

# Between Families

## Our Mission

TFI Family Services, 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

How many days or even hours into summer break is it before you say "I'm bored. There's nothing to do!" Before your kids roll their eyes and sigh loudly, hoping Mom will get the hint, try this sanity saver: **the Boredom Bowl.**

Choose a fish bowl, hat, or any other container. This will be your Boredom Bowl. Now, try to think of a bunch of summertime activities. What do you love to do

on a hot summer day? Write on a piece of paper, fold it and drop it into the Boredom Bowl. It's that simple.

What could you do if it's raining? Write it down! **Think of things that are free, cheap, or even that cost a few bucks.** Write each one on a separate piece of paper and put it in the bowl. Whenever you hear, "I'm bored!" reach in and pull out a boredom buster. Or make it a big production

& let the kids pick from the bowl. Then, do it!

There are tons of ideas on the internet you can choose from to help you fill your boredom bowl. Good luck and TFI wishes everyone a safe and happy summer.

Curtiss Hemby, LMSW  
Director of Resource Family Services



## RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

As the summer progresses and you are out in the community at dance events, softball / baseball games, swim meets or whatever keeps you busy, please remember to talk about the need for more foster parents in your community. Here are some pointers to tell potential families that may be interested.

The biggest reward is knowing that you are making a difference to the life of a child or young person. As a foster parent you will become a valued member of a caring team providing support for a child or young person in need.

You may help a child achieve their goals and improve their quality of life now and into the future. You will also learn more about how you relate and respond to children and young people, and will meet other people involved in caring and support roles.

If you already have children of your own, foster care can be a wonderful way to teach your children about the value of the safe and loving environment in which they are growing up. Many children who grow up with foster children in their home often maintain a role in community service, whether as a foster parent, other volunteer or employee

Foster parents require a commitment to children, an ability to be flexible, patient and understanding, and a good sense of humor.

Foster parents receive training to develop their skills and to learn about children who have lived through traumatic experiences and troubled family lives. They need to understand why children may behave in certain ways and to be patient and perceptive in dealing with their needs.

So talk to as many people as you can and give them our toll free number at 1-800-279-9914. Remember anybody that becomes a licensed foster care provider through TFI will earn you a \$300.00 recruitment bonus. Good luck !!!!!!!!

Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager



Building Brighter Tomorrows for Families and Children

### Welcome New Resource Families

- Craig and Tracey Weston
- Jack and Sheryl Crooks
- Nananga Karunaratne
- Ben (Mike) and Nicole Box
- William and Jean Mason
- Richard and Janet Mick
- Joe and Martha Davolt
- Robin and Susan Wells
- Terry and Rebecca McClure
- Tangela Adams
- Soloman and Ankeyta Jordan/White

## Reminders

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

**Visit TFI's website and to  
view *Between Families*  
newsletter online at  
[www.the-farm.org](http://www.the-farm.org)**

**TFI Family Services, Inc.  
will be closed on  
Monday, July 5, 2010 in  
observance of  
Independence Day.**



# Dear Daisy

Dear Daisy,

**My daycare is saying TFI has not paid them for the childcare they have provided for the kids in my home. My worker said she would have to ask for an exception for the daycare to be paid. I thought TFI was responsible for daycare for kids in our homes?**

Sincerely,  
**Daycare Dilemma**

*Dear Daycare Dilemma,*

*TFI Family Services does pay for childcare for children in our contract at the same hourly rate SRS pays, up to 50 hours per week. For children in your home whose contracting agency is one other than TFI, you will need to ask your Resource Worker about that agency's policies on paying for child care. TFI will pay for daycare services to licensed or approved daycare providers when the foster parents work outside the home. However, families must notify their worker **prior** to the child attending the daycare and provide needed information so that an authorization can be generated in order for the daycare to be paid. If the authorization is not requested, it does require an exception to pay the daycare provider and the foster family runs the risk of being asked to pay for childcare themselves during that time.*

*To request daycare authorization, all you need to do is contact your Resource Family Services Worker. Your worker will ask you for specific information about the daycare provider and will then request the authorization. And remember, even if you already have authorization for daycare, if you change providers, you still have to notify your worker so the new provider can be paid!*

*As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact your worker.*

Sincerely,  
Daisy

## *SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH BRYAN AND DONNA DAVIS*

I would like to honor Bryan and Donna Davis as Care Providers of the Month for the Southeast Region. The Davis' work with TFI to coordinate visits with parents, they advocate for the needs of the kids. They are informative and well-educated in working with kids.

The Davis' have adjusted their own schedules for the children in their home to have visits with their parents. They have had great relationships with biological families, to include keeping in touch with the families after the kids are no longer placed in their home. One of their kids was sent home before Christmas and the biological family let the Davis' keep him during Christmas because they trusted and appreciated the relationship the family had with their child.

Bryan and Donna have worked well with the permanency workers and have done their best to keep everyone involved. FSW, Kim, stated the following about Brian & Donna Davis, "They are so awesome! I wish we had more like them :) They need to win "The Most Awesome Resource Home" award!"

So congratulations to Bryan and Donna and thank you for everything you do for TFI and the children in your home!

Submitted by,  
Stacy Bishop—RFW, Fort Scott

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH  
KEVIN AND LORETTA WILLIAMS*

I would like to nominate Kevin and Loretta Williams as the West Region Care Provider of the Month. This is a family that has taken an extremely difficult child into their home for the past six years. This family requires little assistance when dealing with behaviors and have patience with dealing with some pretty difficult situations. This family uses humor to help them through the difficult times. They have made sacrifices in their own lives to continue to care for this child. One parent has to stay home with this child while the other parent takes the other children to church. In December, they had another child that graduated and aged out of the system. They had this child in their home for six years. This child just received a scholarship to Friends University for Sports. This family provides care for the children in their home as if they were their own. They make a commitment to the children in their home and they stick with it, even through the hard times when they get phone calls about their child threatening to stab their pregnant teacher, or the hundreds of phone calls to come and pick up the child because once again they have been kicked out of school/activity. Thank you so much to the Williams family for your commitment to the children. I know that the children may not always say thank you so I would like to say it for them. Without families like this, foster care would be a very different world for children. Thank you again!

Submitted by,

Amanda Knowles—RFW, Wichita

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH  
CONNIE MURRAY*

The Northeast Region would like to nominate Connie Murray of Junction City for the Care Provider of the Month. Connie Murray has been a foster parent for nearly 8 years. Connie is a single lady who provides superior care for hard to place teen males. There is not a behavior or child that Connie will not welcome into her home. Recently Connie has remodeled her home so as to provide more privacy for the youth that she takes. Connie works diligently on helping youth to develop Life Skills so when they age out of the system they are prepared for the adult world. Connie works full time but yet finds the time to spend with the children in her home. She has proven to be absolutely remarkable and a wonderful resource for the children placed in her home. She truly is an ideal person to work with and the State of Kansas could use more families like her. Thank you Connie for all the work that you have done and continue to do. You truly are a blessing.

Submitted by,

Jessica Tschudi, Susan Chaney & Kim Yoxall, Manhattan

**Think before you speak. Look before you leap. Ask before you assume.**

I greatly admire people who can do the above things. Similarly, a lot of going green is simply thinking about one's actions before acting upon them. Below is an example of how a summer day could **go green**.

11:00 AM Drive the kids to the neighborhood pool. ***Wait...it's only 1.5 miles away. We can safely walk to the pool, get some exercise, and save some gas dollars!***

12:00 PM Buy the kids overpriced hot dogs from the snack bar. ***Hold up, I planned ahead and packed healthy lunches in reusable containers. It's cheaper and greener!***

3:00 PM Take the kids to rent a movie and video games. ***I think I'll take them to the library instead. The library is big on reusing! Plus, it's free, educational, and fun!***

4:00 PM Drop by the grocery store to pick up some tomatoes for a dinner salad. ***Never mind, we planted a vegetable garden, so we have ripe tomatoes, carrots, radishes, and okra!***



What's keeping your family from living out the italicized green possibilities? Probably just simple excuses. My final tip: Never ever recycle excuses. They are something that can always be thrown out!

Submitted by Megan Schulte, Communication Specialist

## Resource Family Anniversaries

### “One Year”

Kevin and Sara Myers  
James and Franci Wells  
Calvin and Amanda Pfannenstiel  
Mark and Elizabeth Crismas  
Caroline Negretti  
Gregg and Amy McLaren  
Travis and Nicole Meeks  
Larry Stanley  
Isaiah and Tanya Freeman  
Daniel and Jaida Mosier  
Eloy and Dalila Cordero  
Mishal Njoku  
Pamela Spore  
Melissa Hebron  
Susan (Shereen) Ellis  
Christopher (Brian) and Megan Smith

### “Three Year”

Robert and Sharon Bearley  
Matt and Jamie Sowers  
Russell and Linda Groenendyk  
Richard and Lois Williams  
Carrie Myers  
Lovetta Poe

### “Five Year”

Donald and Gail (Angel) Dodds  
Michael and Pamla  
“Renee” Schields

### “Ten Year”

Robert “Kerry” and Christina “TC” Mosier  
Gerald and Robin Nitcher

## I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?

Codey is a kind and caring young man. He has a great personality and loves the outdoors. Codey's hobbies include fishing and swimming. He also enjoys taking things apart and seeing how they work. In school his favorite class is woodworking. Codey does struggle with his behaviors in school; he will need supports in place in order to be successful. Codey would like his forever family to be understanding, loving, compassionate, and have boundaries and structure for him. Codey makes friends easily and is easy to get along with.



For more information on Codey,  
please contact Jill Widenham  
at (620) 365-3428.

## July 2010 Support Meetings

**Chanute:** Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at the Chanute TFI Office, 1709 W. 7th St., Chanute, KS.  
**Colby:** Monday, July 12, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Colby Chamber Room, 350 S. Range, Colby, KS.  
**Concordia:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Concordia TFI Office, 516 & 518 Washington St, Concordia, KS.  
**El Dorado:** TBA  
**Emporia:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Emporia TFI Office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS.  
**Fort Scott:** Monday, July 26, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott, KS.  
**Garden City:** Thursday, July 13, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the First United Methodist Church, Garden City, KS.  
**Hays:** Monday, July 12, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Coffee Rules, 1011 Elm St., Hays, KS.  
**Hutchinson:** Thursday, July 1, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church, 111 E. First, Hutchinson, KS.  
**Independence:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Independence TFI Office, 501 N. Penn, Independence, KS.  
**Iola:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Iola TFI Office, 1702 N. State Street, Iola, KS.  
**Kansas City:** TBA  
**Lawrence:** Thursday, July 15, 2010 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Lawrence TFI Office, 910 W. 24th St., Lawrence, KS.  
**Lansing/Atchison:** Monday, July 26, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Atchison Library, 401 Kansas Ave, Atchison, KS.  
**Manhattan:** Monday, July 19, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Manhattan TFI Office, 116 S. 4th St, Manhattan, KS.  
**Overland Park:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI Office, 8300 College Blvd, Ste 301, Overland Park, KS.  
**Parsons:** Monday, July 19, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Meadowview School, 1377 21000 Road, Parsons, KS.  
**Phillipsburg:** No meeting will be held in July and will resume in August.  
**Pittsburg:** Tuesday, July 27, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th, Pittsburg, KS.  
**Salina:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at the Salina TFI Office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Suites 1A & B, Salina, KS.  
**Topeka:** Monday, July 12, 2010 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka Office, 217 SE 4th St, Topeka, KS.  
**Wellington:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 5:30pm at the Wellington TFI Office, 221 W. Harvey Ave, Wellington, KS.  
**Winfield:** Monday, July 12, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Winfield TFI Office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS.  
**Wichita:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at the Wichita TFI Office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS.

### 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](http://concernline@the-farm.org) or Ombudsman Nadine Terry-Washington at (620) 342-2239.

