



Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association

Providing foster and adopted children the opportunity of a stable, caring, loving and nurturing family environment by recruiting, training, developing, supporting and motivating foster and adoptive parents.

Dear Friends,

This month we've lost a great friend at MFC@AA. As this newsletter shares with you, our faithful food pantry volunteer, Scottie, died rather suddenly and certainly unexpectedly. We are absolutely heartbroken. His presence and his service were a beautiful testament to his character, and he will be greatly missed.

Losing Scottie has caused me to think about the critical role that volunteers have played in the creation of MFC@AA (which is in reality, an organization designed to support the work of parents who 'volunteer' to care for kids who have suffered indescribable trauma and loss: volunteers helping volunteers). It was a group of parent volunteers who sat down together almost twelve years ago to form MFC@AA. Those same parents signed on for an unpaid job, devoting 40 hours per week to the work of creating an agency, for five years with no pay. And along the way, they recruited other amazing volunteers to serve right next to them in whatever ways they saw fit. Volunteers found resources and connected those resources to fostering and adoptive families. Volunteers offered their shoulders to catch the tears of frustrated parents, and their arms to help hold the burdens of hurt kids. They found solutions to problems and they fought for foster and adoptive parents to be recognized as partners in the child welfare team, and won that fight more often than they lost.

Volunteers built the community center that MFC@AA now is for foster and adoptive parents. They continue, daily, even all these years later, to play an integral role in keeping MFC@AA running and providing consistently more in the way of services and support each year.

When I think about the things that make our lives worth living, the things that bring joy, pride, a sense of accomplishment, and peace; I know that those are things that come from providing selfless service to others. Those who reach out, who see beyond themselves to the needs of others and who work

to meet those needs are usually people just like our Scottie. They are people with a sense of purpose. They are people who go through each day with a smile on their faces because they feel good inside about what they've done. And it doesn't matter much to them if other people recognize them for their good works, because they know they are living right. These are the folks, who while they are with us, are angels in our midst.

MFC@AA grieves the loss this month of our angel, Scottie. But we're sure glad we had the opportunity to be part of his gift of life on this earth. And we know that he's up there, somewhere, watching over us, and doing his part to make sure that everybody has enough.

If you would like to volunteer some time, in honor of Scottie's legacy, or just because you want to feel good inside, MFC@AA is always looking for a few good volunteers. Contact Lea Ann at 816-350-0215 to find out more about volunteering opportunities at MFC@AA.

Sincerely,

Lori Ross

Lori Ross

Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We miss you Scottie!



Long time MFCAA volunteer, Carreler Scott (Scottie), pictured on left, died on September 16, 2011. Scottie, who helped out in many ways, was best known for overseeing the food pantry. Twice a week for many years, Scotty could be found at Harvesters picking up MFCAA's food order. He faithfully manned the food pantry each week and helped distribute food at first Fridays' training sessions. According to his wife, Merdis, Scottie enjoyed volunteering his time wherever needed, but he especially liked to help foster parents.

Scottie was well aware of the needs of foster families as he and his wife were licensed foster parents for 25 years. During their years of service, they provided a safe and loving home for 30 children.

Scottie is survived by his wife, his two children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild, along with a legion of friends at MFCAA. His wife described Scottie as a "good husband and a good father." To that, we at MFCAA can add "a good man, dedicated to helping others in need."

We will miss his dedication to our mission and his friendship.

"You gave so much of your precious time to us with so much love. We are going to miss you so so much. Thanks for always being there for all of us. It's great to know that God has you and he has been so proud of you. What a man."

Diana Kupka

"I always thought of Scottie as a gentle giant. He was a tall man but very soft spoken & caring. We will miss him terribly."

Patsy Holt

"You always greeted me with a smile and kindness. I will miss you. Thank you for all the time you volunteered and gave of yourself to help others. We had many conversations together about rabbits and other things. You will be missed by many."

Lorrie Lindell

"I always looked [forward] to seeing Scotty and his friendly smile. Thank you Scottie for giving to others and being a friend!"

Kim Thiel

"Scottie my friend, what can I say. I will miss you but I will see you again. I will miss your smile and your kind heart and will always remember the talks we had. How you encouraged me when I was sick and etc. Sorry I was not there to say Goodbye."

Lillian Garner

2011 Conference November 29 & 30 Westin Crown Center

www.fosteringstrategiesforchange.org



MFCAA Recieves All Children's All Families Seal of Recognition



MFCAA was honored by the Human Rights Campaign on Saturday, August 20th in Kansas City. We're very proud to be the first Missouri agency to achieve this seal of recognition for our work with LGBT foster and adoptive families.

The All Children – All Families (ACAF) initiative seeks to enhance LGBT cultural competence among child welfare professionals and educate LGBT people about opportunities to become foster or adoptive parents to waiting children.

Agency staff work with the HRC Family Project and ACAF Advisory Council members to evaluate

and update their policies as needed, working toward the 10 benchmarks of LGBT competence outlined in the Promising Practices Guide. When an agency achieves each of the 10 benchmarks, they are awarded the ACAF Agency Seal of Recognition.

Parents Night Out!

WHAT: A FREE Respite Care Event, sponsored by MFCAA to help support the foster families in our community and network.

WHEN: Saturday October 15th from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

















WHO: Any and all foster children ages 4+. If interested please RSVP: Nathan Ross via email or telephone at Nathan@mfcaa.org, 816.350.0215.

WHERE: A local gymnastics studio in Blue Springs, Missouri. The Gage Center is a wonderful environment for children of all ages. They have a huge variety of fun physical activities, as well as space to cool down and watch a movie or rest. From trampolines and ball pits, to climbing ropes and a super slide. Please feel free to check them out ahead of time if you would like:

Gage Center, LLC
1101 NW Jefferson.
Blue Springs, MO 64015
Phone: 816.228.7775 or 816.220.7775
www.gagecenter.com

WHY: Here at MFCAA we understand the hardships that foster parents go through. We provide services to enhance the fostering network in our community. On Saturday, October 15th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, we give you the opportunity to bring your foster and adoptive children for a 2 hour respite event. Go out on a romantic date, spend some alone time, or just take the opportunity to slow down and catch your breath. Take a two hour respite, knowing that your children will be in a fun environment with professional staff and volunteers to look after them, knowing that they will have dinner provided, and knowing that they will be getting a healthy physical workout.

FOOD: MFCAA will provide all children attending our event with their choice of pepperoni or cheese pizza. Due to the physicality of our respite event, we ask that during this event attending children only drink water to keep everyone hydrated. We will have all accommodations prepared for the event.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct						1
2	3	4  	5	6  	7	8
9	10	11  	12	13  	14	15 Parents Night Out 6:30pm - 8:30pm
16	17	18  	19	20  	21	22
23	24	25  	26	27  	28	29
30	31					

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 Thursdays.



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



WHEN: Friday, November 18, 2011,
Reception at 1:30 p.m., and
Continuing until 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Jackson County Family Court
Juvenile Justice Center
625 E. 26th Street, Kansas City, Missouri
Courtroom Lobby Area

WHO'S INVITED?:

Adoptive Petitioners (past and present)
Adoptees
Attorneys
Social Workers
Adoption Agencies and anyone else involved in adoptions

Picture Taking Welcomed!!!!!!
There will be small gifts for all adoptees, and refreshments for all who attend.

For More Information, please contact:
Susan Hoysradt at 816-435-4715
Cheryl Waxter at 816-435-4724

MFCAA Members

Christmas Forms & Instructions

Please read this information COMPLETELY before filling out forms.

MFCAA is pleased to invite you to participate in its 2011 Christmas adoption program. We want to assist as many families as possible have a happy holiday season. We hope to be able to provide 3 gifts to each child adopted. As you know, our program is a supplement to the other gifts you give the children in your home.

Please read the eligibility requirements and directions prior to completing your Christmas forms. All documents must be returned by November 1, 2011 in order to participate.

ELIGIBILITY:

FOSTER, ADOPTIVE AND/OR KINSHIP FAMILIES

This program is designed to serve foster/adoptive or court ordered kinship families. Current MFCAA membership forms must be on file in our office to process your requests for Christmas assistance.

FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, KINSHIP AND BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN 18 YRS AND YOUNGER

The children you sign up for this program must be 18 years old or younger and currently living full-time in your home. If you have special needs children requiring your full-time care, and who must live in your house past 18 years old, you may sign them up if they are 21 years old or younger.

CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR OTHER PROGRAMS

If your children qualify for programs such as Red Bag, Corporate Christmas or Cornerstones, they are not eligible for this program. You may still sign up any children who live in your home who are not eligible for any other program.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION POSTCARD APPROXIMATELY 10-15 DAYS AFTER WE RECEIVE YOUR FORM. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THIS POSTCARD, PLEASE CALL US.

Mail forms to: MFCAA/3210 S Lee's Summit Rd/Independence, MO/64055

For questions or to check on a registration form, or to update your information: 816-350-0215

Christmas forms can be completed online at www.mfcaa.org.

Important: Include only your adopted, biological and foster children who are not receiving gifts through other programs (such as the Red Bag Program through Children's Division, or from Cornerstone's of Care).

Definitions:

Family Needs—Household items such as bath towels, dishwasher detergent, mop & broom, etc.

Family Wants—“Fun” items the whole family can enjoy, such as board games, toaster, etc

Children's Sizes—please keep in mind that you are filling this form out a couple of months before the children will receive the gifts. If your child's size is likely to change between now and December, please list the size you expect the child to be in December. Please list “girls”, “boys”, “toddler”, “junior”, “adult”, etc, along with the size

Bedding—if you request bedding, please indicate “twin”, “full”, “queen”, etc, and include the color you prefer

Child's Needs— Necessary items such as socks, underwear, coat, etc

Child's Wants—“Fun” items such as toys, music, games, books, etc

Favorite Character—Examples: princesses, Star Wars, Hannah Montana, GI Joe, NASCAR, favorite sports team

Activities— Fishing, sports, ballet, scrapbooking, piano, drawing, etc

Important—our program is meant to be supplementary and may not fulfill all of the “wants” your children have for Christmas. We ask that donors provide at least 3 gifts per child, but we have no control over how much each donor provides... some will provide everything requested, some will provide additional items, and some will not provide everything requested. If you want your children to receive every item listed, you should be prepared to purchase some of them yourself.

**We will do our best to accommodate all of our members who want to participate in the Christmas program, but we cannot guarantee that families who sign up after Nov. 1st will be matched with donors.

**Donors are assigned randomly, according to the number of people/family type requested by the donor. You will most likely not be paired with the donor this year that you were paired with last year.

FILLING OUT YOUR CHRISTMAS FORM: Please read the instructions carefully. If your forms are not filled out correctly, we cannot guarantee your family will receive any of the items you request. Incomplete forms will be returned to you. Please do not request gifts which cost more than \$30.00.

INSTRUCTIONS:

BE SPECIFIC ON YOUR CHILDREN'S WANTS/ NEEDS (use as much description as possible, 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 (laptops, game systems, iPods, etc) 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: WWW.MFCAA.ORG

WHEN MAILING IN YOUR REGISTRATION INFO, YOU WILL MAIL TWO PAGES: THIS PAGE AND PAGE 10/11 OF THE NEWSLETTER (FRONT/BACK GIFT REQUEST SHEET)

2011 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/or Biological
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Family Needs (Must be less than \$30 each)

Family Needs (Must be less than \$30 each)

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 _____ Toddler Kids Adult Shoe Size _____ Toddler Kids Adult Size

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

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

Favorites: Color:

Character:

Activities:

Child's First Name _____ Gender _____ Age _____

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Activities:



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

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

Recipe of the Month

Baked Apricot Chicken

- 1 1/2-2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup apricot preserves or jam
- 1/2 lemon, juice only, about 2 Tbsp.
- 2 Tbsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce (use wheat/gluten-free if needed)
- 1 tsp. minced garlic, (about 2 cloves)
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard (use wheat/gluten-free if needed)
- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 6 dried apricots, coarsely chopped

• Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lay the chicken flat in an oven-safe dish with sides, just large enough to hold it in a single layer. In a large measuring cup or medium bowl, combine all the remaining ingredients except the dried apricots. Pour the mixture over the chicken. Top it with the apricots.

• Bake the chicken for 20-25 minutes until it is just cooked through (chicken should no longer be pink in the middle of the thickest part), or marinate it in the refrigerator, covered, for up to 24 hours before baking it. Alternatively, you can freeze it for up to 3 months.