



Resource Family Connection

News, Events and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County

July 2013



Step Into My Shoes

In her poem "Have You Ever" Shebra, a 16-year-old in foster care in North Carolina, asks:

*Have you ever lived my life?
Spent one minute in my shoes?
If you haven't then tell me why
You judge me as you do.*

These questions are natural for someone who is experiencing the stigma and labeling that sometimes come with being in foster care.

They're also relevant for the rest of us. All of us, at one time or another, have felt the pain of being unfairly judged.



Many of us also know from experience the bad things that can happen when decisions are made and actions taken based on false assumptions about another person's character, skills, or motivations.

In the face of other people's hasty conclusions we all want the things Shebra longs for: Respect. Compassion. Understanding. Acceptance. Justice.

In the child welfare system, negative assumptions about others can hurt collaboration, undermine healing and partnership, and interfere with efforts to act in the child's best interests.

The best protection against these negative outcomes is, in the words of Steven Covey, to "seek first to understand" - to listen with an open heart, to delay judgment as long as possible, and to remain open to new information.

Admittedly, this can be hard to do in the stressful world of child welfare, but we believe that it almost always pays off in the end - especially for the kids.

Have You Ever?

By Shebra, age 16

Have you ever lived my life?
Spent one minute in my shoes?
If you haven't then tell me why
You judge me as you do.

Have you ever woken up in
The morning wondering if this
Was your last day on earth?
Have you ever left your house
Unsure if you'd return?

Have you ever seen your mom
Get beat by your step-dad,
Messed up on booze?

Have you ever had an unwanted
Pregnancy and been forced to
Choose?

Have you ever sat beneath the stars
Hoping God will hear you?

Have you ever seen your friend
Drive away after way too many beers?

Have you ever had a friend
Experiment with weed?
Have you ever covered up
Guild by doing good deeds?

Have you ever considered
Suicide as the only way?
Have you ever tried to hide
Yourself behind the things you say?
Have you ever wanted to
Protect your friends and
Everyone in sight?

Have you ever felt such
Pain that you cry yourself
To sleep at night?

Have you ever lived my life?
Spent one minute in my shoes?
If you haven't then tell me why
You judge me as you do?



Reprinted with permission from Fostering Perspectives,
November 2006 - Vol. 11, No. 1
www.fosteringperspectives.org



Rebecca's Corner

Rebecca Hollister
Permanency Services
Supervisor

On July 18th, our very own Foster Care Coordinator, Shari Rather will be hanging up her licensing hat for a well-deserved life of leisure in retirement with her husband, Dick. She is looking forward to spending quality time with her 3 wonderful adult children, their spouses and adorable granddaughters. She is looking forward to spoiling more grandchildren in the future. Shari has dedicated 24 years of service to the families of Waukesha County and spent the last ten years building and nurturing the Waukesha County Foster Care Program. As many of you know, Shari has dedicated her professional life to ensuring that Waukesha County has the best and most dedicated foster parents in the state. During the past two Quality Service Reviews in 2009 and 2012, reviewers have commented on the quality of foster parent recruitment and training. Shari's dedication and investment in this program have made those accolades possible. She takes the time to get to know her foster parents and consistently shows her appreciation for their efforts with the children they care for.



In addition to developing the program, Shari has brought in a number of initiatives that have set Waukesha County Foster Parents above the rest such as Shared Parenting, Parent Café, and the Clothing Closet. Initiatives such as these have created a team environment setting foster parents as integral partners.

Shari has also made a powerful reputation for herself as a strong trainer and facilitator. Shari has toured the state training Parent Café Host training so that other counties can replicate the model Waukesha County has created. In addition, Shari has been the main trainer for Waukesha County foster parent's Foundation Training. Some may not know this, but Shari played an integral part in the State team that created our current foster parent pre-service and foundation training curriculum...she has truly made an impact on foster parenting throughout the state of Wisconsin!

As many will attest, Shari works very hard to ensure the yearly foster parent appreciation event is a huge success! She has developed a collaborative relationship with Jack Safro Toyota to sponsor this event on a yearly basis and works throughout the year to ensure everyone has a great time! Entertaining for this amount of adults and children is no small feat and Shari has consistently provided a quality experience for all.

Please join us in celebrating Shari as she makes her transition to the good life on Thursday, July 18th at the Thunder Bay Grille in Waukesha starting at 4:30pm. Appetizers and cake will be served.

In addition to Shari's retirement, there have been some staff changes in the Permanency Services Unit. Madeline (Madi) Prange will be taking over for Shari as the Foster Care Coordinator. She will have the same phone number, so please feel free to call! In addition, Jessica McDonald started with the unit (taking over Cindie Remshek's position) at the end of May. Stacy Kurkiewicz started on July 1st (taking over Bob Alioto's position) and we will have Samantha Comaris beginning on July 15th (taking over Madi Prange's position).

2013 Foster Parent Appreciation Event Thank you Jack Safro Toyota and all of our sponsors!

Craig Berns Salon and Spa
Green Bay Packers
Milwaukee Admirals
Milwaukee Bucks
Milwaukee County Zoo
Morningstar Golf
Naga-Waukee Golf Course
Seven Seas Restaurant
Signature Salon and Spa
Target-Waukesha
Texas Roadhouse- New Berlin
Texas Roadhouse- Waukesha
Walmart-New Berlin
Walmart-Pewaukee



Happy 4th of July

Happy 4th of July

Foster Care Appreciation Event at Fox Brook Park
June 19, 2013



Sunshine, games, crafts and great food

led to a fun day for all.

led to a fun day for all.

Training and Events



Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café

September 12, 2013
5:30 PM

Center for Excellence
N4W22000 Bluemound Road
Waukesha

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



Waukesha County Foster Parent Required Pre-Placement Training

Prospective Foster Parents need to do Part 1 of the training on the following website: <http://www.wcwts.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training> (Please bring your training certificates to the class)

We will then meet to discuss the learning points and answer your questions.

August 5, 2013

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Waukesha County Human Services
500 Riverview Ave.

Brookfield Room G137 - Enter Door 6.

Call Madeline Prange to register at 262-548-7267.

Relative Caregivers Support/ Education Group

Third Tuesday of each month.

September 17, 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)

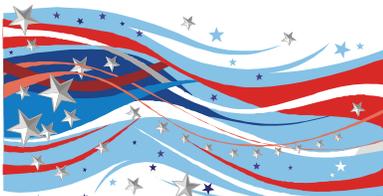
SAVE THE DATE

- **Annual Relative Caregiver Picnic**

August 17, 2013

Noon to 3:00 PM

Minooka Park, Waukesha



Training

Parents Place Programs
262-549-5575 www.ppacinc.org

- **New Ideas for Parenting Children & Adolescents with ADHD/ADD**

Tuesdays, July 2 - 23 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

These classes will explore the five gifts of the ADHD/ADD child, and teach parental coaching skills that cultivate the child's emotional intelligence.

- **Co-parenting**

Mondays, July 8 - 22 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Divorce or the end of a relationship is not the end of a relationship with your child or your child's other parent. A negative relationship with your co-parent can cause your children to feel emotional and psychological distress. In this group, we work to redefine the relationship with your co-parent for the sake of the children involved.

- **Understanding Your Teen's Anger**

Wednesdays, July 17 & 24 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

This two part class is for Parents and Teens. The first class will meet with the parents to help them understand their teen's anger, development and strategies to cope with their seemingly ever changing moods. The second class will be parents and teens together to explore the essence of anger and anger management strategies. Discover how anger manifests itself in our bodies and techniques to control it.

- **Special Workshop - Video Modeling**

Wednesday, July 31 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Learn how children with autism spectrum disorders can observe themselves performing new behaviors on video and later imitate the targeted behavior.

- **Effective Discipline for the Challenging Child**

Tuesdays, August 5 - 26 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

This is an opportunity to learn new parenting tools that will replace the old ineffective discipline techniques that are not working. Children will learn to be accountable for their behavior. The focus of this group is on parents of children five years of age and older.

- **Love and Logic**

Tuesdays, August 6 - 27 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Rebecca Hollister, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Mary Alice Grosser, Supervisor
262-548-7272

Kathy Mullooly, Supervisor
262-896-6832

Shari Rather, 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

Megan Fishler 262-896-8570

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

Becca Kuester 262-896-6857

Maria Maurer 262-548-7345

Jessica McDonald 262-548-7639

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

Madeline Prange 262-548-7394

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

May 2013 Placements

Regular Foster Care:
52 Children

Treatment Foster Care:
10 Children

Group Homes:
1 Children

Residential Care Facilities:
14 Children

Relative Placements:
42 Children

Level 2 Foster Homes:
112 Homes

Level 1 Foster Homes:
50 Homes

Total Homes Assisting Other Counties
18 Homes

