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Snapshots from our  
Annual Foster & Adoptive Family Christmas Party  
and our  
Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program





**Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association Newsletter**

**From the Executive Director's Desk.....**

Welcome to 2008! We look forward to another exciting year of opportunities to partner with you in providing care for children who are very dear to all of us. After the busy rush of the Holiday season we are returning to our normal routines here at MFC@AA. You will find this shortened version of the newsletter full of important information and announcements for this month and the new year. Next month we will return to our full newsletter format with helpful articles and resources. As always, if you have any questions, contact our staff at 816-350-0215 or visit our web site at [www.mfcaa.org](http://www.mfcaa.org). We are always trying to improve our newsletter and would appreciate your feedback on what topics you would like covered in this year's pages.

Sincerely,

*Lori Ross*

**Heartfelt Thanks!**

Thank you to all of these wonderful foundations that helped to support the efforts of MFC@AA in 2007. Thank you for sharing our dream. We will continue to work "To provide foster and adoptive children the opportunity of a stable, caring and nurturing family environment by recruiting, training, supporting and providing advocacy for foster and adoptive parents."

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Adoption Exchange Association                     | KPMG, Kansas City Office              |
| AT&T Telecom Pioneers                             | Loretto Community Special Needs Fund  |
| Flo Harris Foundation                             | Morgan Family Foundation              |
| Foresters-Overland Branch                         | MOS Family Foundation                 |
| General Electric Company                          | Oppenstein Brothers Foundation        |
| Kaufman Fund for Kansas City                      | Sosland Foundation                    |
| Hall Family Foundation                            | Scripps Howard Foundation             |
| Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City     | Truman Heartland Community Foundation |
| Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund       | Wal-Mart                              |
| Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City | William T. Kemper Foundation          |



# Thank You

Our Christmas program this year was a great success, thanks to our generous donors, everyone here at MFCAA, and our wonderful volunteers!

Hats off to our volunteers who dedicated many hours to preparing and distributing gifts: Ruby Cook, Chantay Armstrong, Keon Powell, Lillian Garner, Carreler Scott, Louise Ruff, Emily Ragan, Gary Amerine, Colin Naughtin, Tammie Taylor, Jimmy Standlea and Robert Ruis. (I hope I remembered everyone, and I apologize to anyone I forgot to thank.) The Christmas program would not be possible without lots of hard work on the part of our dedicated volunteers. You are appreciated!

Thank you also to the countless donors who adopted families, and all the organizations and businesses that gathered gifts for us. We'd like to send a special thank you to US Toy, AT&T Telcom Pioneers, Toys for Tots, KPMG, NIC Inc. and Russ Lawrence of Changing Seasons who provided gifts for this year's program. Thanks also to Foresters Overland Branch for donating fruit.

Sincerely, Suzen Ruis

## Announcements

Reminder to families  
who participated in  
The Christmas  
Program...

Just a reminder for everyone who received gifts through our Christmas program this year: Please take a moment to write thank you notes to our donors if you haven't already. If you would please send them to MFCAA, we will forward them to your donors. (Thank you notes from kids to Santa work great, too!) Please include your family's name so we can forward your note to the correct donor. This is a simple way we can show our donors how much we appreciate their contributions. Thanks!

### HOW TO GET A JOB AND KEEP IT

Do you have a teen or preteen who needs to start thinking about getting a job? Do you need someone to tell them to pull up their pants, tuck in their shirt, and make themselves presentable to a potential employer? Do you need someone to give your young man/woman inspiration and motivation to start thinking about their future? If so, bring them to our HOW TO GET A JOB AND KEEP IT training. Training will be held Thursday, January 17 from 7PM to 9PM. Please RSVP for this training by contacting Justin Newkirk at 816-350-0215 or [justin@mfcaa.org](mailto:justin@mfcaa.org).

### Did you receive an evaluation form in the mail?

This is a friendly reminder for all those persons who received the Advocacy Evaluation Forms, due to the holiday hustle and bustle, I have extended the response returns to Jan. 11, 2008. If you did not receive an evaluation and you have received advocacy over the last twelve months, please contact the office and speak with Teresa Williams to make sure your address information is correct.

Thanks for your participation!

### SUPPORT GROUPS STILL OPEN

Lifeworks Family Treatment Group is providing group therapy and support groups for parents of foster/adoptive children, biological children with foster or adoptive children entering the home, children who are being adopted, and children who exhibit abuse reactive behavior. For more information on any of these free therapy groups, contact Justin Newkirk at 816-350-0215 or [justin@mfcaa.org](mailto:justin@mfcaa.org).

## 2008 Training Meeting Schedules

MFCAA offers training opportunities to individuals who need hours towards their foster parent license, or to any foster/adoptive parent who would like to receive useful information and develop practical skills. Training meetings are the first Friday of every month at 6:30 PM. We also offer training meetings targeted towards career/behavioral foster parents (but anyone can come) on the third Friday of every month. Please call and make a reservation before attending meetings on the third Friday of the month because dinner is provided. \*\*\*Child care is provided for ages 3 and up at both meetings.

**First Friday Training Meetings** ♦ Begins at 6:30 PM ♦ No RSVP required ♦ Child care provided ♦

**January 4, 2008**

Speaker: Karen DiSanto

Topic: Economic and Social Class Diversity

**February 1, 2008**

Speaker: Dr. Walt Boulden

Topic: Accommodation of Diversity in Sexual Identity

**March 7, 2008**

Speaker: Joe Beck

Topic: Handling Stress

**April 4, 2008**

Speaker: Kealey Williams

Topic: Bullying

**June 6, 2008**

Speaker: Dr. Rosalyn Bertram

Topic: Engaging Families

**July 11, 2008**

Speaker: Grey Endres

Topic: Communication with Teenagers

**August 1, 2008**

Speaker: Rhonda Weimer

Topic: How we Label

**September 5, 2008**

Speaker: Susan Peach

Topic: Dealing with Grief, Loss and Separation

**October 3, 2008**

Speaker: Joe Beck

Topic: Kids that have trouble with attention

**November 7, 2008**

Speaker: Danielle Cool

Topic: Expression of Anger

**Third Friday C/B Training Meetings** ♦ Begins at 6:30 PM ♦ Please RSVP ♦ Dinner provided ♦ Child care provided ♦

**January 18, 2008**

Speaker: Tammy Spears

Topic: Child Centered Treatment Goals

**February 15, 2008**

Speaker: Jerald Payne

Topic: Managing Mania

**March 21, 2008**

Speaker: Danielle Cool

Topic: Social Skill Development in Foster Care

**April 18, 2008**

Speaker: Liz Vostez

Topic: Transitions-Helping children and parents through them

**June 20, 2008**

Speaker: Susan Peach

Topic: Structuring Safety with Sexual Predators and Victims

**July 18, 2008**

Speaker: Joe Beck

Topic: Taking Placements that Work

**August 15, 2008**

Speaker: Kealey Williams

Topic: Keeping Life Books (Keeping memories alive for foster kid)

**September 19, 2008**

Speaker: Grey Endres

Topic: Setting Boundaries

**October 17, 2008**

Speaker: Donda McLaughlin

Topic: Raising a Racially Confident Child

**November 21, 2008**

Speaker: Patrick Hicky

Topic: Behavioral Modifications with a Twist