



Midwest Foster Care and
Adoption Association
3210 S Lee's Summit Rd
Independence, MO
64055



OCT 2009

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
& CONFERENCE
SIGN-UP, INSIDE!**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
INDEP, MO
PERMIT NO. 535



**Thank you, Health Care
Foundation Of
Greater Kansas City**

Family Fun Day - October 10

**Noland Fashion Square 6
13520 Hwy 40, Independence, MO, 64055**

Let's get together for a day of Family Fun! Let's all go to the movies! Mom, Dad and all of the kids can join in the fun. The exact movie time will be announced October 6th. You can check the web site or call the office for the exact time after the 6th. We will be choosing a family friendly, G rated movie that all will enjoy.

The cost of the movie will be \$5.00 per family and snacks will be provided by the Independence Rotary. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS!

(We need a count for snacks and seating.)

Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association received the first installment of the *Strengthening Our Families* grant, awarded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. This grant will enable us to reach out and serve additional families by increasing the numbers and types of support and training groups available. We will also be able to provide increased individual family advocacy and mentoring. The support, training and advocacy provided by this grant will help provide foster, kinship and adoptive families additional tools needed to provide children the safe, nurturing homes they deserve.

We would like to thank all of the wonderful young artists who entered this year's art competition. The judges had a very difficult time choosing the first place winners. We have discovered that MFC AA has many very talented young artists. We hope that you will all continue to share your talents and submit your entries again next year.

We are very proud of this year's two first place winners, Michael Gruetzmacher and Michael Spears. We offer a round of applause for both of these talented young men and their exceptional work.



Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association Newsletter



Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends

This month I want to write to you about one of the biggest mistakes we make as foster and adoptive parents of tough kids. I don't think we set out to do it, but with all of our focus on the sad and mad emotions and behaviors that kids dish out to us, we somehow neglect to work on the other end of the emotional spectrum. We're trying so hard to heal the pain so that our kids can have 'normal' lives that we forget that normal parents and kids aren't always serious, they also have lots of time for fun.

Unlike traditional families, for foster and adoptive parents fun isn't something that happens spontaneously very often. In regular families, fun is part of every day. In our families, the trauma that abused and neglected kids bring with them into our homes is usually accompanied by its partner 'drama.' Among the many things that change in our lives when we add traumatized kids, the old things that used to be fun for us as a family frequently become occasions for disappointment and frustration.

For example, at one time my family enjoyed our get-togethers with our extended family and friends. We were invited to Uncle Ralph's home for Thanksgiving, and we went as a whole family to Randy's company picnic on the 4th of July every year. Those were fun times in which our kids played with their cousins or Randy's co-workers' kids. They used some manners, looked pretty cute, and allowed us to spend a fair amount of time engaged in adult to adult conversation without much interruption. We left those gatherings feeling proud. Our kids left those gatherings having successfully established or built on positive relationships with friends or cousins.

Somewhere along the way, as we added more complexly traumatized kids to the group, those occasions became less fun and more stressful. Instead of manners, our kids pushed to the front of the line. Instead of playing nicely, our kids taught other kids some new words they hadn't heard before. With tough kids in our family, parties weren't fun; instead they were painful, embarrassing, uncomfortable, and frustrating. For a while we lost out on fun completely.

But as relatively sane adults, we can't function without the release of laughter. For us, humor came back into our lives when we began to recognize the ridiculous nature of the way we had become accustomed to living. As we got to know other foster and adoptive parents (and they became the people we socialized with most of the time), we found that we were able to laugh at the craziness we had in common. We found humor in our shared experiences, no matter how ugly and dramatic those experiences looked from the outside. The laughter that we were able to share with those parents was the key to staying sane, while living in clearly insane circumstances lots of the time.

Still, sharing humor with your spouse or with close friends isn't the same thing as having fun as a family. Even though I had many opportunities to laugh, I wasn't laughing with my children. Something was missing. And when children and parents aren't having fun together, a very critical piece of the puzzle is gone. Fun, silliness, humor, and laughter shared by parents and children is a key component of developing attachment and trust.

The summer before last we took our annual family vacation, a pilgrimage we make each year so that our children get to experience the educational benefit of travel, and we have a solid block of time together and away from people we know so that we can bond as a family. This time we chose to go to Rocky Mountain National Park. We planned our mountain camping vacation to be as stress-free as possible. The cost was manageable, and we had helpers along to ease the tension. Still the trip was a nightmare. The only one of our children who handled the trip with any sense of ease was Hunter, who was so absorbed into his own imaginary world (buoyed by the new scenery and rocks and sticks that he could imagine were any kind of weapon or other cool accessory) that he didn't really notice anything going on around him.

The rest of them picked fights with each other, complained incessantly about their boredom, didn't give a hoot about the beautiful scenery and disturbed the other campers almost constantly. Without their familiar environment, and within the close quarters that traveling always involves, the insanity fed off of itself and turned into a virtual vortex of ugliness (which seemed especially disturbing smack dab in the middle of the beautiful Rocky Mountains). I gave some serious thought to pitching a few of them over one of those steep inclines.

That trip was something of a turning point for me. Not only did I decide that we needed to change our expectations for 'normal family experiences,' whatever those are, but we also needed to figure out how to work with what we had. We needed to find ways to make fun happen within the confines of our family as it is now. It simply wasn't going to happen spontaneously; I'd have to make it happen.

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 Conference Sign-up—Pg. 10 & 11

Many of you have read things I've written before. As a professional parent, you know that I'm a strong believer in the power of Love and Logic. The problem is that the technique involves two critical components. We usually are pretty good at picking up the Logic part, but we frequently neglect the Love piece. It isn't because we aren't demonstrating the action of Love through our commitment to our children. But to feel the emotional heartstring connection that is also part of 'Love,' we must nurture the little seeds of affection that may begin to extend from our children to us. But how do our children begin to develop those warm fuzzy feelings of affection if there aren't fun times?

When we take care of babies, we play games with them that not only teach them relationship skills, but also allow them to experience tons of fun. How beautiful is the laughter of a baby who has learned how to play 'peek-a-boo' with his Mom? Eye contact, laughter, and affection go hand in hand all the while Mom and baby are hiding and finding each other again.

But our kids aren't usually babies, and often they aren't very pleasant to be around. So finding (or creating) those opportunities for fun, laughter and shared joy often takes a concerted effort on the part of the parent. At least I know it does in my house. And I have learned to start small. Family outings (in which there are several of us) are not ideal times to begin to develop infantile 'fun' skills in kids who have been previously traumatized. Some of my kids are simply not there yet. For them, fun must happen in a one-on-one setting.

A couple of my kids have developmental delays combined with mental health diagnoses and topped with a healthy dose of broken attachments. Those kids need me to teach them how to laugh, how to relax, how to engage in a relationship that isn't always about therapy or education, but is sometimes just about sharing some silliness.

This summer I had an opportunity to learn some tricks that encourage more laughter and silliness within our homes. Pat O'Brien is the director of a program in New York which promotes the adoption of older teens. His program is called "You Gotta Believe." He does amazing work in recruiting, training and supporting families to provide a permanent connection to youth that the child welfare system has historically failed.

Pat led a workshop at a conference that I was attending. He stood at the door to this conference with a red clown nose on, holding a stuffed dog puppet and making almost assaultive comments to passers by. I really almost walked out. But by the end of the session I was glad I had stayed. Pat's message, that fun **MUST** be part of our lives and our children's lives, is critically important. And sadly, it's often missed. As skeptical as I was when I walked in the door, I did laugh in that workshop. I did silly things. And it was fun. Some of Pat's suggestions that you can begin to adapt and use with your kids include:

- Throw your child a surprise 'unbirthday' party with balloons, cake, etc... Do this completely out of the blue, not as a reward or other incentive. (I would add to this idea that unbirthday gifts could include coupons for a game of checkers with Dad, or an hour of at home beauty parlor time with Mom...doing makeovers and taking pictures to share).
- Send your child a funny greeting card by mail. Kids love to get mail.
- Stop in a photo booth and make funny face photo strips together.
- Cut out a cartoon strip in the newspaper that reminds you of your child and cut the face of a character out and insert your child's picture. Post this on the fridge or stick it in your child's lunch bag so that he/she will have a reason to smile at lunchtime. Teach your child a few riddles or jokes to tell potential friends so that he or she can get a good laugh. Creating a laugh within your peer group gives kids a powerful and wonderful feeling.

Other ideas for planned silliness that I've found on the web include:

- Make up your own superhero with your child. Come up with unusual super-powers and write a short story about how this superhero saved someone's day. Find household items to use to dress up your superhero for the day.
- Make up a silly rule day. On that day let your child pick a silly rule, and then get the whole family to follow that rule for the whole day. For example, clap three times before entering the room, or say "Prince" or "Princess" before using family member's names all day.
- While you're working on chores after dinner, sing the first verse of a familiar song, and then make up words to the second verse and include your child's name. Have the child make up the third verse.
- Play Panty Hose Polo with your child. Setup: Cut a pair of panty hose up the middle and drop an orange into the toe of each leg. Stick 2 lengths of tape to the floor about 15 feet apart for the start and finish lines, then place 2 more oranges behind the start line. To Play: Tie the panty hose legs around 2 players' waists so that the oranges hang about a half inch off the floor. Without using their hands, players must swing the panty hose orange to knock their floor orange over the finish line. The first one to do so wins.
- Make junk art sculptures. Use cereal boxes, boxes from shipping, tissue boxes, empty toilet paper rolls, bottle caps and corks, empty and clean yogurt containers, and uncooked pasta to make fun sculptures or houses. You can glue or tape everything together, depending on the comfort level of the child, and paint the sculptures.

The key to planned silliness is to engage in the silliness with your child. This isn't a time for you to sit back and watch. Take off your grown up, professional helper hat, and get into the game. Although your kids may think you're nuts, I promise, you'll get them laughing with you. My high school aged daughter participates in a school activity in which the coach demands that the girls participate in 'forced fun'. The same principle applies here. Hearts can't heal without laughter.

Hugs and Giggles,

Sincerely, Irol Ssor  ,MFCFAA Executive Director

Attention Foster Parents!

Are you interested in helping children in foster care to become resilient? If so, consider signing up for Project SPARK (Study of Pathways to Adjustment and Resilience in Kids)!

The SPARK project is seeking foster parents and children in foster care to participate in a research project on what makes kids resilient. By participating, you will be able to help professionals know more about the needs of children in foster care and how to better serve them. Participating in this project means completing surveys several times over the course of the year. You will get paid each time you participate, and your child will receive a reward for his or her participation.

If you would like more details about participating in the SPARK project, please call Dr. Yo Jackson and the SPARK project team at (913) 897-8454.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

MFCAA's kids and families received a terrific gift this month from Hunter Endres.

Hunter chose to collect school supplies as well as food pantry items as his Eagle Scout project. Hunter and his troop collected hundreds of pounds of supplies and food.

Thank you, Hunter, for choosing MFCAA. Your gift means a lot to many kids and their families.



A BIG THANKS

A BIG thanks to the cheer squad at St. Mary's High School in Independence.

They organized a clothing drive to benefit our clothing closet. Due to the squad's efforts, we received 400 items of clothing targeted specifically for teens.



Food Pantry Fun

A special request for the food pantry!

Next time your scout, church or school group is looking for a project, please consider a "Birthday Cake Kit." The idea is that you pick out a cake mix, icing, maybe some sprinkles and candles and create your kit. Birthdays are very special for all children and a great occasion to celebrate as a family. We will make the kits available to families for birthdays and special occasions.

Holidays for the Heart

Last month's Executive Director's letter highlighted the current American economic crisis and ways to help your kids begin to understand just what all of that means. This month we'd like to provide you with some ideas of ways to help your kids to shift their holiday hopes from commercialism to 'personalism'. We're all encouraging our kids this year to focus less on their 'wish list' and more on providing gifts for those people they really care about. Kids can provide gifts and services to others at low or no cost. Giving gifts you've personally invested in helps kids to develop positive self-esteem, which is something that we certainly can't gift to them, no matter how much money we have to spend this year.

Some Homemade Christmas ideas (for kids or parents) are:

Cans of pens or candles

Bookmarks

Wrap up recipes

Dog bone wreath

Puppy portrait frame

Homemade clay

Homemade finger paints

Art cards (blank on inside, decorated on the outside by your child)

Beaded ornaments

Critters that keep out the cold (door stoppers)

Family photo books

Family photo calendars

Heat and eat dinners

Mosaic flower pot

No sew fleece (pillow, hat, blankets)

Personalized magnets

Personalized memo pads

Tie dyed t-shirts, scarves, etc...more ideas can be found at

http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/specialfeature/holiday_gifts_ms/

Kids can also provide 'gifts of service'. These are things that kids can do either in advance or after the holiday gift-giving season, and then share information about the gift with their loved one through a card or picture letting them know that the gift of service has been given in their honor. Some ideas are:

Mowing a neighbor's lawn or raking leaves

Shoveling snow

Walking a neighbor's dog

Offering to assist with a Sunday school class or providing babysitting










Reading to younger children, or offering help with homework

Teaching someone how to play the piano or guitar

Volunteering at a hospital, community center, or nursing home

Working with disabled children in their school or community

The act of giving something made (rather than bought) or giving a gift of service to another is far more memorable than any toy, trinket or dollar store gadget that can be bought, no matter how desirable the advertisers make it seem. Although a tight economy forces us to think about unconventional gifting, the lessons learned from gifts given and received in this manner are invaluable. And for our children, the opportunity to develop an inherent sense of pride in themselves cannot come soon enough. As Anne Frank once said, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	
OCT					1	2  	3
4	5	6 	7	8	9  Dental Van* at MFCAA	10	
11	12	13 	14	15	16  	17	
18	19	20 	MFCAA CONFERENCE		22	23 	24
25	26	27 	28	29	30 Parents Night Out 	31 Happy Halloween	

NOTE: On the first Friday of each month, the Food Pantry is available to those who attend Training (in the evening). It is not open 9a-2p on this day.



Clothes Closet
10a-2p



Food Pantry
9a-2p



First Friday Training
6:30p



Third Friday Training—7p
(6:30p dinner)

*For Dental Van Appointments:
Bobbie Mitchell/ 816-889-3512

OCTOBER 30th **Parents Night Out!**

Foster and adoptive parents, do you need an evening of adult time? Would you like to go out to a movie, enjoy a meal at a restaurant that does not come with a small fry and a toy? Maybe you would just like a relaxing evening at home.

Thanks to students from the UMKC School of Social Work, you will have that opportunity on Friday evening, October 30th. The university students will be providing children with an evening of fun and games. Dinner will be included.

The evening for the children will begin at 6pm and will take place at the gym on the Drumm Farm Campus. We do ask that you park in the gravel parking lot at the north end of the campus and walk the children over to the gym. It will then be your job to go out and have some fun, see a movie, have a relaxing dinner and enjoy yourselves for an evening.

Children will need to be picked up by 10pm. This evening will be for foster and adoptive families only. Sorry, but we will have to limit the evening to children 2 years and over and only children that are potty trained.

Please RSVP to Fran or Kim at 350-0215 by October 16th.

Monthly Reminders

Foster Parents are required to maintain a certain number of training hours in order to keep their licenses, and ALL parents can use additional tools to care for the children in their homes. MFCAA provides two great resources for “parent training.”

Resource Library

MFCAA has a lending library with video tapes, dvd's, cd's and books that can be checked out and used for outside training hours. Call Tammy at 816-350-0215.

On-site Training—On-site Trainings are held at MFCAA, in the 2nd building on the far LEFT of the drive. Please park in the gravel lot (continue past the training building, and follow the drive as it curves right), then walk to the training building (for more info, call Justin @ 816-350-0215). Childcare is provided, during both training sessions, for children ages 3 and older.

ON-SITE TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Oct 2/6:30p - Teamwork in Foster Care—Jana Frye

This workshop will provide experiential learning examples of new ways to look at and think about problems that are faced while working with children and families. It will be a time to have some team building fun as well as create new ways to communicate with others involved in the child welfare system. This session will be interactive and participant driven.

6:30p Dinner (RSVP only if attending dinner—tammy@mfcaa.org) & 7p Meeting -

Safety in Your Home with a Child that Acts out Sexually—Kealey Williams

When a child acts out sexually in your home setting, it can be a dangerous environment for all involved. This course will help parents understand how to effectively work with those children who sexually act out and keep their home safe.

Additional Training—The Annual MFCAA Conference will be held October 21st and 22nd at UMKC. All Conference sessions count for Training hours. For information on scholarships, please see the Conference Form on page 15.

Clothes Closet & Food Pantry

MFCAA's Clothing Closet provides clothing, shoes, coats, toys, high chairs, car seats and more, free of charge, to all MFCAA Members. In addition, our Birthday Closet offers parents the opportunity to choose a gift for each of their children. Clothing Closet hours are 10a-2p on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call Becky for special appointments (contact info below).



THANKS

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who thought of us over the last month, when deciding where to donate the items their children no longer use. We once again had some wonderful donations of new and used clothes in Aug. We appreciate everyone's generosity!

MFCAA's Food Pantry provides basic food items, free of charge, to all Members, and is open Tues and Fri from 9a-2p. In addition, the Food Pantry offers extended items, such as canned goods and hygiene products. These items are available to each member monthly, by appointment. Contact Becky for an appointment at 816-350-0215 or becky@mfcaa.org.



HELP OUT AT THE MFCAA OFFICES

We can always use an extra hand cleaning up after Clothes Closet days, and cleaning around the office in general (any day or time—vacuum, sweep, etc).

Contact Becky (becky@mfcaa.org or 816-350-0215).

Christmas Adoption Program—

READ BEFORE SIGNING UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Even though it seems like the kids just got back in school, it is already time to sign up for MFCAA’s Christmas Adoption Program. As always, we want to help as many children as possible have a happy holiday season. We are anticipating having fewer program donors this year due to the downturn in the economy. Because of this, we encourage everyone to register their foster children (who have been placed by the Children’s Division) for the Jackson County Red Bag program (the deadline for that program is October 9th). Clay County and Johnson Counties also have Christmas programs for foster children. We are not going to be able to provide gifts for those children who qualify for any of the Children Division’s Christmas distributions.

As you complete the MFCAA Christmas adoption forms for the children who are eligible, please keep in mind we are not going to send requests to donors for items that cost in excess of \$30.00. We need to be mindful of the generosity of our donors and not expect them to provide for all of our kids’ wants and needs. Our goal is to have each child receive 3 presents, but we cannot guarantee this.

We hope that by providing you with 4 months advance notice of the limitations we are dealing with this year, you will have time to prepare your children for a less ‘material’ holiday, and you will have time to budget for and save to provide those special items you really want your kids to receive. Please see other MFCAA newsletter articles including the August 09 Executive Director letter, and the ‘Homemade Holidays’ ideas in the October Newsletter for suggestions of how to work with your children to understand the economic issues all Americans are facing.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- BE SPECIFIC ON YOUR CHILDREN’S WANTS/ NEEDS (for example: if you request earrings, include “silver hoops”).
- PLEASE **DO NOT ASK FOR GIFT CARDS**. IF YOUR CHILD WANTS CD’S, DVD’S, ETC, ASK FOR THEM BY NAME.
- FILL OUT YOUR FORMS LEGIBLY (PRINT) SO WE CAN PROCESS THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
- PLEASE ASK FOR APPROPRIATELY PRICED ITEMS. Items that cost more than \$30 WILL BE REMOVED from your list.
- ASK FOR PRACTICAL ITEMS.
- LOOK FOR INFORMATION ON WHEN AND WHERE TO PICK UP GIFTS IN OUR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER NEWSLETTERS AND ON OUR WEBSITE: MFCAA.ORG
- WHEN MAINLING IN YOUR REGISTRATION INFO, MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE PG. 1 AND PG. 2 (and PG. 3 if needed).

2009 Adopt a Family Christmas Program Family Form – Pg. 1

No Donor will receive this family information sheet. It is strictly for tracking purposes.

1. Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Household Income _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

Office Use: Family #

2. Are you interested in having contact with donor/company/individual who has adopted your family?

(Some donors like to deliver the gifts themselves or communicate with you)

Yes, I would enjoy meeting the donor

No, I prefer MFCAA act as an intermediary

3. Please List the following Information for your children:

Name of Child:

Race:

List one: Foster/Adopted/Kinship or Biological

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Family Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Family Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Please note that not all donors choose to provide Family Needs & Wants.

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

Pants Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has an MP3Player?* Y N

Shirt Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has a portable CD Player?* Y N

Underwear Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult

Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Favorites: Color:

Character :

Activities:

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

Pants Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has an MP3Player?* Y N

Shirt Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has a portable CD Player?* Y N

Underwear Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult

Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Favorites: Color:

Character :

Activities:

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

Pants Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has an MP3Player? Y N*

Shirt Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has a portable CD Player? Y N*

Underwear Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult

Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Favorites: Color: _____ Character : _____ Activities: _____

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

Pants Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has an MP3Player? Y N*

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Underwear Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult

Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Favorites: Color: _____ Character : _____ Activities: _____

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

Pants Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has an MP3Player? Y N*

Shirt Size _____ Toddler Kids Junior Adult *Child has a portable CD Player? Y N*

Underwear Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult

Needs (must be less than \$30 each):

Wants (must be less than \$30 each):

Favorites: Color: _____ Character : _____ Activities: _____

Conference Registration Form - MFCAA/UMKC 2009

Name: _____

Address, City, St, Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Alternate Telephone #: _____

E-mail: _____

County of Residence: _____

Agency/Organization Affiliation: _____

Requesting Social Work CEU Credits (available at no extra fee)

Please select the role that best defines your involvement in child welfare:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster/Adoptive Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian ad Litem | <input type="checkbox"/> School Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Division Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor/Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child & Family Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> CASA | <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Case Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Conference Registration Fees:

- General Registration (received by October 7th): \$125.00
- I am applying for a conference scholarship**
- I would like to sponsor an attendee for the following amount: \$ _____

- Conference Registration Deadline: October 7, 2009 -

Conference Registration is non-refundable - Dinner and 2 lunches included

- I plan to attend the dinner - I plan to attend both lunches

Total due: \$ _____

Check enclosed *Made out to MFCAA Conference 2009

Pay by Credit Card: Card # _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Exp: _____

Mail registration form and fees to: MFCAA - Conference Registration
3210 S Lee's Summit Rd.
Independence, MO 64055

**Scholarships:

Conference scholarships are available. To apply for a scholarship, please submit this form indicating that you wish to apply for scholarship no later than September 25th. Scholarships registration should be sent by mail (no electronic requests will be accepted) and should indicate if you are seeking a partial or full scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. You will be notified by phone of your scholarship determination no later than October 7th.

Comments: _____

**integrate
innovate
collaborate**

**7th
annual
child welfare
conference**
MFCAA

October 21 & 22, 2009

**Located at the UMKC University Center
5000 Holmes St
Kansas City, MO 64110**

**Sponsored by the UMKC College of Arts & Sciences and School of Social Work in partnership with
the Jackson County Children's Division and Cornerstones of Care**

CONFERENCE GOALS:

- Clarify roles and enhance service integration
- Identify and share innovative, collaborative approaches
- Discuss when and how to preserve family relationships

For more information:

**Justin Newkirk, MSW, PLCSW
816-350-0215
justin@mfcaa.org**

Children placed in foster care or for adoption have many families. They and their families must negotiate a complex web of personal relationships as well as relationships with legal representatives, educators and service providers.

This annual two-day regional conference brings together parents and those working with them to learn from each other, to enhance their collaboration, and to identify means to better integrate their efforts.

After the first night of the conference,
join us for the

**Forever Families
Evening Celebration**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Pierson Auditorium
UMKC University Center
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110

Music by the Alan Voss Trio

5:15pm - 6:30pm
Wine Bar and Silent Auction

6:30pm - 8:15pm
Dinner and Awards Presentation

*The evening celebration is included in the conference registration. If you are not attending the conference but would like to join us for the dinner, please call us to make arrangements at: 816-350-0215

WHO SHOULD ATTEND & PARTICIPATE:

- Parents of all sorts (biological, foster, adoptive & kinship parents)
- Children's Division staff & supervisors
- Child & family advocates
- Lawyers, judges & juvenile officers
- Counselors, therapists & their supervisors
- School administrators, teachers & support staff
- Students in social work & related studies

For conference updates, visit:

www.mfcaaconference.com