discipline
- ◆ April 29, 2014 Module 9, Effects of Fostering the Family

If you are unable to attend Tuesday evening sessions, there will be Saturday sessions in Madison and West Bend. Here are the dates:

Madison Series 1: Saturday, 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/5
West Bend Series 1: Saturday 3/15, 3/29, 4/12, 5/26, 5/10

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Eve Altizer, Supervisor
262-548-7272

Rebecca Hollister, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Kathy Mullooly, Supervisor
262-896-6832

Madeline Prange, Foster Care Coord.
262-548-7267

Libby Sinclair, Relative Licensing
262-548-7277

Social Workers:

Jennifer Adler..... 262-548-7265

Suzanne Arnold..... 262-548-7348

Samantha Comaris ... 262-548-7394

Megan Fishler 262-896-8570

Laura Jahnke..... 262-548-7359

Becca Kuester..... 262-896-6857

Stacy Kurkiewicz..... 262-548-7262

Maria Maurer 262-548-7345

Jessica McDonald 262-548-7639

Susan Peck..... 262-896-8574

Janis Ramos..... 262-896-8069

Michael Reed..... 262-548-7347

Greg Rewolinski 262-548-7270

Elizabeth Russo 262-548-7349

Kim Sampson..... 262-548-7273

Mark Sasso 262-548-7346

Linda Senger 262-548-7698

Kinship Workers:

Linda Finn..... 262-548-7254

Deb Fosberg..... 262-548-7256

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911
Family Emergency: 211

Foster Parent Mentor

Jen Mersfelder 262-542-2926

David Mersfelder..... 262-542-2926

If an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect has been made against you, please call:

FASPP
Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627

December 2013 Placements

Level 2 Placement: 28 Children	Juvenile Corrections: 2 Children	Group Homes: 2 Children	Residential Care Facilities: 5 Children
Level 1 Placements: 31 Children	Level 2 Foster Homes: 96 Homes	Level 1 Foster Homes: 36 Homes	Total Children in OHC: 86 Children

