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Summer 2009

The Fosterer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE FOSTER / ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION, INC.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *2009 TFACA Conference Coming Up October 16–18*
- *Kenneth P. and Maxine Fox TFACA Scholarships Available*
- *NEW TFACA Membership Benefit Available to All Members*
- *TFACA Annual Membership Drive*

Mark Your Calendar!

2009 TFACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2009 TFACA conference will take place October 16–18 at the Music City Sheraton Hotel in Nashville. Every year the conference gets bigger and better!

Don't miss this opportunity to receive your credit hours and celebrate your commitment and love for children with foster, adoptive, and kinship parents; DCS and private-agency staff members; and child advocates from across the State of Tennessee.

TFACA ELECTIONS

Annual TFACA elections will be held at the state conference October 16–18. The elections will be Saturday, October 17, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and closing at 9:00 p.m.

Positions to be filled are president, treasurer, and regional directors for the East, Davidson, Knox, Mid-Cumberland, Smoky Mountain, South Central, and Southwest regions.

Please send your nominations for these positions to Becky Rogers, 638 County Road 105, Athens, TN 37303, or by e-mail to Rebecca JCRogers@aol.com.

Send your nominations by September 15, and include the qualifications of the nominee for the position.

Election Committee:

Becky Rogers, chair
Pat King
Jeff and Donna Stern

TFACA ASSOCIATION FEE

There are many benefits for local association members who become a part of the parent organization. TFACA originally operated with local membership dues only. However, the state association has grown to such a professional level that demands have become more frequent and costs have increased.

After much discussion, the board passed a motion to assess local associations a yearly membership fee of \$40, due July 1 of each budget year.

Please make sure your association dues are paid and your current information has been sent in to the TFACA secretary. This information is updated annually with the IRS so that TFACA can remain a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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2009 ANNUAL TFACA AWARDS

Each year TFACA gives awards to recognize some special people. They include

1. Resource Parents of the Year (Kinship, Foster, Adoptive)
2. Local Association of the Year
3. Child Care Professional of the Year

Criteria for Nominations

- Nominees must be approved resource parents or have been employed with DCS for two (2) or more years.
- Resource parents must have met the annual training requirements.
- Nominees must work well in partnership with the department and resource parents.
- Nominees must be advocates for the children they serve.
- Nominees must fulfill DCS expectations.

Please provide types of children served (sibling groups, medically fragile, teenagers, special needs, etc.); number of children currently placed; names and ages of each. Has this resource parent adopted (names and ages, if appropriate)?

In your own words (200 or less), please describe what makes this person, or couple, stand above the rest in providing excellence in service to the children in their home (include how criteria have been met).

To nominate parents, a professional, or an association, send the nominee's name, address, county/region, e-mail, and phone number to Ronya Faulkner, Program Specialist, TN Center for Child Welfare, MTSU Box 143, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, Ronya.Faulkner@tccw.org by **September 15, 2009**.

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Silent Auction

Associations, remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction to the fall conference. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

For more information, contact the Silent Auction chair, Angie Wilmoth, or committee members Lorraine and Ron Copeland.

Poster Contest

Once again at the conference, all local associations will have the opportunity to participate in a poster contest. If you are interested, contact Tammy Beaty, chair, for additional information.

*Check out the TFACA Web site
www.tfaca.org*

Fall Conference Door Prizes

Each association is asked to bring door prizes to be given away throughout the conference.



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TENNESSEE FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CARE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS GAIN A NEW PRIVILEGE

The Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association is proud to announce that AFLAC (American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus) will be offering selected supplemental insurance policies to TFACA members.

Founded in 1955 by brothers John, Paul, and Bill Amos, AFLAC—the number one provider of individual health insurance and guaranteed-renewable insurance—has grown into a company that markets a broad line of guaranteed-renewable insurance policies to more than 402,300 payroll accounts in the U.S. and insures more than 40 million people worldwide. AFLAC is represented by over 73,600 licensed sales associates and brokers in the United States.

In July 2008, AFLAC was included on a list of the world's most ethical companies by *Ethisphere* magazine for the second consecutive year. In 2008, the Reputation Institute recognized AFLAC as the most respected company in the global insurance industry.

AFLAC will offer members their choice of a cancer policy, an accident insurance policy, and specified health event coverage at cost-saving association rates. These policies are designed to pay benefits that can help policyholders cover ongoing expenses, from copayments to travel, incurred after a diagnosis of cancer or after an accidental injury. Policies provide coverage on or off the job, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These policies pay cash benefits directly to the policyholder, unless assigned, regardless of any other insurance the policyholder may have. These benefits can be used to help with out-of-pocket expenses that are often not covered by most major medical insurance plans. The policy's premium will not increase based on the number of claims a policyholder files. Family coverage is available, and most claims are processed within four (4) days.

The AFLAC Dental Policy will also be available to TFACA members and will be especially beneficial to self-employed members or those who have families but do not have access to dental insurance through their jobs.

For more information about AFLAC and its policies, a link will soon be available on the TFACA Web site. From this link, members will be able to get information on available plans. Until the link is up and active, members may go directly to www.aflacclients.com/TennesseeFoster/Welcome.aspx or call AFLAC representative Alicia Anderson at (423) 716-4248 (or e-mail Alicia.Anderson@us.aflac.com) for more information.

DOLLYWOOD TICKETS

If you are planning a trip to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, check out the TFACA discounts for children in state custody. For more information, contact Mary Taylor at (931) 432-0565 or (931) 260-5291 or e-mail Mary.yso@gmail.com.



Pack the family up and head to Dollywood for some fun!

TFACA 2008–2009

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IV. Academic Record (to be completed by counselor or principal)

High school grade point average _____ Date of graduation (or GED) _____

Classes taken in High School

V. Leadership Activities

List your leadership activities (add sheet of paper if necessary) and indicate personal qualities (e.g., friendly, sociable, cooperative, good listener, willing to learn, etc.)

VI. Applying For College University Vocational School
(check one)

Name/address/phone number of institution where you have been accepted to further your education:

VII. Scholarship applicants must

1. be a child in state custody, whether living in a foster home, group home, independent living placement, etc., or be the birth/adoptive child of a TFACA member;
2. provide proof of acceptance to college/university/trade or vocational school;
3. fill out **ALL** the questions on this application;
4. submit with this application **THREE (3)** letters of recommendation (possible sources may include foster parents, case workers, teachers, principals, guidance counselors, employers, pastors or youth leaders, etc.);
5. include on a separate sheet (in your own handwriting) a brief statement of why you are applying for this scholarship, including your hopes for the future and what you expect to contribute to society; and
6. return the application and requested documents **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.**
7. **include a current picture.**

VIII. For Your Information

1. Any unused portion or appropriate percentage of scholarship funds must be returned if the recipient withdraws from school or does not maintain a grade point average required by the institution to remain in school.
2. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, books, and/or school supplies.





**Presented by the National Foster Parent Association and
the Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association**

Walk Me Home is a nationwide 5k fundraising walk held in more than 100 communities in 25 states. The 2nd annual 5k fundraiser focused on raising awareness of children in foster care and honoring the foster families who care for them. Tennessee's Walk Me Home event took place May 2 in Nashville and Chattanooga.

This is a national fundraising event to help benefit foster children and families throughout each participating state. The goal is to raise \$1 million. Our goal in Tennessee was to raise \$25,000, of which 70 percent will go directly to TFACA (Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association) and 30 percent will go to the NFPA (National Foster Parent Association). These funds will be unrestricted and can be used by TFACA for recruitment of foster parents, public awareness/education, workshops, and youth scholarships.

Thank you to all Tennessee participants for making this year a success!

These funds will be used nationally to

- increase positive awareness of foster care,
- increase recruitment of more foster families,
- continue to develop new and meaningful training opportunities,
- enhance disaster relief efforts as needed, and
- create and enhance advocacy programs for foster care throughout the nation

There are numerous ways to participate in this event:

- Register as an individual and raise funds solely.
- Form a team and work collectively on a fundraising goal.
- Join an existing team.
- Donate to a team already established.
- Make a one-time donation.
- Register as a VIRTUAL WALKER.

All options are available on the Walk Me Home Web site at www.walkmehome.org

For more information contact

Dorsell Martinez

Walk Me Home Event Chair

(615) 812-0948

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TFACA ADVOCATES

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Vacant

Southwest
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Roy Pierce
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rpierce@tnadvocate.org

Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association Inc.
Membership Application
(Renewal on July 1 Each Year)

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____

Telephone (area code) _____

E-mail Address _____

Foster Family

DCS Employee

Other _____

Local Foster Parent Association _____

DUES: \$15 per person or \$30 per couple

Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year.

If married, both foster parents must be members of the state association to shop at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Print form and remit to

TFACA
P.O. Box 220
La Vergne, TN 37086

TFACA WEB SITE

The TFACA Web site is updated regularly. Please use it out to keep up-to-date with what's happening. You will find information about officers, directors, advocates, scholarships, membership, conference registration, and other topics at this useful site.

www.tfaca.org

President Nancy Woodall-Grooms

Vice President Angela Wilmoth

Secretary Mary Hallum

Treasurer Tammy Beaty

Newsletter Becky Rogers
Lillian Phillips

Website James Hammons

The Fosterer

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Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association
Visit www.tfaca.org

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TFACA ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The Advocacy Program has continued to improve over the past few years. There have been many changes, which have allowed Tennessee to be the leader in providing help for resource parents who care for children in Tennessee. The most current change brings us TWO LEAD ADVOCATES to each work half of the state. This will give advocates more assistance and help improve the services we provide.

Dorsell Martinez has been appointed West Lead Advocate, and John Owens is the new East Lead Advocate. Both John and Dorsell possess dynamic leadership skills and share a united vision for the future of the Advocacy Program.

Dorsell has been a part of the Advocacy Program for

several years but, as has John, she has been advocating for the needs of children and families most of her life in some capacity. She has served as an officer with foster parent associations on local and state levels; is a certified PATH trainer; has served as surrogate parent for the Metropolitan Nashville school system; and has been or continues as an active member on a variety of community, civic, and church committees. Last, and undoubtedly most important to Dorsell, is her role of Mom to her nine adopted children—not counting her grown birth children and all her grandchildren! Dorsell truly has unending energy, enthusiasm, and charisma, which she is eager to put into action in her new role as West Lead Advocate.

John has been an advocate for children and families for many years, but it is only in the past year that he has become formally connected to the Advocacy Program. John brings a wealth of experience, wisdom, and strength to his role. He is president of the foster parent association in Anderson County and has been instrumental in assisting other counties with their associations. John has also been a member of numerous committees at the request of DCS and is a certified PATH trainer, a resource parent, and the proud adoptive father of seven children. John has become known throughout the East and Smoky Mountain Regions for being a consistently fair, hardworking person who can be trusted to be profes-

sional and respectful at all times. John will be a tremendous asset to those in the East Region as he assumes the role of East Lead Advocate.

TFACA and the Advocacy Program are fortunate to have two such dedicated individuals as Dorsell and John to be a part of this program.

Get to know your advocates ...

Invite them to your association meetings ...

Let them tell you how they can help you!