



Strengthening Families Newsletter March 2010

Welcome to Strengthening Families!

As a part of the Strengthening Families Program, you will receive a short monthly newsletter. This newsletter will offer special tips and information, geared specifically toward helping new foster parents tackle their new role. In addition, we'll include a calendar of upcoming events, reminders about the services we offer at MFCAA, and any other special information we'd like to share with our Strengthening Families participants!

ATTENTION: GRANDPARENTS, FOSTER/ADOPTIVE/ KINSHIP FAMILIES

Some great opportunities for training are coming in the next couple of months!!!!

YOU, ME & THE KIDS

This training was held in September of 2009 and proved to be a very enjoyable positive experience for all involved. We had foster parents together with Division staff and worked on common issues that we shared, first recognizing they are a problem and then jointly



In This Issue

Special Invitation

Calendar - March



Mar 5th

First Friday Training/6:30
How to tell if your child is
bullying or being bullied

Mar 12th

Dental Van at MFCAA
For appointments:
Bobbie, at 816-889-3512

Mar 19th

Third Friday Training/6:30
RSVP for dinner
What do I do with the Hair?

Apr 2nd

Be a realistic "hero"

[Get more info](#) on all events.

Looking Ahead... [get more info](#) check out our website

Reminders

coming up with solutions that are attainable. Foster parents and division staff alike had very favorable comments to make about the time spent together and the groups came up with some very good ideas. We are doing it again this year and having a good balance of foster parents and workers is key to the success of this training.

Please find time to sign up and help give us the foster parent prospective on the work we do.

The trainings are scheduled before school lets out on 3 consecutive Fridays. They are held at Drumm Farm, 3210 Lee's Summit Rd, Independence, Mo, in the Dining Hall. Each session is 3 hours. You don't need to sign up for all 6 sessions at one time unless you'd like to. We do ask you to invite your favorite division staff member to accompany you, but it is not mandatory.

Training dates:

Session 1 - Here We Go Again, 4/16/10, 9AM-12PM. We give you this topic and let you discuss with your table what this means to you.

Session 2 - Tick, Tock, 4/16/10, 1PM-4PM. This section is centered on juggling our very busy schedules vs. responsibilities.

Session 3 - Staying Put, 4/23/10, 9AM-12PM. This session discusses placements, replacements and two week notices.

Session 4 - Mission Impossible, 4/23/10, 1PM-4PM. At this session we talk of challenging cases and children, how to handle hotlines and high profile media cases.

Session 5 - Let's Make Some Plans, 4/30/10, 9AM-12PM. We talk of permanency for children in these sessions.

Session 6 - Let's Talk, 4/30/10, 1PM-4PM. How can we do a better job of working together for our common goal...the child?

These sessions spark lots of great conversations between the worker and foster parents. By working together on these topics, we can send our UNITED message to Jefferson City to create change where it is needed. We are happy to send our creative solutions as our message, but we need YOU to come share your ideas.

Please call Kim at 816 350-0215 to reserve you spot. You may also email her at kim@mfcaa.org

FOSTER PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

This training is another opportunity for foster parents, with the Division Staff to learn about our rights and responsibilities. The Bill of Rights was passed into law in 2008 and we are anxious to make everyone aware of its content, bringing respect to our common mission of helping heal and finding permanency for the abused and neglected children we care for everyday. A joint training session have been designed to bring workers and foster parents together to become aware of these laws and to put them into practice here in Jackson County.

The training dates are:

March 26th, 9-11 and 1-3 North KC Hospital

May 14th, 9-11 and 1-3 MFCAA

September 24th, 9-11 and 1-3 North KC Hospital

October 22, 9-11 and 1-3 Dolir Building, KC

This training is 2 hours and you can sign up by calling Tammy Merriman @ 816 889-2380.

The Children's Division has filled their portion of the March 26th training times. To be successful we need to fill the foster/adopt portion of the training, too. PLEASE CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP



Website

You can get full information on all MFCAA services and programs on our website: mfcaa.org.

MFCAA Directions

3210 S Lee's Summit Rd/
Independence, MO/64055

· From I-70, take the Lee's Summit Rd Exit and go North

· Drive for a little over a mile, (the last intersection you'll go through is for Kiger Rd-we are just past that)

· We are on the left side of the road (across from a park), on the Drumm Farm campus...The sign where you turn in says Drumm Farm. We are part of a collection of "houses" set back from the road. Stay to the right of the drive; MFCAA is the 2nd building on the RIGHT.

Trainings are held in the Dining Hall/Gardner Hall - the 2nd building on the far LEFT drive. On Training nights, please park in the gravel lot (just past the MFCAA offices, on the RIGHT drive)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

FOR ONE OF THESE 2 HOUR TRAINING TIMES.

It was designed with **YOU** in mind

Be Sure to check our Website for a list of events and times of several activities.

2/26 Foster Bill of Rights

2/26 and 3/27 Prom Boutique

4/18 Family Event - Skate and Bounce Party

4/16,23, 30 You, Me and the Kids Training

4/24 Strengthening Families

5/1 Ribs for Kids(our annual fund raiser at McGonigle's Meat Market)

[READ MORE](#)

For Strengthening Families Participants Only!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PICNIC

SATURDAY, April 24th

11 am to 2 pm

Burriss Old Mill Park, Shelter #1

112 NW Woods Chapel Rd

Blue Springs, Mo. 64015

Please plan to bring the family to our Strengthening Families Picnic for some fun in the sun (I hope)!

Dana and Ashley, students at Longview Community College, have been busy for months now planning a fun day for all of us. There will be races and games for different age groups as well as a skate park for those skate board champions you are raising. Playground equipment for all ages and a delicious lunch prepared by their friends and family will be enjoyed by all. We just have to show up, have time to meet and mingle with mentors, staff, participants and all their families.

To get a count of how much food we will need, we ask you to RSVP to Mary@mfcaa.org or call me at (816-350-0215) and let me know how many you will bring to the party!

In case of rain the "picnic" will be moved to the gymnasium at Drumm Farm.

Hope you plan to come!

Mary



MFCAA Services

Reminder

We'd like to remind you all that as new foster parents you may need some extra help, and we are here to support you! MFCAA Services are available from 8a-5p, Mon-Fri (and you can always contact

us after hours in an emergency).

Clothes Closet -

gently used clothes available Tues & Fri, 10a-2p (or by appointment) - [contact Becky](#)

Food Pantry -

basic items available every Tues & Fri, 9a-2p (or by appointment)/ extended items (such as canned goods and frozen items) available once each month - [contact Becky](#)

Advocacy -

experienced foster and adoptive parents are on staff at MFCAA, and can answer questions, address concerns, accompany you to meetings/court dates or help in any other way necessary - call us at 816-350-0215

Training -

as foster parents, you will have to complete training hours each year to maintain your license - we offer training on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month - [get more info](#)

Special Events -

several times each year we hold Family Events, such as our annual Christmas party, at little or no charge to our members - please join us!

Respite -

MFCAA has a list of Respite providers that we will contact when you need respite care - [contact Jennifer](#)

Special Programs -

we offer programs to help with School Supplies, Christmas and other seasonal needs - watch the website and newsletters for announcements

Licensing Workers - please feel free to forward this newsletter to your new foster parents. All foster parents who have been licensed for five years or less are eligible to be part of the Strengthening Families program.

[Get more info](#) (including a registration form).