



# Connections



## FOSTER CARE PICNIC MAY 2009

Well, we had a fantastic turn out for the May Foster Care Picnic that was held at Myrick Park. In all 42 children, 15 foster parents and kinship parents, and 12 La Crosse County Human Services staff attended. It seemed like all of the children enjoyed the clowns (Ms. Will B. Silly, Jo King, and Bon Bon) who were face painting and making balloon toys for the kids. We also had something new this year, a sawdust pile filled with coins! The kids not only went home with some sawdust and smiles but also some change in their pockets. Thanks to Rhonda Rude for introducing this new fun activity and for getting the sawdust donated by Northern Wood Products. Since this activity was such a hit, it is likely that we will bring it back for next year.

The children were also able to enter their names in a bucket for a drawing for special prizes this year. Thanks goes out to Lindsay Rozek, director of the YMCA Child Care Center in Onalaska and to Jennifer Berger and Rachel Harris, special project organizers. These women were instrumental in providing these special gifts that were given to all of the children that attended this year's picnic. A very special thanks to all of the families at this child care center that donated these gifts. Additionally, thanks to Michelle Johnston, initial assessment worker who made this connection with this child care center possible. If anyone would like to send their individual thanks, please write to Lindsay, Jennifer, and Rachel at YMCA Child Care Center, 400 Mason Street, Onalaska, WI 54650.

Many of you might have noticed that there were no adult foster care parents and ...

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La Crosse County  
Human Services

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2009



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We cannot live only for ourselves.  
A thousand fibers connect us with  
our fellow men.

*-Herman Melville*

# Mark Your Calendar!

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

### Foster Care Banquet

Thursday, September 24 | Seven Bridges, Onalaska

### Holiday Open House

Thursday, November 19 | Children's Museum, La Crosse

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Riverfest

Wednesday-Sunday, July 1-5 | Riverside Park, La Crosse

Music, rides, shows for adults and kids, and the 4th of July fireworks. Visit [www.riverfestlacrosse.com](http://www.riverfestlacrosse.com).

### Children's Summer Festival

Saturday, July 18 | 9:00am-12:00pm | Myrick Park, La Crosse

Fundraiser for Family Resources with food and activities for families and young children. Visit [www.laxfamilyresources.org](http://www.laxfamilyresources.org).

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### FOUNDATIONS

#### Fall 2009 Session

Saturdays: October 17 | 9:00am-3:30pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium

October 24 | 9:00am-3:30pm

November 7 | 8:30am-4:00pm

November 14 | 8:30am-4:00pm

Trainers are Mike Heal, Suanne Kraft and Richelle Zimmerman. Call Rhonda Rude at (608) 789-4834 to sign up.

### LA CROSSE COUNTY FOSTER PARENT TRAININGS

👉 RSVP for these trainings by calling Rhonda Rude at (608)789-4834. 📞

#### Fostering the Sexually Abused Child

Tuesday, July 14 | 6:00-8:00pm | La Crosse County Administrative Center—basement auditorium

Trainers: Tracy Puent and Richelle Zimmerman



#### Topic TBA

Tuesday, September 8 | 6:00-8:00pm | La Crosse County Administrative Center—basement auditorium

#### Confidentiality Training

Tuesday, September 15 | 6:00-8:30pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium

Presented by Megan DeVore (La Crosse County Corporation Counsel) and Richelle Zimmerman (Alternate Care Unit Social Worker).

#### Everything You've Wanted to Know About CPS Ongoing But Were Too Afraid To Ask

Tuesday, September 22 | 6:00-8:00pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium

Trainers: Michelle Winter and Jenny Schroeder

#### Children with Special Needs Unit II

Thursday, October 22 | 9-11am and 6-8pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium

Trainers: Kristi Herold and Sarah Wagner-Barton

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Topic TBA

*Tuesday, November 10 | 6:00-8:00pm | La Crosse County Administrative Center—basement auditorium*

## Foster Parenting the Juvenile Offender

*Thursday, November 12 | 9-11am and 6-8pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium*

Trainers: Wayde Anger and Jim Fox

## Child Protection Services Initial Assessment

*Tuesday, December 1 | 6:00-8:00pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium*

Trainer: Serena Breining

## COMMUNITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

*REMEMBER...per policy all training hours earned from outside resources must be pre-approved and verifiable (must provide a copy of the training certificate and/or pamphlet or agenda from the training.)*

## Money For Food

*Thursday, June 25 | 6:30-8:00pm | Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay St., La Crosse*

Are food dollars running out before the end of the month? Discover how to "plug" spending leaks and plan inexpensive and healthy meals. Presented by Sheila Harding, La Crosse UW Extension. To register or for more information call 784-8125.

## Independent Living Skills: Practical Skills for Foster/Adoptive Parents

*Tuesday, July 28 | 6:00-9:00pm | Econolodge Inn & Suites, 1815 N. Broadway, Menomonie, WI*

This 3-hour training is designed for foster/adoptive parents to assist foster and adoptive children in developing self reliance which will assist them as they move toward adulthood. The focus will be on teaching the critical skill of decision making, planning, and problem solving to school age children and teens. Learning these necessary skills can begin as early as 18 months. These skills are the foremost necessity in eventually living independently. Even if the child returns home, the current foster home may offer the greatest chance of practicing these skills.

Trainer: Norma Ginther. There is no fee for this training. For more information or to register online visit

<http://www.uwrf.edu/wwpartnership>.

## Supporting Foster Care and Adoption Through Secure Attachments

*Friday, July 31 | 9:00am-4:00pm | Midway Motor Lodge, Rose St., La Crosse*

One-day Child-Parent Attachment Clinic presented by William Whelan, Psy. D. for professionals and foster/adoptive parents. Cost is \$25 for foster parents (lunch is included). For more information or to register online visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/wwpartnership>.

## Partners in Partnership 2009-2010

*October 16-17, December 4-5, January 22-23, March 5-6, & April 23-24 | Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska*

The Parents In Partnership program (PIP) is a five-part leadership opportunity for parents, foster parents, or other care givers who have children 6-14 years old with special needs. Parents will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, support networks, and positive parent-professional partnerships. You will meet with parents, educators, state agency personnel, and other statewide leaders over the course of these five sessions. You will also have time to share your own stories, obtain useful information, and strengthen skills that will enable you to communicate more effectively with educational, medical, and human service providers.

There is NO COST to you (meals and hotel room will be provided). People selected must commit themselves to attend all five sessions. Sessions are facilitated by John Shaw (WI Board for People with Development Disabilities) and Audrey Mouser (parent of a child with a disability). For more information, contact John Shaw at (608) 266-7707. To register, contact Phyllis Voelker by October 2nd at 1-877-844-4925. Registrations are limited to 25 participants and on a first come first serve basis. Visit the website at [www.dpi.state.wi.us/sped/par\\_partn.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/sped/par_partn.html).

## WELCOME NEW FOSTER PARENTS



Please Welcome Dawn Simcakoski and Chuck Castello to the foster care community. Dawn and Chuck live in Holmen with their son. They are hoping to provide ongoing and concurrent care for a child in their home. Dawn and Chuck have already begun their training hours by completing the Pre-Placement training here at La Crosse County Human Services. If you should happen to see them at one of the up and coming trainings or foster care events, please congratulate them on the beginning of another adventure in their life.

## WKBT RECOGNIZES TWO LA CROSSE COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES

Congratulations to **Mike Heal and Suanne Kraft**, who in May received the 2009 Governor's Foster Care Award. Mike and Suanne were two of eleven foster parents from the state of Wisconsin who were recognized for their dedication to foster youth in their care. Read more about Mike and Suanne online at [www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?s=10381561](http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?s=10381561).

Also thanks goes out to **Kelly and Jason Mayer** for their willingness to be interviewed by WKBT for a story featuring National Foster Care Month in May. Kelly and Jason did a great job sharing their experiences as foster and adoptive parents and shedding a positive light on the foster care system. To watch a video or read a transcript of their interview, visit [www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?s=10442083](http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?s=10442083).

## LA CROSSE SCHOOLS OFFER SUMMER MEALS

The La Crosse School District again will offer FREE breakfast and lunch this summer for children 18 and younger. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8:30am and lunch from 11:30am to 12:30pm each weekday.

Meal locations are:

- June 15 to August 14 at Logan High School (1500 Ranger Drive), YMCA (1400 Main St.), and Spence Elementary School (2150 Bennett St.)
- Lunch available June 15 to August 14 at Hamilton Elementary School (1111 S. 7th St.); Breakfast also available July 7 to 31
- July 7 to 31 at Summit Elementary School (1800 Lakeshore Drive), North Woods International School (N2541 Sablewood Rd.), Southern Bluffs Elementary School (4010 Sunnyside Dr.), and Franklin Elementary School (1611 Kane St.)
- Lunch only July 7 to 31 at Lincoln Middle School (510 S. 9th St.)

For more information, contact the La Crosse School District nutrition office at (608) 789-7625.

# REDUCING THE RISK OF SIDS



## What is SIDS?

SIDS stands for sudden infant death syndrome. This term describes the sudden, unexplained death of an infant younger than 1 year of age. SIDS is the leading cause of death for infants between 1 month and 12 months of age, and is most common in infants that are 2-4 months old. Some people call SIDS "crib death"

because many babies who die of SIDS are found in their cribs. But, cribs don't cause SIDS. SIDS is also not caused by immunizations, vomiting or choking. Because we don't know what causes SIDS, safe sleep practices should be used to reduce the risk of SIDS in every infant under the age of 1.

## What can I do:

Follow these guidelines to help protect the infants in your care:

1. **Always place your baby on his or her back to sleep, for naps and at night.** The back sleep position is the safest, and every sleep time counts.
2. **Place your baby on a firm sleep surface, such as on a safety-approved crib mattress, covered by a fitted sheet.** Never place your baby to sleep on pillows, quilts, sheepskins, or other soft surfaces.
3. **Keep soft objects, toys, and loose bedding out of your baby's sleep area.** Don't use pillows, blankets, quilts, sheepskins, and pillow-like crib bumpers in your baby's sleep area, and keep any other items away from your baby's face.
4. **Do not allow smoking around your baby.** Don't smoke before or after the birth of your baby, and don't let others smoke around your baby.
5. **Keep your baby's sleep area close to, but separate from, where you and others sleep.** Your baby should not sleep in a bed or on a couch or armchair with adults or other children, but he or she can sleep in the same room as you.
6. **Think about using a clean, dry pacifier when placing the infant down to sleep,** but don't force the baby to take it.
7. **Do not let your baby overheat during sleep.** Dress your baby in light sleep clothing, and keep the room at a temperature that is comfortable for an adult.
8. **Avoid products that claim to reduce the risk of SIDS** because most have not been tested for effectiveness or safety.
9. **Do not use home monitors to reduce the risk of SIDS.** If you have questions about using monitors for other conditions talk to your health care provider.
10. **Reduce the chance that flat spots will develop on your baby's head:** provide "Tummy Time" when your baby is awake and someone is watching; change the direction that your baby lies in the crib from one week to the next; and avoid too much time in car seats, carriers, and bouncers.

## Did You Know...

- About one in five sudden infant syndrome (SIDS) deaths occur while an infant is being cared for by someone other than a parent. Many of these deaths occur when infants who are used to sleeping on their backs at home are then placed to sleep on their tummies by another caregiver. We call this "unaccustomed tummy sleeping."
- Unaccustomed tummy sleeping increases the risk of SIDS. Babies who are used to sleeping on their backs and placed to sleep on their tummies are 18 times more likely to die from SIDS.



Face up to wake up – healthy babies sleep safest on their backs.



Do not place pillows, quilts, toys, or anything in the crib.



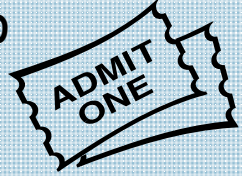
If a light blanket is needed, tuck all sides along bottom half of crib, below baby's arms.



Supervised tummy time during play is important to baby's healthy development.

## TAKE THE FAMILY SKATING THIS SUMMER!

High Roller Skating Center has graciously donated over 100 coupons to La Crosse County Foster Families! Each coupon is good for 6 free admissions to High Roller. Coupons are valid June through August 2009.



We're happy to mail you as many coupons as your family can use this summer (while supplies last). To request coupons call or email Sharon McHugh, 785-6056, [mchugh.sharon@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:mchugh.sharon@co.la-crosse.wi.us).

## SOMETHING NEW IN 2009 FROM THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SECTION: RELATIVE INITIATIVE PROGRAM

The 2009 Relative Initiative Program is underway! Lila Barlow and Nissa Knutson are the two CPS on-going social workers that are dedicated to this initiative and are called the Relative Outreach Social Workers. This initiative came about after many months of discussion on how to increase relative involvement and support for the families involved in the CPS system. Research indicates that children have more positive outcomes when they can remain with family for multiple reasons. Placement with relatives keeps children connected to their family culture. Children living with relatives live in more stable situations than if they enter the foster care system. Children living with relatives also display fewer behavioral issues than children in non-relative care. Children living with relatives do not struggle with loyalty issues in the same way as children in foster care because their parent isn't being replaced by a "new parent." Permanency can also be reached in a more-timely manner when children are placed within their natural family systems. A well-written article on relative care or kinship care, and why

this is important in the lives of children with whom we work can be found at the following link:

[http://clasp.org/publications/is\\_kinship\\_care\\_good.pdf](http://clasp.org/publications/is_kinship_care_good.pdf).

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act that President Bush signed on October 7, 2008 also reinforced the need La Crosse County's Family and Children's Department saw for implementing this initiative. It is hoped that this act will improve outcomes for children placed outside of the parental home. One specific aspect of the act requires that notice be given to all relatives within 30 days from the date of removal when their relative children are removed from a parent's care. This will increase the likelihood that relatives will step in and families can help take care of their own. A summary of the act can be found at the following link:

<http://www.clasp.org/publications/FINAL-FCSAIAAct1-pager.pdf>.

Please take time to review this to learn more about this important change.

Our local initiative includes four specific components: 1) Relative Identification and Search, 2) Relative Assessment for Placement and/or Permanency, 3) Relative Support and Education, and 4) Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. It is very likely that as foster parents you will be hearing about the Relative Outreach Social Workers' efforts on cases for children in your care. In addition to the four components, trainings are being developed for relatives providing care and the specific issues they face. In addition to trainings specific for relative caregivers, the Relative Initiative is also partnering with the Alternate Care Unit to include relatives in the trainings offered to foster providers.

This is an innovative approach to working with whole family systems and the opportunity to promote positive change within families is something of which the whole Family and Children's community should be proud. Please welcome all of the relative caregivers to our community when you see them at trainings and other functions.

# TENTH YEAR OF ALTERNATE CARE UNIT (REVISITED)



Some of you may remember the March 2009 edition of *Connections* in which I mentioned that this year is the Ten Year Anniversary of the beginning of the Alternate Care Unit. Looking back to the year 1999, I reviewed a list of names of foster parents that were initially licensed in that year. Some of you may remember these individuals; Vickie and Mark Wagner, Teri and Dick Roberts, Sue Daily, Lynne Proksch, William Ross, Denise and Brian Green, Mike and Carol Patterson, and Teri and Jeff Herrewig. All of these people noted above touched the lives of several children and provided help to multiple families in our community. In 2009, Teri and Dick Roberts, Denise and Brian Green, and Teri and Jeff Herrewig remained licensed with this agency continuing their work with children and families that are in need in La Crosse County.

Also looking back to the year 1999, I reviewed the monthly Basic Maintenance Rate that the State of Wisconsin paid to child foster care providers. I also reviewed the Initial Clothing Allowance Rate that Wisconsin established for a one time payment to child foster care providers when they initially received children into their home. I compared them to the rates that child foster care providers are receiving today in the year 2009. They are as noted below:

	Basic Maintenance Rate		Clothing Allowance	
	<u>1999</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2009</u>
Age 0-4	\$299.00	\$349.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Age 5-11	\$326.00	\$381.00	\$175.00	\$175.00
Age 12-14	\$371.00	\$433.00	\$175.00	\$175.00
Age 15-18	\$387.00	\$452.00	\$200.00	\$200.00

Also in 1999, the Alternate Care Unit created a formal Respite Care Program and a policy that governed the provision and use of respite care by foster parents for the children that were placed in their home. The creation of this program guaranteed that all foster parents would receive at least one respite day a month for the children in their home. The respite rates and amount of days that a foster parent accrued each month was based on the Supplemental Rate that was established within the first 30 days of a child being placed in the foster home. This program continues to operate in much the same way in 2009, however the rates have been raised slightly and the amount of days accrued is somewhat higher for children with very intense behavioral and emotional needs. Our respite program has also expanded to licensing homes specifically for Respite Only which provides expanded services to the regular licensed La Crosse County child foster homes. Many people have also used this respite program as a step into becoming licensed as ongoing child foster parents. The Alternate Care Unit encourages our currently licensed child foster care providers to ask their informal supports within their friends and extended family to consider becoming licensed respite providers.

Lastly, I encourage our readers to send in their comments on the changes that they have seen over the last ten years within the La Crosse County Foster Care Program. You can e mail me at [herber.will@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:herber.will@co.la-crosse.wi.us) or call me at (608) 785-6448.



*(Foster Care Picnic...continued from front page)*

the adults that they care for attending the picnic this year. Since the separation of the CMO from La Crosse County, the adult foster care program decided to sponsor its own picnic and will no longer have a joint picnic with us. This year however, we invited relative caregiver parents (kinship providers) and their children to the picnic. The numbers of relative caregiver families is on the rise due to a special initiative project in La Crosse County that has been created in response to up and coming legislation on the Federal and State levels. We were happy to see that some Kinship providers and their children attended the picnic this year.

An additional note: we would like to express our appreciation to Quillin's of La Crosse for providing the hot dogs and hamburger and hot dog buns at a discounted price for our picnic. The lower price helped us stretch our dollars for the picnic. Thank you Quillin's! Some of you may be interested to know that the BBQ was prepared and delivered by Sheila and Wayne Mueller and McDonald's of La Crosse loaned us the large cooler with orange drink for a very small fee. As usual, **thanks to all of you** who brought potluck food to supplement the meal. The picnic would truly not be a picnic without all of your contributions. Thanks again for making this picnic a very special time for the children in your care.



# fostering perspectives

Sponsored by the NC Division of Social Services and the NC Family and Children's Resource Program

Vol. 11, No. 2 • May 2007

## Helping Your Birth Children and Other Children Get Along

by Mellicent Blythe

Little research has been done on interactions between birth children and children placed in foster care. Yet as any foster parent will attest, smoothly integrating children in foster care into a family's life is crucial for the well-being of everyone in the home.

It is also crucial for retaining foster parents. If conflict develops among children in a home, it could easily tip the scales for overwhelmed foster parents. Not only is the placement more likely to fail, but the family could potentially be lost as a safe haven for future children (Rhodes, et al. 2003).

One study, however, has just been published which considers the interactions of birth children, foster parents, and children in care (Denuwelaere & Bracke, 2007). The findings offer interesting

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considerations for foster parents striving to create a supportive and cohesive family for all the children in their home. Here is some of what the study found and possible implications:

- Kids in care and birth children had the same overall levels of self-worth and perceived the same amount of support from foster parents, each other, and their friends. This suggests many foster parents are already doing a good job creating an equitable atmosphere of support both within and outside of the family.
- Children in care described their foster parents as an important source of support, which confirms what other studies have found – that many children in care have positive views of their foster parents and of their placements.
- The support children in care received from their foster parents had a significant impact on their self-esteem. Taken together, these findings might offer some reinforcement for foster parents who may not hear thanks or acknowledgment of the help they've provided directly from children in their care.
- The level of support provided by foster fathers had the strongest influence on the child's self-esteem. The authors suggest this may be because the majority of children in care came from single-mother families, and the foster father may be the first father figure they've had. Another study (Gilligan, 2000) found that foster fathers are more often the ones to provide access to hobbies and outside activities, which can boost a child's sense of self-worth and confidence.
- Interestingly, the level of support that birth children received from their parents did not influence their self-esteem. The authors say this might be because birth children on some level **expect** to receive support from their parents. For many children in care, however, it is a new and unexpected experience to have a supportive parental figure.
- As for relationships between the two groups of children, they received more support from each other when they were the same age. If they were of different ages, the younger child received more support from the older child, regardless of which was birth and which was in foster care.
- Children in care in this study showed more withdrawal, aggression, and delinquent behavior than the birth children. This is probably not surprising, considering the maltreatment they have experienced. It certainly reinforces the challenges faced by foster parents who want to welcome children into their family, but also prevent their birth children from adopting the behaviors of a potential peer or role-model.
- Children in foster care and foster parents reported having more conflict with each other than did parents and birth children. The level of this conflict was directly related both to the child in care's feeling of **self-worth** and to his or her level of **behavioral problems**. In other words, the less they fought with the foster parents, the better their behavior and the better they felt about themselves and their abilities. This reinforces the importance of outside support to help foster families manage problematic behaviors and reduce conflict.

Mellicent Blythe is an Educational Specialist with the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work.

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## FOSTER CARE FACTS

Congratulations goes out to **Jennie Olson!** She is the May winner of the Foster Care Facts Quiz. Jennie correctly answered all ten questions and submitted them to me before the end of May. Her entry was drawn from the box by Rhonda Rude, social service specialist. Thank you for your help Rhonda!

Below is the **June** edition of Foster Care Facts:

1. As of January 2009, how many hours of training per calendar year are required of foster homes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to foster care licensing code, how often does the licensee have to "review the fire safety evacuation plan with all household members?" \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name at least two of the three clowns that were present at the Foster Care Picnic in May.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is currently the foster care consultant for La Crosse County's child foster care program?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Foster children over the age of 10 may be restricted to an unlocked room or area of the home for up to \_\_\_\_\_ for any episode of misbehavior.
6. Form CFS-872B is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What 2 ½ hour training, that is required of all licensed foster parents, is offered at least once a year and presented by a social worker and Megan Devore, Corporation Counsel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who is currently the supervisor of the Family Services Unit III within the Family and Children's Section of La Crosse County Human Services? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the monthly Basic Maintenance Rate for children ages 5 - 11 years in the year 1999?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Listed under the Web Resources tab on our Foster Care Web Site, what is the name of the national magazine "written for and about young people in the foster care system"?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Simply answer all of the ten questions and submit them to Will Herber. Each person that correctly answers all ten questions will have their name put into a box for a drawing at the end of the month. One name will be drawn from the box. Please, only one submission per person. Send your answers to Will Herber at 300 4<sup>th</sup> Street North P.O. Box 4002 La Crosse, WI 54602-4002 or email at [herber.will@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:herber.will@co.la-crosse.wi.us). The prize will be a gift certificate for a local restaurant or other family activity business in the area.



# Kids' Stuff

"Connect the dots and the picture might CATCH you by surprise!"



"Draw a line through the maze, making sure you touch each base, to find your way back home!"



Don't forget to touch each base!

**CELEBRATE  
DAD ON  
JUNE 21ST !**

*Happy  
Father's  
Day!*

# Connections



LA CROSSE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

300 4TH SREET NORTH  
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN 54601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Pass the word on!

Do you know anyone who's interested in being a foster parent? Orientation sessions for those who'd like to learn more about the program are held the first Monday of every month from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Those interested in attending should call Rhonda Rude at 789-4834 to sign up.

## Is there anything you'd like to contribute to our newsletter?

Please send your ideas, comments, or suggestions to:

Attn: Sharon McHugh  
La Crosse County Human Services  
300 N. 4th St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
mchugh.sharon@co.la-crosse.wi.us  
(608) 785-6056



Foster Care & Adoption  
Resource Center

Looking for information on foster care or adoption? The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center provides the following services:

- Resource lending library
- Links to training opportunities and resources
- *Fostering Across Wisconsin* quarterly newsletter

Visit their webpage at [www.wifostercareandadoption.org](http://www.wifostercareandadoption.org) or contact them at their toll free number I-800-947-8074 .