



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

June 2011



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Recipe of the Month

Healthy Burrito Pie













From KC Parent Magazine

32 oz dried pinto beans
27 8in wheat tortillas
1 bunch scallions, chopped
4 med. Sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 1-inch cubes
24 oz. Margarita's Amigos brand medium salsa

In a crock pot, combine pinto beans, water and sweet potatoes; cook on low 8 hours or overnight. Mash beans; stir in salsa. In nine round aluminum tins layer ingredients in the following order: 1/2c. Bean mixture, tortilla, 1 c. bean mixture, 1/2c. Cheese, tortilla, 1c. Bean mixture, tortilla, 1/2c. Cheese, scallions. Add lids and freeze.

Cooking instructions: Thaw. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve with sour cream. Yields nine meals.

This column is funded by The Junior Service League of Independence, Missouri

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
Jun			1	2 	3  	4
5	6	7 	8	9	10 	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17  	18
19 Father's Day	20 	21 	22	23	24 	25
26	27	28 	29	30		



Clothes Closet
9a-2p



Food Pantry
9a



First and Third Friday
Training 6:30p—8:30p



See Note
Below



Dental Van

*For Dental Van Appointments:



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 & Food Pantry

MFCAA's Clothing Closet provides clothing, shoes, coats, toys, high chairs, car seats and more, free of charge, to all MFCAA Members. Clothing Closet hours are 9am-2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

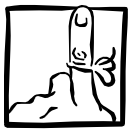
MFCAA's Food Pantry provides basic food items to all Members, and is open Tuesday and Friday at 9am. Call (816) 350-0215 for an appointment.

School Supplies!

We are now collecting School Supplies for the 2011-2012 school year. If you have items for donation please contact Kim at (816) 350-0215 or kim@mfcaa.org. We are looking for backpacks and Trapper Keepers for our middle and high school students.

As always, other supplies are welcome!

We will start sign ups for receiving school supplies in July.



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 Mary 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 paved lot (continue past the training building, and follow the drive as it curves right), then walk to the training building (for more info call 816-350-0215). Childcare is provided during both training sessions, for children ages 3 and older who are potty trained.

ON-SITE TRAINING SCHEDULE:

June 3rd - Art can be Therapeutic! - Kealey Williams, Lifeworks Therapy Group

This summer when you want to find projects and other creative activities to do with your children, you can include some that are therapeutic to teach at home.

June 17th - How the brain is effected in traumatized children - Regina Staves, Ph.D., Avila University

There are known strategies to help heal the brain if done correctly and consistently. Come learn new ways to help your children! Protect and nurture, Address and assess developmental delays, Working as a member of a professional team.

"MFCAA does not discriminate in the provision of service, in employment, or in membership on the agency's governing board on the basis of race, color, national origin, marital status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, or ethnicity."

Save the Date!

Make sure to mark your calendars for these two exciting events.

Annual Gala—August 20th—InterContinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza

8th Annual Conference—November 29 & 30—Westin Crown Center

Silver Dollar City • White Water • Showboat Branson Belle

Silver Dollar city Attractions is again allowing MFCAA families to attend their parks at a major reduced price. Silver Dollar City tickets are \$10.00, White Water is \$10.40 and Showboat Branson Belle is \$20.00 per person plus tax. These tickets can be used anytime except Saturdays or Holidays. Showboat Branson Belle tickets can also not be used on Friday or Saturdays at 4pm or 8pm.

Remember these tickets are only for persons in your household and requests must be submitted no later than 14 days prior to your planned visit. Be prepared with the date you wish to attend, the number of tickets you will need for ages 12 and over and the number of tickets for ages 4-11. We will also need your address and phone number. The name on your reservation form is the ONLY PERSON that may pick up tickets and ID is required.

If you are interested in obtaining these tickets, please contact Lea Ann Reed at 816-350-0215 or leaann@mfcaa.org.



Letter From the Executive Director

2011 Legislative Priorities: Update on Accomplishments

With the skilled assistance of our friends at Patek and Associates, and help from other child welfare advocates at the Partnership for Children and the Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies, this has been a very productive year in terms of legislative advocacy for MFCAA and the foster/adoptive families we serve. The article below outlines our original legislative priorities adopted in the fall of 2010, with updates as to progress as the Missouri legislative session recently concluded. All Bills noted in the updates are truly agreed to and finally passed.

Support the enacting of legislative language to create provisions related to the rights of siblings to be placed together in foster and adoptive care.

Update: DONE- HB 431 and HB 604

Define the Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board in statute.

- This board should serve as a review body for Children's Division policies related to the provision of foster care and adoption services to children and families.
- The board (comprised of foster and adoptive parents from every area of the state of Missouri) should work in partnership with the Children's Division's Central Office to both draft and review policy changes in current foster care and adoption processes.
- This would provide the Children's Division with more "real-time" information and help increase communication between the Children's Division and the foster care community, resulting in better coordination of care for foster children.

Update: DONE- HB 431 and HB 604

Protect funding for foster care maintenance and adoption subsidy for families caring for Missouri's abused and neglected children.

Update: DONE- No negative changes to funding for adoption subsidy and foster care maintenance. Opportunities to improve funding for adoption subsidy and foster care maintenance are currently being pursued. **Stay tuned.**

Protect funding for Adoption Resource Centers.

There are only two of these centers in Missouri: Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association in Kansas City and the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition in St. Louis

Update: DONE- Funding is at the same level as last year, and per CD Director Candace Shively, some increase in funding is possible via Adoption Incentive Federal Award Dollars.

Protect the Privacy of Children in Foster Homes.

Revise the foster home licensing statutes to exclude foster parent's records from those considered open under Missouri's Sunshine Laws, unless opened by an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.

Update: Not Done Yet. This item will remain on our agenda for 2012.

Empower the Office of the Child Advocate.

Add the authority for this office to legally intervene in specific child abuse/neglect actions, when the interests of the children subject to an OCA investigation warrant this type of intervention for the child's protection or best interest.

Update: Partially DONE- SB 54 grants the Office of the Child Advocate the authority to file any findings or reports of the Child Advocate regarding the parent or child with the court and to issue recommendations regarding the disposition of an investigation, which may be provided to the court and the investigating agency

Support the formation of a Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Fund.

Update: DONE, HB 604 and HB 431

Also passed, SB 237, which is a follow up to Guardian Ad Litem improvements we've concentrated on for the past few years. This bill requires Guardian Ad Litem's serving Missouri children to obtain the level of competence outlined in the newly revised Supreme Court Standards for Guardian Ad Litem's.

Lori Riss