

Between Families

Our Mission

TFI Family Services, Inc., Inc. is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services.

Editors

Curtiss Hemby
Jason Cecil

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TFI Family Services, Inc. is licensed by the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a Child Placing Agency. License No. 766-009.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: CURTISS HEMBY, LMSW
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

"Foster Parent Appreciation Month"

May is National Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Every day in this country, there are over 500,000 children and youth living in out-of-home care because their own parents are not able or willing to provide adequate care for them. Kansas alone has well over 5000 children and youth residing in homes other than with their biological parents. Without You serving as Resource Foster Parents, Kansas would not be able to serve the vast majority of the children and youth in family like settings. Because of you, we

are able to address the needs of these children, who deserve a stable and secure home until they can either return to their parents or establish a lifelong connection to a nurturing family.

National Foster Care Month in May provides an opportunity for people all across the nation to get involved, whether as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. It is also an opportunity to show our appreciation for the dedication of the Resource Foster families who care for these children and youth and the social workers who support them.

Thank You For What You Do!!!!!!!

In addition, May is also a very special month because of those special women out there who we are blessed to have as mothers. I think it is fair to ask this question, "Where would we be without our Mothers". Take the time to recognize your mother on May 9th. Thank her and love her for all the time, energy and dedication she has blessed you with throughout your life.

Happy Mother's Day Moms!!!!!!

Sincerely,
TFI Family Services, Inc.

RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Many of you have asked how we can gain more resources for our teenage population. Teenage foster homes are by far our greatest need at this time. Below are some ideas that you can do to help us find homes that would be willing to take children between the ages of 12-18. Think about friends, family or member of your community who may fit some of the suggestions below.

Targeted Recruitment for Teens

- Seek experienced families (ones that are successfully raising teens of their own, or once had teens of their own)
- Give honest profiles of kids in your custody - are they violent? / or just frustrating?
- Showcase your youth in public - Talk with your case worker and have them give presentations; get media coverage; ask youth to host or MC foster parent recognition events
- Include teens as a part of recruitment / certification process - stress positives of fostering teens.

Thank you again for everything you do and remember for every foster parent you refer to TFI Family Services, Inc. who becomes licensed, you will receive \$300. Happy Recruiting !!!!

Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

Welcome New Resource Families

Joy Butler
 Enrique and Lucia Hernandez
 James and Debra Hall
 Scott and Lindsay Lin-
 ville/Younger
 Russell and Misty Pope
 Kirby and Christina Rogers
 Betty Cockhearn
 Rhonda Whelchel
 Kevin and Lea Stone
 Leonard and Kim Riley/Fuqua
 Lloyd "Butch" Logan
 Shanna Eggers
 Kelly and Teresa Wideman
 James A. and Lisa M Supon
 Kristina Frost
 David and Pam Holmes
 Shawn and Amber Encarnacion
 Aaron and Shayla Waldorf
 Dean and Vicki Miller/Bell
 Jeff and Alicia Zandler/Valentine
 Jacob and Lisa Duckett/Urman
 Raymond and Melayna
 Johnson/Wood
 Holly Roth
 Larry and Lisa Schultz

Reminders

**For after hour
 emergencies please call
 1-877-921-4114**

**Visit TFI's new and im-
 proved website and to
 view the Between Fami-
 lies
 newsletter online at
www.the-farm.org**

**TFI Family Services,
 Inc. will be closed on
 Monday, May 31 in
 observance of Memo-
 rial Day.**

Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

Lately the Intake Department staff has been calling me asking me to take kids for what they call a pre-placement visit. Can you explain the purpose for that and what the expectations are for me as a resource parent regarding those visits?

Signed,

Topeka Foster Parent

Dear Topeka Foster Parent,

The purpose of a pre-placement visit is to transition the child gradually to a placement change such as from a foster home placement to a pre-adoptive placement or from a residential setting to a foster home etc. However, pre-placement visits are recommended for any type of placement change and will likely be used whenever time allows in order to make the move as planned and gradual for the child as possible. By agreeing to accept a pre-placement visit with a child you're agreeing that you're seriously considering taking placement of the child and that the visit is a chance for you and your family to become acquainted with the child and for the child to become acquainted with you and your home prior to the date of the actual placement. It is important that careful consideration be given prior to accepting a pre-placement visit so that children are only sent to homes for pre-placement visits with families who are very seriously considering longer term placement of the child. It is not the agency's intention to set up visits with multiple families before securing a placement so as not to cause more instability for the child. The licensed family providing an overnight pre-placement visit for the child will be paid for that placement at the child's scored level of care. In order to receive payment for the pre-placement visit you must submit a claim voucher indicating the dates of the pre-placement visit. If you have further questions about pre-placement visits please visit with your assigned Resource Family Worker.

Thank you.

Daisy

SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH MIKE AND RENEE SCHIELDS

Mike and Renee Schields have been selected as the Care Provider of the Month for the Southeast Region!

The Schields family has the unique ability to make each child placed in their home feel as if they were one of their own. Michael and Renee teach and educate each child acceptable age-appropriate manners and behaviors, while setting the bar at the perfect height! Anytime a child fails to meet their own or other's expectations, the family is there to support the child by pointing out the positives of the situation. Michael and Renee are very close to their extended family and often take weekend trips for family functions. They always include the children placed in their homes in these functions with the hopes that no matter what their home life consists of, they can feel as if they are truly a part of their family.

Michael and Renee ensure that each kid in their home is earning adequate grades and getting their homework turned in. Renee speaks with the children's teachers weekly and urges the teachers to let her know if the children are having trouble in the class or giving the teacher any "grief". After one placement continued to get in trouble on the bus after school, Michael and Renee offered to ride the bus with her to and from school for a week if the behaviors did not stop. Of course, this child never had any more problems on the bus. I am positive it is because she knew both parents were just crazy enough to follow through with their promises!

I have been blessed to be the RFS worker for the Schields home for nearly two years. Within the last year, this family has bravely begun taking teenage girls and have done a remarkable job! Michael and Renee do not play favorites and let the girls know they are to be respectful in and out of their home while earning positive grades at school. The unique part about it is the kids ACTUALLY LISTEN! Three high-maintenance teenage girls were reintegrated with their bio parents during this time and this family did an amazing job with them. All of these girls keep in regular contact with the family and let them know how much they appreciate Michael and Renee (both RP's are planning on attending one of the girls' high school graduation in May). This family is also a court date away from finalizing the adoption for two toddlers that have been placed with them for over two years!

There aren't enough good things that can be said about the Schields family. Thank you for everything you do!

Submitted by,

Devin Eccles - RFW, Chanute

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
SCOTT SCHOENTHALER AND BRIANNA KAUMANS*

The West region Care Providers of the Month are Brianna Kaumans and Scott Schoenthaler. Brianna and Scott are a true example of what it means to be team players. They go above and beyond to help children and their families reunite. They have had several children in their home who have been successfully returned to their families and continue to have contact with them. Brianna and Scott go out of their way to work with biological parents. It is not uncommon for Brianna and Scott to have daily contact with biological parents of children in their home.

Recently they had two children placed in their home who talked with their dad on the phone nearly every night. They currently have a child in their home who uses Brianna as a support to stay away from using drugs by texting her when she feels like using. Brianna will talk with her and has offered to meet with her at the library or other places so that she is able to get her mind off of needing to use. Brianna has opened her home to this mother and allows her to come over for visits. She has been able to show this mother how to care for her child and offer up as much parenting support to her as she can. Brianna and Scott are also willing to travel out of town for doctors appointments in order to get the children in their home the care that they need. They are truly an ideal family to work with and the State of Kansas could use more families like them. Thank you Brianna and Scott for all of the work that you have done and continue to do. You truly are a blessing.

Submitted by,

Jessica Bengtson—RFW, Salina

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH
JOHN AND HEATHER CUMMINGS*

I would like to nominate John and Heather Cummings of Topeka for the Northeast Care Provider of the Month. John and Heather became licensed resource parents in September of 2009. They have proven to be absolutely remarkable and are such a wonderful resource for the children placed in their home. John and Heather are both employed full time, yet work together and share parenting responsibilities at home such as housework and cooking. They have established a routine for baths, bedtime, and for getting children ready for daycare in the morning. Their 15 year old daughter also works as part of the team! This young couple currently has two sibling groups in their home, which includes a total of 5 children, none of which are school age yet. The Cummings are very active and take the children sledding, to the park, to ball games, and to family activities. They are involved with the children's families and genuinely care about maintaining connections. It is obvious that they enjoy the children and want to make a difference in their lives. Thank you John and Heather for all you do! You are truly amazing and are much appreciated!

Submitted by,

Cindy Kinyon—RFW, Topeka

A Gray(t)er Way

Submitted by Megan Garde, Communication Specialist

March 22nd was World Water Day, and it passed much like the average American's use—and waste—of water; it was mostly unnoticed. Though progress is being made, our nation excels at mindlessly wasting one of our most precious natural resources when every day, thousands of people die from issues related to unsafe drinking water (water.org). 'Water' we going to do about it?

- 1. We can be mindful** of water that we use, from a shortened shower to turning off the faucet instead of staring mesmerized at the flow as we brush our teeth.
- 2. We can use the water we don't use.** A coworker recently informed me that this water—like the unconsumed water in our water bottles that we pour down the drain—is called 'gray water' and could be used to water house plants. Check out the website below that details what full scale gray water use can look like. http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_m/m-106.html
- 3. We can help.** Did you know that one dollar equals one year of clean water for an African? Efforts like the Blood Water Mission (www.bloodwatermission.com) and Water for People (www.waterforpeople.org) encourage the creative contribution of resources to the construction and maintenance of clean water sources in places like Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America.



Though not all of these ideas directly translate into green actions, each does encourage green (and gray) thinking, in an effort to grow our appreciation for earth's resources and humanity.

Resource Family Anniversaries

"One Year"

Randy and Kelli Schoen-
hofer

Rahma Njoku

Lyle (Scott) and Patti
Doolittle

Robert and Wendy Weiss

Luther and Debra Bonds

Derek and Carol Dit-
more/McCartney

Scheryl Cherry

Deborah Gaskin

Clayton and Karen Jones

Ryan and Amber Lewis

Chris and Jaime Gallaway

Mario and Carmen Padron

"Three Year"

Deanna Burns

Christopher and Jaynell
Vaughn

Edward and Nellie Hogan

Dale and Roxann
Livingston

"Five Year"

Jeanne Chambers

Judy Kappler

Kathy Shoemaker
(Sparks)

Tammy Manues

"Ten Year"

Paula Clem

WE NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED US?



Meet Marco and Yesenia! Marco is described as a very loving and affectionate child. He enjoys being held and getting hugs. Marco enjoys playing soccer and other activities that require high energy levels. Most of the time he gets along well with peers but he will need to be monitored to make sure that he is playing appropriately and that he is maintaining appropriate boundaries. Marco will need to have a bedroom to himself in his adoptive home. He will need to be placed in a community where medical and mental health services are readily available to him. He needs a family that has the flexibility to work with the school and the ability to advocate for Marco's educational needs. Yesenia is described as a social butterfly that enjoys talking with others. She is affectionate and loving child. Yesenia enjoys being active, doing gymnastics and playing with her dolls. She needs a family that is willing to provide her with the same amount of attention that her brother receives so that she does not act up to get attention. Marco and Yesenia need a forever family where they can be the youngest children in the home.



For more information on Marco and Yesenia,
please contact Leigh Lingenfelter
at (620) 343-7746.

May 2010 Support Meetings

Chanute: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI Office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS.
Colby: Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Colby Chamber Room, Colby, KS.
Concordia: Friday, May 14, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Jerry Ivey Park, north shelter, Salina, KS. Please RSVP at 823-1245.
El Dorado: Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Garvin Park in Augusta.
Emporia: Thursday, May 13, 2010 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Emporia TFI Office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS.
Fort Scott: Monday, May 24, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft Scott, KS.
Hays: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Hays TFI Office, 2712 Plaza, Hays, KS. It is a First/Aid CPR class.
Hutchinson: Support Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:30 pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church, 111 E. 1st, Hutchinson, KS. **Foster Parent Appreciation Picnic:** May 14, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Burrton City Park, Burton, KS.
Garden City: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Garden City TFI Office, 103 W. Chestnut, Ste 201, Garden City.
Independence: TBA
Iola: Tuesday, May 4, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Iola TFI Office, 1702 N Main St., Iola, KS.
Kansas City: TB A
Lawrence: Thursday, May 27, 2010 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at 910 W. 24th St., Lawrence, KS.
Lansing/Atchison: Friday, May 21, 2010 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the West Lane, 1416 Main, Atchison, KS.
Manhattan: Monday, May 17, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Manhattan TFI Office, 116 S. 4th St, Suite 1, Manhattan, KS.
Overland Park: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 5:30pm to 7p.m. at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center at 11902 Lowell Avenue, Overland Park. Please RSVP to Angela Griswold at 913-894-2985.
Parsons: TBA
Phillipsburg: TBA
Pittsburg: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg, KS.
Salina: Friday, May 14, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Jerry Ivey Park, North Shelter, Salina, KS. Please RSVP at 823-1245.
Topeka: Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Indian Hills Elementary School, 7445 SW 29th St, Topeka, KS.
Wellington: TBA
Winfield: TBA
Wichita: Tuesday, May 15, 2010 from 1:30 pm to 3:00pm at the Boston Recreation Center, 6655 E Zimmerly, Wichita, KS. Please RSVP by May 10th to Sharon Hickok at 316-684-5300.

Questions? Suggestions?

Remember, if you have a problem, concern or question about TFI Family Services, Inc. your first stop should be our Concern Line at concernline@the-farm.org or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at (620) 342-2239.

