

Fostering Communications

Building a Network of People in the Foster Care System

November 2013

Upcoming Conference Information...

**ND Family Based
Service Conference**
March 25-28, 2014
 Fargo, ND

**Children's Justice
Symposium**
July 21-24, 2014
 Bismarck, ND

**ND Foster & Adoptive
Family Conference**
October 3-4, 2014
 Fargo, ND



C • F • S • T • C
**Children and Family
Services Training Center**
Department of Social Work
University of North Dakota

National Adoption Month

President Obama recognized November as National Adoption Month. The Presidential Proclamation began with the following:

“Every young person deserves the chance to learn and grow under the care of a loving family. Across our Nation, adoptive families give that chance to over a million children and teenagers. During National Adoption Month, we celebrate these families and stand alongside every child still looking for the warmth and stability of a permanent home”.

Read the full Proclamation at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/10/31/presidential-proclamation-national-adoption-month-2013>

The North Dakota Heart Gallery is a non-profit organization with a mission to reach out to the public and encourage the adoption of children waiting for permanency. They feature children from throughout the state by showing the children's personality and spirit through photographs, giving potential families a sneak peak of who the child is. In honor of National Adoption Month, we encourage you to preview the gallery and learn more about these incredible children.

<http://www.ndheartgallery.org/>

There are a number of resources available online if you or someone you know is considering adoption. AdoptUSKids offers a number of resources, one being a short video of foster parents sharing their transition from foster care to adoption, including how they made the decision to adopt and why they would chose to adopt again.

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/for-families/how-to-adopt/deciding-to-pursue-adoption>

Additional resources in regards to one deciding to pursue adoption can be found at AdoptUSKids, which offers information in regards to both Foster Care and Adoption.

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/for-families>

Facebook

The Children and Family Services Training Center is excited to share that we can now be found on Facebook. We hope to use social media to keep our current foster families and child welfare workers informed of upcoming trainings, local foster parent support group information, and other pertinent information related to child welfare in ND as well as to connect with families who may be interested in foster parenting. We encourage you to check out of Facebook page in the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Children-and-Family-Services-Training-Center/559713654090936?ref=tn_tnmn



Fostering Communications

Building a Network of People in the Foster Care System

September 2013

ONE....



One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a
friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame a
goal;
One candle can wipe out
darkness;
One laugh can conquer
gloom;
One hope can raise your
spirits;
One touch can show you
care;
One life can make the
difference;
Be that ONE today!!

~Author unknown



C • F • S • T • C
Children and Family
Services Training Center
Department of Social Work
University of North Dakota

CFSTC Hires Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Specialist

The Children and Family Services Training Center is pleased to announce the addition of Lisa Piche to our staff as the new Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment and Retention Specialist. Lisa is currently an Assistant Regional Supervisor in the Northeast Region and has chaired the Northeast Recruitment and Retention Coalition. She will continue in those duties as she assumes her part-time role at the Training Center. Lisa is available to assist the Regional Coalitions and all foster care/adoption agencies in the following ways:

- ◆ Provide assistance and technical support to Regional coalitions in the development of recruitment messages; identifying new and innovative recruitment tools; strategic retention plans; and identifying and expanding relationships with community partners.
- ◆ Collaborate with work groups to develop new and innovative ways of meeting the increasing complex need for foster and adoptive families.
- ◆ Coordinate an annual survey of all North Dakota foster parents. The statewide survey will be focused on recruitment and retention. The information will be used to identify best practices and areas for growth. A summary will be posted for your use. Additionally, Lisa will post examples of customer service surveys for your agency or regional coalition's use. If you have a specific survey tool that you have found useful and would be willing to share with the rest of the state, let Lisa know.
- ◆ Train child welfare professionals at Child Welfare Certification Training as well as other scheduled training opportunities.
- ◆ Serve as a "clearing house" for recruitment and retention resources in the state. As Lisa says, "we are truly our own best source of information!". In the near future, Lisa will have her own page to the CFSTC website, which will list new ideas and tools.
- ◆ Coordinate an annual survey of all North Dakota foster parents. The statewide survey will be focused on recruitment and retention. The information will be used to identify best practices and areas for growth. A summary will be posted for your use. Additionally, she will post examples of customer service surveys for your agency or regional coalition's use. If you have a specific survey tool that you have found useful and would be willing to share with the rest of the state, let Lisa know.

Feel free to contact Lisa by email at lisa.piche@und.edu or by calling her at (701) 741-1865 or the Children and Family Services Training Center at (701) 777-3442.

"I have enjoyed coordinating the recruitment and retention efforts in the Northeast region for over 15 years. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with you across the state and look forward to hearing from you!" ~ Lisa

Survey



The CFSTC would appreciate you taking just a few moments to complete the survey listed below on Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment. The survey results will be utilized for future recruitment efforts across the state. Your input as a current foster parent is very valuable in assessing what works best for recruitment in ND. In future newsletters, we will be asking your input on issues of foster/adoptive parent retention and support. Thank you for participating in these important surveys. Please complete this short survey by November 30th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3H99T96>

Fostering Communications

Building a Network of People in the Foster Care System

September 2013

*“Act as if what
you do makes
a Difference.*

It does”

~William James

PRIDE Link

The PRIDE Model we follow highlights the competency of **“Connecting children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime”**. One way to help connect children to lifelong relationships is to help teach a child how to form a relationship. The article “Building Positive Relationship with Young Children” is written from the perspective of a school teacher. We are all “teachers” to the children we care for or even interact with. This article stresses how having a relationship with a child impacts their behavior and self-esteem. It references that learning how to build a positive relationship when young will have a “ripple effect” into their ability to create life-long relationships. The article also discusses the notion that not all children are “easy” to create relationships with, stating “typically, we have the best relationships with children who respond to us, seemingly like us, and go along with our plans. But as you know, it is more difficult to build positive relationships with some children than with others.” “Yet, the very children we find the most difficult to build relationships with are the ones who need positive relationships with adults the most!” This article could also be a good reference to any professional that might be working with your foster child to help show them how critical their time is with this child.

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/modules/module1/handout5.pdf>

Holiday Planning

Holiday season is approaching quicker than we might like to believe, which can be a very hard time for children to be away from their families. FosterClub does a nice job of reminding us adults, both foster care case managers and foster parents, how to prepare youth in foster care for the holidays. Page 7 of the handout linked below offers 12 concrete ideas of what we can do to help a child through this holiday season.

<http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/community/volunteers/HelpYouthInFC-Holidays.pdf>

Foster Child Attachment & Care

Children whom are placed into foster care often have a harder time learning to trust and attach to foster parents and other supportive adults in their lives. The following link offers “25 Ways to Nurture Hurt Children” along with offers insight through example of why this child is unable to trust and accept the nurturance you offer.

<http://www.adoptivefamilies.com/articles.php?aid=424>

The following link defines attachment, outlines what attachment means for children in foster care, explains how the lack of attachment impacts a child’s behaviors, and offers an understanding of how a relationship can be built through foster care.

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/research_attachment.pdf



C • F • S • T • C

Children and Family
Services Training Center
Department of Social Work
University of North Dakota

Fostering Communications is published by the UND Children and Family Services Training Center under the sponsorship of the Division of Children and Family Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services. It is intended for all foster parents, foster care providers, and child welfare agencies. Comments should be directed to the Training Center.