



# Resource Family Connection

News, Events, and Information Benefiting  
the Children of Waukesha County  
January / February, 2017



## In Loving Memory of Rebecca Hollister 1976 - 2016



Rebecca Lynne Hollister, 40, of Waukesha, Wis., passed away on Dec. 12, 2016. Born in Kenosha, Wis., on Feb. 6, 1976, Becky was raised in a household of strong women who were passionate about helping others. From that foundation, she lived her life's purpose helping children to be more than the situation in which they were born into so they may achieve a happier life. As a Supervisor for the Child and Family Services Division of Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services, Becky made an indelible mark on countless lives. She did this through her wisdom, warm smile and willingness to go the extra step to ensure the best outcomes for all who interacted with her. Her greatest joy was realized as a foster parent where she could make a more direct impact on the lives of the children she cared for during their time of transition. Becky generated a special kind of magic. Her verve for life, quick wit and effortless laughter were magnetic. She fiercely loved and protected those closest to her, finding happiness in creating moments of joy for her people.



Rebecca's love and passion for children was undeniable. Rebecca's dedication to the profession of child welfare could be felt throughout the State as she was a leader and was seen as a source for education and knowledge to many. Rebecca helped shape and guide our child welfare practice for the last several years here at Waukesha County. It goes without saying, that her passing has left a massive void in our child welfare family and she will be missed dearly.



Rebecca - As you look down upon us and watch over our foster youth, we hope you know that your legacy and love for children lives on as the face of our foster care program by our continued use of the logo that you created. Each and every time it is used, it will be a memory and testament of the legacy you have left behind. You may no longer be with us, but your smile, laughter, love, and passion will never be forgotten.

## Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy to Come in 2017



Also included with this newsletter is copies of letters which were sent to families whom already receive Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy. On February 1, 2017

a new payment program is beginning for family child care providers or child care centers who are eligible to receive Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Payments. The new program involves a child care subsidy electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card. This new system is called "My WI ChildCare". It will be extremely important for Kinship and Foster Care families to apply to assistance the moment your placement arrives in your home. Moving forward authorizations and approval dates will not back date to the date of placement, they will only back date to the date you apply for assistance.

### THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to Carolann Aiken and the Lake Country Congregational Church in Hartland for the generous donation of a \$300 Visa gift card along with a \$20 cash donation. This donation will be used to purchase items for the foster care clothing closet to benefit teens in foster care.



Thank you to Carol Fitzpatrick and the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Queen of Apostles Church for these wonderful handmade hot chocolate ornaments. They provided 20 boxed ornaments, each containing a \$25 gift card to Walmart to benefit teens in foster care.

Thank you to Angela Raposa and the Lakepoint Church in Muskego for donating placement bags for children entering foster care. Each bag contains warm pajamas, clothing items, and hygiene products.



Thank you to Bette Winkler and WCTC for the generous donation of warm winter hats and gloves. These items were distributed at the Foster Care Christmas Party.

Thank you to the Waukesha County AODA Volunteers for their donation of \$300 worth of gift cards. They will be used for teens who come into foster care and are in need of clothing. <http://www.aodavolunteers.com>



### Holiday Gathering



A Huge Thank You goes out to Day Spring Baptist Church for sponsoring our Holiday Gathering for our Waukesha County Foster Youth this year. Youth



were able to get a chance to sit on Santa's lap, make reindeer food, and watch a puppet show. Each youth left with a wonderful gift provided by Day Spring Baptist Church. It is community organizations like Day Spring, who help bring smiles and joy to our foster youth.



## A Look Back at 2016 and a Look at the Year Ahead for Waukesha County Foster Families

I would like to start out by sending a big Thank You to our current Foster Families! We would not be successful in providing the stable home environments we do without the selfless acts you provide by opening your home to a child in need. I would also like to say Thank you for your patience with your new Foster Care Licensing Team and supervisor, as the responsibilities of foster care licensing changed Divisions and on-boarded new staff. As I look back at 2016, we have learned so much in a such a short period of time. Your Foster Care Team has tried to take the feedback received, and look for new ways to improve our services to you. We hope that through honest, open communication, we can continue down a path towards making small improvements that make a large impact on you as foster parents. Fostering is a journey. No two people's experiences are the same. It comes with its high moments and low ones too, and we want to continue to work to support you as best we can. My hope as the licensing supervisor is that you feel comfortable contacting me if you ever have the need. I am here to listen and problem solve with you.

2016 also came with additional training regarding the Prudent Parenting Standard. Thank you to all who complied with this state mandate. If you still haven't attended, your license will be put on hold and you will not be able to accept placement until it has been completed. In October of 2016, we also transitioned to the SAFE Assessment rather than using the Foster Family Assessment. This is a much more complex assessment that cannot only be used for a foster license but also in the adoption process. In 2017 and beyond, you'll notice that when you are mailed the necessary paperwork, you will also be receiving a questionnaire which needs to be completed, as well as we may be gathering additional information which is needed for the new assessment that may not have been asked during your initial licensing process. This process also requires that you read your SAFE assessment and sign it prior to the issuing of your license. The state requires that we be compliant with time frames, so you may notice that you'll receive your relicensing paperwork at least two months prior to your licensing expiring. This should allow for ample time to get your medical exams completed and necessary paperwork returned before the licensing worker comes out for your annual visit at least four weeks prior to your licensing expiring.

The Foster Care Team has lots of great events planned for us in 2017. We will continue to offer our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month trainings at the Center of Excellence so you can remain current on your required training hours. We will be offering multiple Foster Family Fun Nights to help promote activities to engage our youth and offer the opportunity to build shared parenting relationships in a safe environment. And hot off the press... Please save the date of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for our annual foster care appreciation event. This is a Sunday, and our event will be held at the Milwaukee County Zoo this year!

And lastly, we are seeking your assistance as current foster parents to help get the word out about the critical need we have for homes who will accept placement of youth ages 4 and older, especially teens, and sibling groups in 2017. In February, we will be hosting a large event seeking ambassadors to help promote the need for foster homes. Ambassadors will be given marketing materials to hand out to individuals and organizations to get the word out about our critical need. There was recent legislation that requires school districts to have a specific person assigned to help with the transition of youth in foster care to assure that their educational needs are being met while in a foster care placement. With this new legislation, we will be making an effort to have foster homes in each municipality and school district to help reduce the number of transitions for youth and to be as trauma-informed as possible. Research has shown that the best way to recruit new foster parents is through current foster parents telling others about their journey. If you are interested in participating in this event and be willing to help us reach our goal to gain 40 new foster homes – one in each municipality in Waukesha County, please contact me as we would love to partner with you to help fulfill this need.

(continued on page 3)



# Training and Events

## Required Training

### Required Training For All Relative Care Providers, Level 1 and Level 2 Foster Homes

**Prudent Parenting** – The Federal Legislation referred to as the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 required the State of Wisconsin to move towards requiring a “Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard” for children placed in Out-of-home care. This requires the use of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS) be used to allow a child placed in out of home care to be able to participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities. As a part of this standard, it requires that Out of Home Care providers have specific mandatory RPPS training. **All out of home care providers MUST be trained in Prudent Parenting. Any current foster parents who are not trained in Prudent Parenting will have their license put on hold.**

### Required Training For All Level 1 and Level 2 Foster Homes

**Foster Parent Orientation** – The Foster Parent Orientation is open to anyone interested in becoming a foster parent. **If you are currently in the process of becoming a licensed foster parent, you are required to attend this Orientation class prior to the approval of your foster care license.** Please complete the on-line Pre-Placement training prior to attending the Orientation session. The online Pre-Placement training is located at <http://wcpds.wisc.edu/Pre-Placement.htm> Please save the certificates after you have completed each Module. These are required to become licensed.

**Training Dates** – To make it more convenient for all of our foster parents and care providers, we will be offering the Prudent Parenting and Foster Parent Orientation together.

**WHEN:** January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12, 2017

**TIME:** 5:30 - 7:30 pm

**WHERE:** Waukesha County Human Services, 514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI 53188

RSVP to Libby Sinclair at [esinclair@waukesha.gov](mailto:esinclair@waukesha.gov) or 262-548-7277 (There is no childcare available.)

### A Look Back at 2016 and a Look at the Year Ahead for Waukesha County Foster Families (Continued)

We are also sending out a survey in January to update your preference information to assure that we are matching our placements with the best foster family. If you are interested in widening the age range of children you are willing to care for, please let us know that in our on-line survey.

It has been my honor to begin to get to know the many fabulous foster parents we have here in Waukesha County. Our youth are lucky to have you! Your passion and dedication to the success of our youth is unprecedented. I am looking forward to the many great things that will come in 2017 as we partner together to help guide our youth to become successful in pursuing and living out their dreams. They could not do this without YOU! Thank you for being a Waukesha County Foster Family.

Kind regards,  
Vickie Smith  
Foster Care Licensing Supervisor



## Required Training For Level 2 Foster Homes

As a Level 2 foster home, you are required to complete 32 hours of Foundation Training within your first 2 years of being licensed. Foundation training is offered twice a year; once in the spring and once in the fall. You must sign up for each Module of Foundation training at <http://pdsonline.csod.com> If you need assistance, you can email [mcwp@uwm.edu](mailto:mcwp@uwm.edu) or call 414-964-7400.

After your first 2 years, then Level 2 foster homes must complete 10 hours of on-going training each year. Additional trainings are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Spring Foundation Series:

- ◆ Module 1, Partners in Permanency  
3/14/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 2, Cultural Dynamics in Placement  
3/16/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 3, Maintaining Family Connectedness  
3/21/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 4a, Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Part 1  
3/23/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 4b, Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Part 2  
4/4/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 5, Impact of Trauma on Child Development  
4/6/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 6, Attachment  
4/11/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 7, Separation & Placement  
4/18/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 8, Guidance & Positive Discipline  
4/20/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
  - ◆ Module 9, Effects of Fostering on Your Family  
4/27/17, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
- Keep checking PDS for the location of the Spring Foundation Series classes.

## Foster Family Fun Nights



In 2016, the Foster Care Team started a series of Foster Family Fun Nights, and we plan to continue them on into 2017. These free events help serve several purposes. The first

one being our youth go through so much in their short childhood that they all deserve the night full of giggles and smiles. The second being our foster parents go out of their way to provide fabulous care to our youth, and the cost of care payment you receive often, if not always, doesn't cover for what you provide for our youth. So, we wanted to say thank you with fun and free activities where you don't have to worry about cleaning up the mess afterwards. And lastly, we hope that these events can be used as a starting place to build shared parenting relationships with biological parents. This can be done in a safe environment where the focus is on the youth's activity. In the future, the ongoing case manager may be speaking with you about attending one of these events and the possibility of it being used as a Shared Parenting activity. If that doesn't happen, that's OK too because maybe it's not the right timing for this to happen. Either way, we hope that in 2017 you take advantage of these activities as foster parents. Here are a few pictures from our Halloween event. We received lots of good



feedback regarding the event, so we hope you'll come out to our next event. Please look for fliers promoting these events to come mailed to your home and emailed to you as well.



# Additional 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 20, April 3, June 19, October 3, December 5, 2017**

**6:00 PM - 7:45 PM**

#### Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha

To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-521-0317.

### Support Group For Dads

A group to enhance group members' experience as fathers. Topics of discussion will include coping with stress; developing a better relationship with partner/spouse/child's mother; identifying positive role models in your life; identifying how you are a positive role model for your child(ren); discussing your role as a father and what you would like to change or improve.

**Fourth Tuesday of each month**

**January 24, 2017**

**February 28, 2017**

**6:00PM - 7:30PM**

#### Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

## Foster Parent Support Group

**First Wednesday of each month**

**January 4, 2017**

**February 1, 2017**

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

#### Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI

262-549-5575

On-sight daycare is available, but you must register in advance to secure a slot as there may be a cut-off depending on the number of children.

### The Clothing Closet is Busting at the Seams!



The Clothing Closet is running out of room with donations of infant and toddler clothing. All of the clothing is in good condition with no stains or imperfections. We have some really nice things in there, and many items still have store tags on them!! We

also have several winter coats in a variety of sizes!! We are hoping that Kinship and Foster Families will use this resource. Please contact Linda Finn, one of our Human Services Support Specialists, at 262-548-7254, to arrange a personal appointment to come in and "shop" in the clothing closet!

### Future Foster Parent Training Dates and Topics

#### Center for Excellence

N4W22000 Bluemound Road, Waukesha

A light dinner and daycare will be provided.

#### Caring for a Child With Mental Illness

Presented by Mary Madden, NAMI Waukesha

January 19, 2017

#### Understanding the Juvenile Court Process

Presented by: Attorney Molly Jasmer

February 16, 2017

RSVP at any time for all future monthly trainings at: <http://waukeshafostercaretraining.eventbrite.com>

## Training

### Parents Place Programs

262-549-5575 [www.ppacinc.org](http://www.ppacinc.org)

- **Love and Logic®**  
Mondays, January 9 - 23; 5:30 - 7:30 PM
- **Having Fun With Kids in the Kitchen (Parent and Child Class)**  
Tuesdays, January 10 - March 7; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Parenting Through Recovery**  
Session 1: Wednesdays, January 11 - February 1; 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Session 2: Wednesdays, February 15 - March 1; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Strong Willed Child**  
Tuesdays, January 17 & 24; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Adult Anger**  
Mondays, February 6 & 13; 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **Mindful Parent / Happy Child (Parent and Child Class)**  
Tuesdays, February 21 & 28; 5:30 - 7:00 PM

### Coalition for Children

[www.coalitionforcyf.org](http://www.coalitionforcyf.org)

For other training opportunities, see the Coalition for Children, Youth & Families website:

[www.coalitionforcyf.org](http://www.coalitionforcyf.org). They offer interactive webinars that count toward the required face to face training hours.



### Training Sponsored by Parents United Consortium

(additional information available

at <http://parentsunitedwi.org>)

Childhood & Adolescent Depression

February 8, 2017

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Country Springs Hotel & Conference Center

2810 Golf Rd, Pewaukee, WI

### Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County  
Health & Human Services  
262-548-7212

Vickie Smith, Foster Care  
Licensing Supervisor  
262-970-4761

Susan Peck, Foster Care Level 2  
Coordinator  
262-896-8574

Libby Sinclair, Relative Foster  
Care Level 1 Coordinator  
262-548-7277

Megan Quandt, Kinship & Foster  
Care Coordinator  
262-548-7373

Jessica Morris, Kinship & Foster  
Care Coordinator  
262-548-7256

Eve Altizer, Ongoing Social Work  
Supervisor  
262-548-7272

### Social Workers:

Tracy Clark..... 262-548-7270

Megan Fishler ..... 262-896-8570

Abbey Girman ..... 262-548-7695

Sharon Godwin..... 262-548-7684

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

Jamie Kasten..... 262-548-7265

Jessica Larsen..... 262-548-7346

Maria Maurer ..... 262-548-7345

Chelsey Nisbet..... 262-896-6896

Rachel O'Sullivan..... 262-548-7639

Stacy Pawlak ..... 262-548-7262

Elizabeth Russo ..... 262-548-7349

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

Linda Senger ..... 262-548-7698

Traci Sobstad..... 262-896-6857

Sara Waldron..... 262-548-7371

Children's Mental Health Outreach  
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911  
Family Emergency: 211 or  
262-547-3388

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

FASPP  
Norma Schoenberg  
920-922-9627