

Cobb County

Foster and Adoptive Parents Assoc

"Loving your children like they are our own"

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2007, 6:00-8:00pm
at First Baptist Church of Marietta

Speaker: Belinda Jenkins, President, NW GA FAPA

You are welcome to bring dinner for your family. Light refreshments will be provided.
Please bring a dessert to share with everyone!



September 2007

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We gladly accept your submissions and ideas for newsletter topics related to foster care. Have a book review, a great idea that has worked for you, a suggestion? Pls send them to us! We love to hear from you!

Cobb FAPA Board

President: Ann Marie Miller
PurpleAMM@aol.com
770-490-2119

Vice President: Gwen Charles
Gwen_Charles@Yahoo.com
678-914-9290

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Laurie Strother
770-419-5582

Cobb FAPA
PO Box 1583
Kennesaw, Georgia 30156
www.CobbFAPA.org
CobbFAPA@Yahoo.com

From Our President

Recently I learned that there is a move to close the St Philip Clothes Closet we worked so hard to get, due to a lack of use. Mt Bethel UMC graciously got grants and has paid workers manning the closet but very few of us show up to get clothes for our kids. They want to put their money to use somewhere else. It seems that there is a new generation of foster parent entering the system these days. Five years ago we all just wanted to help as many children as we could, the best way we knew how. Today's foster families seem to only want that one special child, with their only goal being to adopt. There is nothing wrong with this mindset but we are finding that families are taking less advantage of the free services. Therefore, people are willing to give less because we don't seem to appreciate them. Please participate and get involved. The association isn't just a way to get training hours, but also an opportunity to become informed, updated and educated on happenings within the foster care system. Without our foster parents help and support this association will fold again fast. You are needed to help make an important difference in the lives of our foster children. So please, join the association, attend our meetings and consider becoming more involved. I promise you won't regret it.

*Ann Marie Miller



Presenting:

The 1st Annual
Foster and Adoptive Parents
Mini-Conference

December 7 -9, 2007
Red Top Mountain Lodge
Acworth, Georgia

Please join us for training,
good food and camaraderie.

See attached brochure for
complete details!

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child"

MORE Breaking News!!

In the last newsletter we told you that Cobb FAPA was joining forces with Bartow FAPA to form the Northwest Georgia Foster and Adoptive Parents Association! **Over the summer, we have also added Cherokee and Douglas Counties!** All associations will still retain their separate identities, but will have the benefit of being able to do business as NW GA FAPA when beneficial. Currently the board is made up of representatives from several counties. We will hold official elections next Spring. How does this benefit our members? This allows access to more resources. It will allow us more bargaining power to get donations. It allows our members more training opportunities each month. It extends our networking hands across counties. But most of all it increases our feeling of camaraderie. The "I'm in this alone" feeling becomes "We're all in this together"! It gives us a larger footprint, bigger voices and most of all more friends! Just another reason to join Cobb FAPA today!

"All Kids Count"



Foster Care Support Foundation, Inc.

Rachel Ewald from the Foster Care Support Foundation would like to remind everyone that clothing and other items are available, at no cost, for foster children. Appointments are available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings. To make an appointment please call Rachel at 770-641-9591. They are located on Alpharetta Highway in Roswell.

The foundation also provides training. They offer two hours of continual training for 8 months of the year to help stay-at-home parents have a way to earn their needed training necessary to retain their license. RSVP for child care. Please contact Rachel for future training. Please visit their website www.fostercare.org, racewald@hotmail.com.

FOSTER CARE INVOICES NOW ONLINE

AT

www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov

type "Form 526" in the search field

Per Diem Rates as of July 1, 2007

Birth through age 5 - \$14.60

Age 6 through age 12 - \$16.50

Age 13 and over - \$18.80

Remember invoices are due to DFCS on the 25th of each month! Checks will be mailed by the 15th of the following month.

If you have any questions regarding invoicing, please contact your resource worker or Darlean Harris at 770-528-5126



2007-2008 Membership now due!

Please join the Association just as you join the school PTSA. It is only \$20 per family, per year and it benefits the children in your home. We need the support of all foster families to be successful. Attend our next meeting and decide for yourself.

Hope to see you there!

Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention

CCAP Upcoming Conference

CCAP is hosting their annual conference on Monday, November 5th at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia. The conference title is "Got Neglect?" Speakers include Keynote Judge Peggy Walker, Douglas County Juvenile Court, Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, Scottish Rite Hospital and others. Vendors, agency displays, breakfast and lunch will all be included. More information will be e-mailed but questions can be answered by Penny Warren at 678-331-3952.

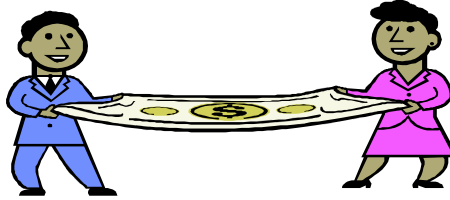
"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child"

Stretching Your Clothing Dollars

St Philip/Mt Bethel UMC Foster Care Clothes Closet

St Philips Church
2400 Favor Road
(next to Osborne HS)
Marietta, GA 30060
Kathy Hoppe 404-386-8317

Free to all foster families.
Great for stretching your clothing
budget. Supplement the clothing
allowance.
Pick up something for everyone!



Foster Care Support Foundation, Inc.

1240 B Alpharetta Hwy
Roswell, Georgia 30075
770-641-9591

Free to all foster families.
Great for stretching your clothing
budget.

Also provides approved training.
Something for everyone!
www.FosterCares.org

Growing Pains Kids Resale/Consign Shop

Cherokee Commons Shop Ctr
6199 Highway 92
Acworth, Georgia
770-926-3010

Sizes Preemie to 10/12
Child friendly store.
Very good merchandise.
Pick up something for everyone!

Pass It On

Clothing Ministry

Lost Mtn Baptist Church
5400 Old Dallas Road
Powder Springs, Georgia
Linda Lipp 770-241-4302
Lippsga@comcast.net

Free to all foster families.
Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Thursday 9:00-12:00
1st Saturdays 9:00-12:00

PB&J

Kids Consignment

2100 Roswell Rd
Marietta, Georgia 30062
770-509-5437

Discount to foster parents.
Brand names.
Good selection.
Pick up something for everyone!

Stretching Your Food Dollars

Send us your favorite kids eat free restaurant info.

Reagans

Neighborhood Grill

4430 Wade Green Road
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
770-426-9335

Kids eat free Tuesdays
(2 kids per adult entrée)
American Cuisine
Casual Atmosphere
Reasonable Prices



O'Charley's on Tuesdays
CiCi's Pizza on Wednesdays
Beef O'Brady's on Thursdays
Sidelines Grille on Mon & Thurs

Usually one free child per adult.

These nights may vary by location
and are subject to change. Pls call
ahead to verify.

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child"

Foster Care in Georgia

Approximately 14,500 children in state custody
○ Appr 8000 are in family foster care

Average age is 9 years old.
44% are white, 51% are African-American
Approximately 850 caseworkers handle these cases.
Approximately 3600 family foster homes in Georgia.
About 13000 families are served by DFCS annually.

Foster Care in Cobb County

An average of 500 children in care at any given time.
Approximately 80 active foster homes.

Spread the word...tell anyone who asks to call:
1-877-210-KIDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

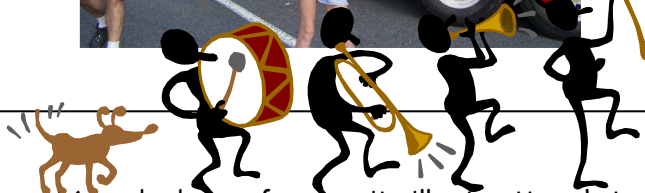
Thurs, Spetember 27, 2007
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Cobb FAPA Monthly Meeting
First Baptist Church of Marietta
Belinda Jenkins, President of
Bartow Co FAPA and Northwest
GA FAPA.
Bring your own dinner.
Light refreshments provided.
Pls bring a dessert to share.



**A special thank you
to foster parents Tim &
Sherry Haney and Rick &
Tammy Warren. They
manned a float in the
Acworth Labor Day parade;
tossing out candy & Cobb
DFCS paraphernalia along
the way. They had a blast
and so did the onlookers!**



**THANK
YOU**



"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child"

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A hundred
or the kind

WWW.NFPAINC.ORG

NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION.

WWW.AFPAG.ORG

ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

WWW.COBBFAPA.ORG

COBB COUNTY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

WWW.LEGIS.STATE.GA.US

ACCESS TO FOSTER PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS BILL HB1580

WWW.ADOPTIONRESOURCES.ORG

THE ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER CARE RESOURCE CENTER
866-APARENT

WWW.ADRESOURCECENTER.ORG

REGIONAL TRAINING

WWW.GAHSC.ORG

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

HTTP://DFCS.DHR.GEORGIA.GOV

LOCAL COUNTY DFCS OFFICES (CLICK ON COUNTY OFFICES)

HTTP://DFCS.DHR.GEORGIA.GOV/FOSTERPARENTS

EXPLANATION OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, TIMEFRAMES APPLICATION AND FORMS

WWW.FOSTERCARES.ORG

FOSTER CARE FOUNDATION, ROSWELL, GA. 770-641-9591

877-210-KIDS

PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENT INTAKE LINE

WWW.FOSTERCARE.NET

FOSTER CARE INFORMATION

WWW.RADKID.ORG

REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER

WWW.ELAINEGIBSON.NET/PARENTING

INSIGHTS ON PARENTING: THE CHALLENGE OF DIFFICULT CHILDREN

WWW.FOSTERPARENTING.COM

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES


WWW.ARVINPUBLICATIONS.COM/ADOPTION.HTML

HANDBOOK FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS


WWW.ATTACH.ORG

ASSOCIATION FOR TREATMENT AND TRAINING IN THE ATTACHMENT OF CHILDREN

WWW.CHILDWELFARE.ORG



The mission of Camp To Belong is to reunite siblings placed in separate foster homes or other out-of-home care for events that encourage emotional empowerment, social maturation, positive outlook, and fun and sibling connection.



Giving Siblings Their Right to Reunite!

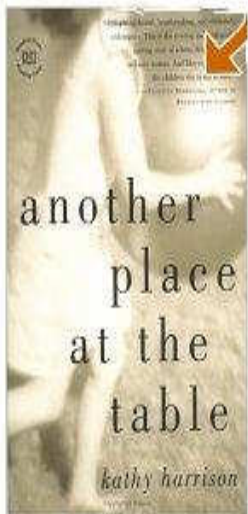
CAMP TO BELONG
GEORGIA

There are currently almost 600,000 children living in foster care in the United States, with 75% separated from at least one sibling. Add the number of siblings separated by adoption, kinship care, and combinations whereby one child may live with a parent and another placed in out-of-home care, and we then have many more children who are being torn from a birth right - their siblings. They are void of the opportunity to learn and experience family interaction alongside unconditional love. Brothers and sisters are frequently taken for granted, yet they are often the first ones turned to for unconditional love and support, which could be especially vital in out-of-home care situations. Plus, siblings are generally the longest relationship experienced in life.

Mission

The mission of Camp To Belong is to reunite siblings placed in separate foster homes or other out-of-home care for events that encourage emotional empowerment, social maturation, positive outlook, and fun and sibling connection. Secondly, we seek to serve as the catalyst for system changing solutions regarding sibling policy, recruitment of foster and adoptive families for siblings and best practice among child welfare professionals both domestically and internationally.

www.camptobelong-ga.org



Kathy Harrison is not the kind of person who can just sit back and watch others suffer. She isn't the kind of person who feels like making a charitable contribution is doing her part to make the world a better place. Kathy Harrison is one of a special breed of people: someone who is willing to make sacrifices in order to make others happy. For Kathy, those sacrifices mean opening up her home --- and her heart --- to the neediest children in the world. Kathy Harrison is a foster parent but, more importantly, she is a hero to over one hundred children that she has helped through their toughest times.

In *ANOTHER PLACE AT THE TABLE*, Harrison makes no attempts to glamorize her role as a foster parent. She doesn't make herself out to be a saint. She simply tells it like it is, complete with the disheartening stories of children who have been neglected, abused and abandoned. But throughout the struggles she recounts in her book, there is always a glimmer of light: the children she has helped rehabilitate, the foster children who have found wonderful permanent homes, and the children who Harrison and her husband have adopted themselves. Despite her battles with the social services system, Kathy Harrison has made a difference.

ANOTHER PLACE AT THE TABLE is emotionally draining and fulfilling at the same time. While the subject matter is not lighthearted, the writing is excellent and the reading is fast-paced. Harrison has presented an open, honest view of her life --- faults included. Perhaps that is what makes the book exceptional.

Reflecting on the stories in this book, the phrase "Truth is stranger than fiction" comes to mind. In a world where so many of us live such comfortable lives with caring families, it is hard to believe that the events in this book really happened. And no invented character could rival the personalities of those living in the Harrison household. *ANOTHER PLACE AT THE TABLE* tells not only the story of Kathy Harrison and her foster children but also the story of foster families across the nation. It will bring you to tears and will make you angry. It won't make you laugh and it doesn't have a happy ending. But it will make you think about the foster care system, and maybe it will encourage you to make a difference.

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child"