

New looks for Family Matters, web sites

The 21st century is finally coming to foster care and adoption at HCJFS!

Starting in May 2009, the *Family Matters* newsletter begins production as an electronic newsletter. Each edition will continue to bring you valuable information to help you care for children, whether as foster or adoptive families. However, it will be sent via email right to your "in" box each time.

To continue receiving *Family Matters*, you will need to register to receive the newsletter. Simply visit the Hamilton County JFS web site at www.hcjfs.org and enter your information in the subscription block at the bottom of the home page.

Those wishing to receive a hard copy version will need to let us know. Call John Cummings at (513) 946-7587, or Linda Tate at (513) 946-7594.

Web site news

Soon, www.hcfoster.org and www.hcadopt.org will be combined into a single new web site - **www.hckids.org**.

Community Recruitment has been working with HCJFS Communications and Information Systems to build a new, single source place to go for information, alerts and more. This one site will combine the two web sites into one resource for current foster families and adoptive families post-finalization. In addition, the site will feature information for prospective foster and adoptive families as well as a featured child or children waiting for adoption, upcoming recruitment events and news, and more!

We hope you will enjoy the changes intended to bring you the latest information as quickly and easily as possible. Watch for the new site...coming soon!

Recruitment now on Facebook and Yahoo! Groups

If you know people interested in becoming foster and/or adoptive parents for HCJFS, you want to know the latest news from Community Recruitment, check us out on Facebook and Yahoo! Groups.

Community Recruitment recently created pages on both sites to provide the most up-to-date communications with prospective parents, parents currently in pre-service classes, and our current foster and adoptive parents.

To get access, log on and join Facebook.com or Yahoo! Groups. You can also go to hcfoster.org or hcadopt.org and click on the links to join.

SWOFCA News

submitted by: Debra McMullen, Program Director

As I look over 2008, I have learned to never take anything for granted.

Maintaining healthy relationships in life as well as in business is critical to the survival of all involved. SWOFCA, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and Hamilton County Job and Family Services, developed a relationship/partnership that works! We are separate entities and yet, we have worked toward one common goal: supporting our children and families in Hamilton County. With that being said, I say to our partners, THANK YOU for a good year! 2009 will be faced with many challenges, but I am confident that we will weather the storm.

By now, you should have received SWOFCA's "Opinion and Needs Assessment Survey" in the mail. Please answer all questions and fax, mail or call in your results. As we work to provide services to families in Southwest Ohio, it is important that foster care organizations know what your needs and concerns are. SWOFCA will tabulate the results and communicate your concerns to HCJFS. The results of the survey will be shared with you in the months to come.



Debra McMullen

Good news for 2009! SWOFCA is a member of the S.H.A.R.E. Network Food Co-Op Program. As I mentioned in the November issue, SWOFCA was seeking to re-establish a food co-op program for our families. After researching the idea, we were given information about S.H.A.R.E., which is a monthly food co-op offering great food at minimum prices. In order to receive more information about the program, please contact me at 946-1842.

As a service to the many caregivers of Southwest Ohio, SWOFCA will ask HCJFS questions that are of concern to you. This month's question is: what procedures should caregivers follow when their foster child is arrested or involved with Juvenile court system? Look for the answer in the following issue of "Family Matters".

Come and learn about SWOFCA!

SWOFCA is always looking for dedicated people to help execute the mission of the program. Please come and join us! Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at Zion Hill Community Church, 6834 Parrish Avenue in North College Hill from 6:00pm till 8:00 pm. For more information please call (513) 946-1842 or (513) 344-3626.

Resources

From time to time the Community Recruitment team comes across web sites, organizations and other things that we think could be helpful to you as you work with children. Here are some of those we found recently and wanted to share:

Langsfold Center: www.langsfoldcenter.com