

F.C.A. Newsletter

Hennepin County Foster Care Association

Summer 2001

Commissioner Open Houses a Success!

"You provide the county with an amazing service"
-Commissioner Penny Steele

The First Step...

Forty-five foster parents, six county commissioners & 3 county staff members have helped to make a very successful start to the reorganization of the F.C.A.

A very warm "thank you" to the families that opened their homes to fellow foster parents and the commissioners. They are: Al & Emma Clark, Paul & Dorothea Harris, Vaughn & Joy Blackburn, Randy & Gail Meyer, Ed & Mary Feigh, Judy Stahl.

The six open houses raised many issues of concern for foster parents. The commissioners were genuinely interested in hearing our stories and pledged to help us in any way they can. They want us to know how much they value our work with the children and they encourage all of us to call their office if we need help with any unresolved issue. **Commissioner Steele expressed their support for us by saying, "You provide the county with an amazing service".** She has been diligently working on our behalf since our meeting in June.

(CONGRATULATIONS) to Paul & Dorothea Harris! They were the lucky winners of the certificate to the Country Inn & Suites drawing in May

The Next Step...

In addition to the County Commissioners, Suzanne Douglas, program manager for Child Protection Services, Becky Richardson, and Dr. Sanders have also worked hard on our behalf. Our next task is to determine which of the 40 + concerns shared at the meetings are addressed by the appropriate people. Are they policy issues that can be addressed internally? Is it a budgeting issue that needs to go before the legislature? Or is it a county issue that the Board of Commissioners can resolve. We are working out the proper channels this summer and will meet with the Board of Commissioners (at their request) in the fall. If you would like a copy of the summary outlining the issues raised at the meetings, call Karen at (763)537-7615.

Support Groups???

The F.C.A. is in the process of exploring any interest in neighborhood support groups. The district open houses were very well received and many expressed interest in getting together monthly. We hope to have 4 groups ready by January. They would be held in area schools with childcare provided. Look for details in the Fall Newsletter.

Warmline...

Foster parenting is often a challenging job and sometimes we need someone to talk with. The Minnesota F.C.A. has a warmline that is available everyday. Call 763-333-2943

DID YOU KNOW....

*Purchases of toys, cribs, and other necessary items for providing foster care is tax deductible

*If you knowingly accept a child who has set fires in the past, and the child burns down your house, that your insurance co. is not obligated to accept the claim for damages
Contact your agent for clarification

*Private foster care agencies like PATH, and others are required to reimburse their foster parents at the same rate as Hennepin County.

*Attending events like the ones on the flyer qualify for training hours

*Grant money is available for State Foster Care Association membership for new members. Just call Karen, (763) 537-7615 and she will sign you up!

Events coming up...

9/16 - F.C.A. day at the St. Paul Children's Museum

9/16 - Walk for the MN. Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Call #651-917-2370

9/29/01 - FREE training paid for by Henn. Cty. "Tools of Understanding and Responding to Troubled Children and Youth" Lunch included. In St. Paul. Call Becky #612-348-5840.

10/05 - Henn. Cty. Banquet

10/20 - F.C.A. Ice Skating