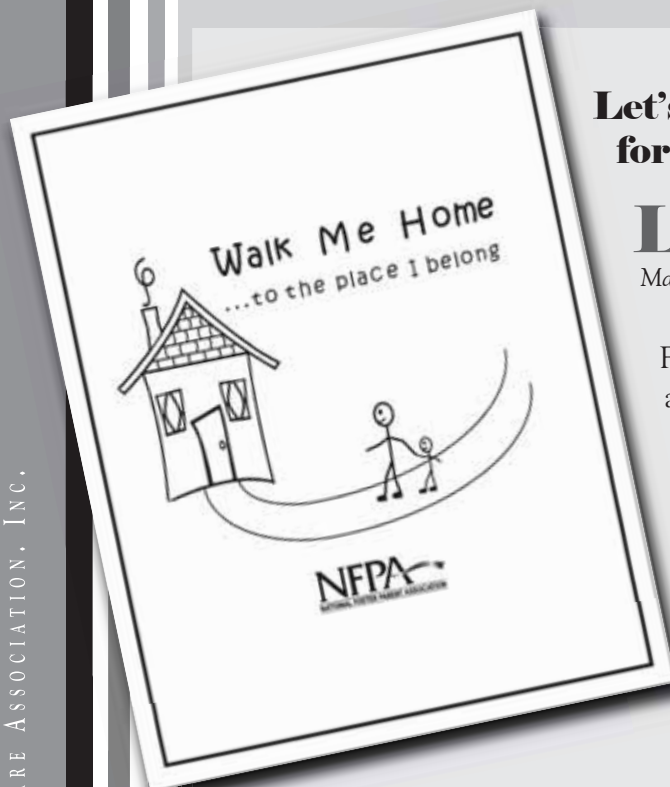




Vol. 7, No. 4

The Fosterer

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



**Let's all do something
for others and ourselves!**

LET'S WALK!

Marvin E. Ferneau Jr., NFPA President

Foster Parent Association and all state affiliates have had great success in the past working together on projects such as National Foster Care Month, the Katrina Relief Project, and the Foster Care Independence Act. We are now going into uncharted territory, but it is territory that can be extremely rewarding to us all. We will be conducting our first nationwide fundraising event.

Walk Me Home will differ from our previous successes in that it will raise much-needed funds for foster care nationwide. We will be able to use these funds 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.

Beyond the exciting new programs we will be able to develop and enhance, we will create a very positive image in communities that conduct this event for foster care.

Walk Me Home will be different from any event you have conducted before: it will be part of a nationwide series of walks conducted from May to October ("walk season") all across America. A Walk Me Home event can be held at the discretion of your affiliate anytime during walk season. We are hoping that every affiliate will consider doing a walk in their capital city on Saturday, May 3, 2008. If we all do at least one walk on that day, we may be able to get nationwide publicity.



The loss of one of our own

Our hearts are saddened by the loss of one of our own Tennessee foster/resource parents, Ms. Mary Clark of Dickson County along with her mother-in-law Ms. Gail Clark.

To the family: We the resource/adoptive families of Tennessee; the Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association, Nancy Woodall, president; and the Foster Parent Advocacy Program, Theresa Reviere Lead Advocate, wish to express our deepest condolences. We share your loss because of the tie we have to Mary in her expression of caring for the children of Tennessee. We share a bond stronger than blood in that we have all have been called to a unique purpose: to care for and to love the hurting children of Tennessee. This bond is more than words; it links us family to family, breast to breast, heart to heart. Please know that our tie will never be untied and that Mary's light will shine on in the hearts and minds of the families she touched while loving and caring for the children in her home. Indeed, Mary's gift for helping troubled teens will echo through this state for years to come. It is rare to find that place in life where we can be assured that we have made a difference in the life of someone else. Truly, Mary's special gift will live on forever.

We the foster/resource families of Tennessee are honored to have shared a special connection to Mary and her family. She will be remembered in our hearts as we continue to serve the children and the families of Tennessee. Mary's light is still shining in spirit because she lived each day helping children and reflecting the "fruit of the Spirit."

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

—Galatians 5:22-23

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

—Philippians 4:13

Please know that you are strengthened by "the tie that binds."

Sincerely,

Your Tennessee Foster/Resource Family

The Fostereer is a publication of the Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association Inc.,
147 Jones Mill Rd., La Vergne, TN 37086 • (615) 355-1731

Editing and Design: MTSU Publications and Graphics

Printing: MTSU Printing Services

Editing Committee: Nancy Woodall-Holmes and Carolyn Biggers

Mailing List Coordination: Scott Lee

The Fostereer is a joint effort funded by designated grant money provided by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services in conjunction with the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare. It is compiled by the Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association Inc. and is published throughout the year in relation to regularly scheduled state association board meetings. It is designed to provide a vehicle of communication among all foster care and adoptive care professionals. Permission may be granted for reprinting materials providing due credit is given to the original source. We reserve the right not to be held liable for contents, and we claim no legal responsibility for advice contained herein. The authors, editors, and funding bodies disclaim endorsement of materials contained in this newsletter.

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. CW011-0108

January 3, 2008

Dear Resource Parents,

My staff and I wish to take a moment to THANK YOU for all you do for the state of Tennessee and its foster children!

Besides being the caregivers, chauffeurs, cooks, doctors, nurses, therapists, launderers, (get the point!), we know there are many jobs that you do that go unrecognized. We know how faithfully you attempt to follow policy and how you agonize over a child who fails. We know that most of you came to the Department of Children's Services with a real love of children and to make a difference in their lives. We celebrate your successes with you. But you deal daily with issues that we never know about so we trust you to recognize and reward yourself for a job well done!

You make our jobs meaningful. You are the machine that works in rain, snow, and dreary days. You provide avenues for children to succeed, and you celebrate their successes with them! You made 2007 a great year, and we know that we can expect the same from you for 2008!

Thank you for all you are and all you give. You are the CHAMPIONS and we thank you!

Julie Flannery.

Director of Foster Care and Adoptions



**Have you had your
CORE classes?**



McMinn County Gives Back

The McMinn County Foster Care Association has just completed one year of "Giving Back" projects in its community. We began these projects last February and have completed one to two projects each month. There are 75 members in our association, and all have been involved.

We decided last January that we need to do something for the community since the community is so willing to help our foster children and our foster care events. Each month, we announce what the project is for the next month, and each family brings items to donate for that project.

We have donated socks to a nursing home, canned foods to a local food bank, bingo prizes to a nursing home, 50 pairs of flip-flops to a domestic violence shelter, craft items to a mentally challenged adult group, silent auction items for the TFACA Conference, and baby items for a local pregnancy center. We purchased a DVD player, toys, games, movies, etc., for the visitation room at the McMinn County DCS office. We made 24 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, donated cash to the Friendly Fellow Club for food baskets for needy families at Christmas time, provided personal items and socks for indigent inmates at the local jail, and purchased paint for volunteer painting and decorating of the visitation room at the McMinn County DCS office.

In February, we will be taking Valentines made by the children, cookies, and flowers to a local assisted living facility. In March, we will be donating yarn to McMinn County Senior Citizens for them to use to knit toboggans for all the children in the association. These are given at Christmas to foster children and other children in the community. We felt that to donate yarn to them would be a great "Giving Back" project. In May, we will give each family a baby bottle, and they will collect loose change until their June meeting, when they'll donate the money to a local pregnancy center. We are hoping that all 39 families will fill up their bottles.

Each project has been very successful! The foster/adoptive parents are all excited about helping others. We choose a different foster/adoptive parent each month to deliver the items. That way, everybody in the association is involved. The local newspaper comes and takes picture of the donated items getting delivered. We think this is a good way to thank the community and to let them know that they are appreciated.

We are excited about the upcoming year and the projects we have planned. If any other association wants information about our "Giving Back" projects, contact Peggy Carroll at (423) 745-1392 or (423) 744-4926.

**Have you taken your
CPR/First Aid training?**



Touched by an Angel

by Maya Angelou



We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.



Save the Date!

May 7, 2008

**Hamilton County
Spring Conference**



**Notice:
Resource Parents**

Before you take any training please make sure the training has been approved by DCS Central Office. It has come to our attention that unauthorized trainings are being offered.



Resource Parent Training Division's Schedule Spring 2008 Regional Conferences

Dates	University	Location	Region	Contact Information
March 6	MTSU	Columbia State University	South Central	Carmelita Dotson (615) 427-8383 cdotson@mtsu.edu
March 13	Southern Adventist	Eatonville Baptist Church Dunlap, Tennessee	Southeast	Oneita Turner (423) 236-2630 oturner@southern.edu
March 29	University of Memphis	Marriott Hotel 1000 Oaks	Shelby	Carolyn Williams (901) 678-1581 mwcrolyn@memphis.edu
March 29	APSU	3534 West End Church of Christ	Davidson/Mid Cumberland	Joanne Zambo (931) 221-6396 zamboj@apsu.edu
April 18	ETSU	Crossroads Christian Church Gray, Tennessee	Northeast	Tess Johnson or Diane Sells (423) 439-7461 johnsotb@etsu.edu
May 2	U. Martin	UT Martin	Northwest	Sean Jones (731) 881-7479 seanj@utm.edu
May 8	UT Chattanooga	UT Chattanooga	Hamilton	Amy Doolittle (423) 425-4266 amy-doolittle@utc.edu



TFACA Election Reminder: September Elections

There will be a vote taken on a change to the bylaws that would allow the executive board to vote on change items between elections.

Walk Me Home

There are currently more than 500,000 children in foster care across the country—8,142 of which are in foster care in Tennessee. The children of Tennessee need your help.

You can be helpful by being part of the first-ever nationwide fundraiser for foster children. The National Foster Parent Association and Tennessee Foster/Adoption Care Association will be working together on the “Walk Me Home” event(s). The first event will be held May 3, 2008 at the Capitol in Nashville, TN.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Cindy Galewski at jski7@cableone.net Phone number is 731-377-2085 or home 731-285-7453.

DCS Central Office Foster Care and Adoption Staff

Julie Flannery, Director of Foster Care and Adoption (615) 253-6351
 Kathryn Bradford, Program Coordinator (615) 532-5242
 Karen Chamberlain, Program Coordinator (615) 741-9858
 Sandra Cole, Program Specialist (615) 532-5623
 Virginia (Ginny) Coleman, Program Specialist (615) 532-5635
 Erika Conwell, Program Specialist (615) 741-9951
 Vicki Davis, Program Manager (615) 532-5634
 Odessa Krech-helmer, Program Coordinator (615) 253-6906
 Sukanda (Susy) Langley, Case Manager 4 (865) 981-2366
 Marge Rogers, Administrative Secretary (615) 532-5619

The All Families Matter hotline number is 1-866-327-9101.



Resource Parents,

You can view available PATH, CORE, Medication Administration classes, and more at www.tnchildwelfare.org. Just click on the “Master Calendar” link. Resource Parent classes are in green.



Have you taken Medication Administration training?

Deadline is June 30, 2008



Kenneth P. and Maxine Fox TFACA Scholarship

TFACA will again give eight \$1,000 scholarships for 2008-2009. These scholarships will be presented to adopted, birth, and foster children of TFACA members unless the foster child is in a children's home. A college student who fits these criteria but is still in college and has never received a TFACA scholarship is eligible. Please complete the scholarship form and submit it to the TFACA Scholarship Committee at the address below.

Youths must fill out the application and send it in by May 1, 2008, to be considered.

Kenneth P. and Maxine Fox Scholarship
Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association Inc.
Scholarship Committee Chair - **Theresa Reviere**
6523 Lakeshore Parkway, Chattanooga, TN 37416
Telephone: (423) 326-0750

Application for the TFACA Scholarship

I. Personal Information

SSN _____

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Street or Route City State Zip

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Date of birth _____

High School _____ Years attended _____

Have you been notified that you will receive any other financial aid? _____

Do you plan to work part-time while attending college/university or vocational school? _____

II. Please check if you are

A child in foster care
(Foster parents must be members of TFACA.)

The birth or adoptive child of a TFACA member
(Birth parents/adoptive parents must be members of TFACA.)

III. Family Information

Foster parents' or guardians' names _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Telephone (if different from above) (_____) _____ - _____

Name of local foster care association (if any) _____

Social worker _____ Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Application for the TFACA Scholarship (continued)



Application for the TFACA Scholarship (continued)

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 descriptions such as 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 or trade or vocational school;
3. fill out ALL the questions on this application;
4. submit with this application THREE letters of recommendation from foster parents, case workers, teachers, principal, guidance counselor, employer, pastor, youth leader, 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 May 1, 2008.**

VIII. For Your Information

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



Tennessee Foster/Adoptive Care Association Advocacy Program

ADVOCATES

East Region

Kristi Dodson
P.O. Box 150
Greenback, TN 3742
(865) 856-5037 (home)
(865) 850-2964 (cell)
KristiCheerCoach@aol.com

Hamilton County

Theresa V. Reviere
6523 Lakeshore Parkway
Chattanooga, TN 37416
(423) 326-0750 (home)
(423) 321-2628 (cell)
revieret@aol.com

Johnetta B. Lane
4800 Northwind Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37416
(423) 344-3646 (home)
(423) 443-0558 (cell)
jaylane1@comcast.net

Southeast Region

Peggy Carroll
465 County Road 213
Athens, TN 37303
(423) 745-1392 (home)
(423) 744-4926 (cell)
pegcar5@yahoo.com

Knox County

Jaynetta Neely
2557 Silverstone Lane
Knoxville, TN 37932
(865) 531-4626 (home)
(865) 816-2811 (cell)
Kenskids3@aol.com

Upper Cumberland

(vacant)

South Central Region

(vacant)

Northwest Region

Cindy Galewski
6510 Upper Finley Road
Dyersburg, TN 38024
(731) 285-7453 (home)
(731) 377-2085 (cell)
jski7@cableone.net

Northeast Region

Jill Thompson
189 Poplar Ridge Road
Piney Flats, TN 37686
(423) 747-8879 (home)
(423) 290-8110 (cell)
jellolane@yahoo.com

Davidson County

Dorsell Martinez
2514 Jefferson Street
Nashville, TN 37207
(615) 963-9511 (home)
(615) 812-0948 (cell)
DCSTNADVOCATE@gmail.com

Deborah R. Hammonds
756 Revels Drive
Nashville, TN 37208
(615) 876-6223 (home)
(615) 804-9669 (cell)
dhammonds@DCSO.Nashville.org

Mid-Cumberland Region

Nancy Woodall
147 Jones Mill Road
La Vergne, TN 37806
(615) 355-1731 (home)
(615) 351-5760 (cell)
Nance13054@aol.com

Trina Hildabrand
505 Windy Road
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
(615) 754-6862 (home)
(615) 574-8812 (cell)
jhildabrand@comcast.net

Tina Lassiter
6764 Highway 49E
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 306-5651 (home)
(615) 574-8811 (cell)
allthelassiters@bellsouth.net

Southwest Region

Dereese Yarbrough
50 Godwin Road
Oakfield, TN 38362
(731) 423-1767 (home)
(731) 431-0951 (cell)
dereeseyarbrough@yahoo.com

Lou M. Fields
2285 Oak Hill Road
Bolivar, TN 38008
(731) 658-5814 (home)
(731) 433-8130 (cell)

Shelby County

Penny Stroud
3135 Teaberry Lane
Bartlett, TN 38134
(901) 385-2465 (home)
(901) 378-0096 (cell)
Littlesis911@aol.com

Glenda Wallace
2971 Ruffle
Bartlett, TN 38134
(901) 377-1199 (home)
(901) 378-1156 (cell)
heartgcw@yahoo.com

James Fisher
1763 Club Green
Memphis, TN 38116
(901) 396-6128 (home)
(901) 356-2579 (cell)
JFISHP@bellsouth.net

Lori McKay
4300 Oak Spring
Millington, TN 38053
(901) 872-0471 (home)
(901) 201-0469 (cell)
Brc_McKay@yahoo.com

Regional Emergency Contact Numbers

Davidson

Tiwanne Gorrell, Deputy
Regional Administrator
(615) 804-2801

Reginald Woods
(615) 428-3978

Sandy Jones, Resource TL
(615) 969-7740

East Tennessee

Vivian Brown, Interim Regional
Administrator

Hamilton

Elleni Dimopoulos, Interim
Regional Administrator

Supervisor On Call
(423) 240-2937

Knox

(865) 207-2405 (primary)
(865) 207-5581 (secondary)
(865) 414-7902 (supervisor)

Mid Cumberland

Placement Support Unit
(931) 206-7405

Northeast

Sherri Hale, Regional
Administrator
Lucretia Sanders, Deputy
Regional Administrator

Northwest

Kitty Oliver, Regional
Administrator
Office: (731) 364-3149
Cell: (731) 225-4182

Allison Downs, Program
Coordinator
Office: (731) 364-3149
Cell: (731) 819-0013 or
(731) 335-0125

Southeast

Sandra Holder, Regional
Administrator
(800) 918-9263

Southwest

Cynthia Harlee-Williams,
Regional Administrator
Office: (731) 421-2003
Cell: (901) 229-7754
Blackberry: (615) 521-2492

Lisa Morgan, Deputy Regional
Administrator
Office: (731) 421-2004
Cell: (901) 697-9582

Cindy Holt, Team Coordinator
Office: (731) 421-2048
Cell: (901) 225-6009

South Central

Vivian Lovvorn, Regional
Administrator
(931) 380-2587, ext. 6115

Lisa Nelson, Deputy Regional
Administrator
(931) 380-2587, ext. 6110

Shelby

Merlene Hyman, Regional Unit
Administrator
Marvin Chaney, Deputy
Regional Administrator
(901) 348-3751

Upper Cumberland

(800) 841-7243, access codes
30040, 34306, 33436
(800) 283-0007, access code 7133

Cheri Richards, Interim Regional
Administrator
(931) 646-3004

Books from Birth Foundation

Did you know that you can get books sent to your children monthly from birth until their fifth birthday? FREE!

Sign up for each child under the age of five at your local library. They will receive a free, age-appropriate book each month until they reach five years of age. What a great way to influence your child to read!

Spread the word to your friends. This is a free service provided by the governor's office.

The Fosterer
c/o Tennessee Center for Child Welfare
Box 143
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Check out the TFACA Web site at www.tfaca.org!



Moving? Please notify us of your address change. *The Fosterer* will not be forwarded! We must have a correct address to keep you on the mailing list.

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

Name of local foster care association _____
City _____ County _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/County/State/Zip Code _____
Telephone (include area code) _____
E-mail address _____

Please check one: Foster/Adoptive Parent DCS Employee Other

*Dues: \$15.00 per person OR \$30.00 per couple**
Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year.
Membership received after May 1 will be applied to the upcoming year beginning July 1.
**If married, both foster parents must be members of the state association to shop at Second Harvest Food Banks.*



Please remit to:
Tammy Beaty, Treasurer
P.O. Box 220
La Vergne, TN 37086
(615) 654-3691

When I am Not Receiving the Services I Need, Who Do I Go To?

