



Connections



MAY

THE COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

As you're out and about this month you may notice some efforts being made at promoting La Crosse County's Foster Care program in our community.

Several local businesses have agreed to include a message about foster care month on their electronic outdoor reader boards. Information about La Crosse County Foster Care will also be on display in a kiosk at Valley View Mall.

In an effort to further promote awareness of La Crosse County's Foster Care program 10,000 "Everyday Hero" placemats have been distributed to local restaurants for use during National Foster Care Month.

Congratulations to Celia Kemp, whose design (shown here) was chosen to be featured on the front of the placemats. Thank you to all the other young artists who also submitted some wonderful drawings! Placemats can be seen at the following locations (while supplies last!):

- Features (Holmen and West Salem)
- Happy Joe's (Division St., La Crosse)
- Perkins (Rose St., La Crosse)
- Pizza Corral (Holmen)
- Pizza Hut (Rose St. and Ward Ave., La Crosse)
- Schmidty's (State Rd., La Crosse)
- Wendy's (Mormon Coulee Rd., La Crosse and Hwy 16, Onalaska)

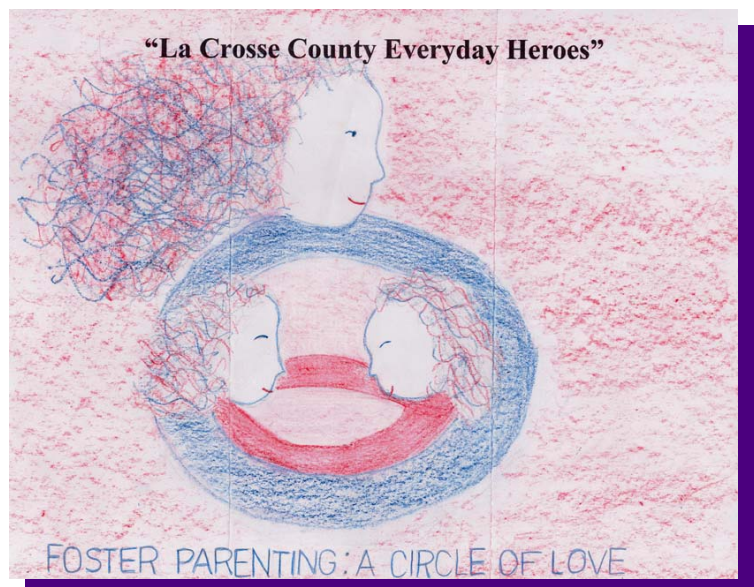
La Crosse County
Human Services

Volume 11, Issue 5
2009



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Mark Your Calendar!

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

Foster Care Picnic

Thursday, May 28, 5:00-7:00pm

Myrick Park (big shelter), La Crosse

Don't forget to RSVP for this year's potluck picnic! Main dish and a beverage are provided, please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The clown will be there from 6:00-7:00pm!!!

Foster Care Banquet

Thursday, September 24

Seven Bridges, Onalaska

Holiday Open House

Thursday, November 19

Children's Museum, La Crosse

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Onalaska Sunfish Days

Thursday-Sunday, May 21-24 | Onalaska

Ball tournaments, fireworks, kids' fishing tourney, food, music and fun. Visit www.onalaskasunfishdays.com.

June Dairy Days

Friday-Sunday, June 5-7 | Village Park, West Salem

Softball tournaments, fun run, clowns, craft fair, fireworks, Big Wheel races, parade, music and food. Visit www.junedairydays.com.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FOUNDATIONS FALL 2009

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 ONGOING FOSTER PARENT TRAININGS

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

July 14 Topic to be announced.

September 8 Topic to be announced.

November 10 Topic to be announced.

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

New in 2009!

In addition to the above trainings, La Crosse County Human Services will also be offering a series of in-house trainings in 2009 featuring the different units within the Family & Children's Section. Social workers from each unit will be presenting information about their roles, the work they do, and the services they provide. Mark your calendar for these training dates and look for more details in an upcoming newsletter.

Child Protective Services Ongoing, Trainers: Michelle Winter and Jenny Schroeder

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

Children with Special Needs Unit II, Trainers: Kristi Herold and Sarah Wagner-Barton

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

Delinquency, Trainers: Wayde Anger and Jim Fox

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

Child Protection Services Initial Assessment, Trainer: Serena Breining

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

Mark Your Calendar!

CONFIDENTIALITY TRAINING

Tuesday, September 15 | 6:00-8:30pm | La Crosse County Human Services building—basement auditorium
Presented by Megan DeVore and Richelle Zimmerman.

Infant Massage for Parents, Babies and Expectant Parents

Tuesdays, May 19-June 27 | 5:30-6:30pm | Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay St., La Crosse
Infant massage promotes bonding between parents and babies and can calm babies with colic or relieve discomfort for babies with constipation or reflux. To register contact Lois at 784-8125.

Discipline, Rewards and Punishment

Saturday, May 30 | 10:00-11:30am | Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay St., La Crosse
Gain a better understanding of the meaning and purpose of discipline, rewards, punishment and ways to help children learn appropriate behavior. Presented by Ewell Bryant, Family Resources Parent Educator. To register or for more information call 784-8125.

Solving the Puzzle: Family Guided Sexuality Education

Thursday, June 4 | 6:30-8:00pm | Family Resources, 1500 Green Bay St., La Crosse
Sexuality education begins at birth, at home, within the family and also for many children, at daycare. Join us for a discussion about family guided sexuality education. Presented by Karolee Behringer of Options Clinic. To register or for more information call 784-8125.

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.

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). Register online at www.uwrf.edu/wwpartnership/onlineregform.htm. (If you cannot register online, please call your social worker and ask them to do so.)

Topics include:

- Patterns of children's attachments to their caregivers; the best supported theory and model of normal development
- The Circle of Security as a Map of development and treatment
- Low-risk versus high-risk patterns of attachment-caregiving
- Emotional scaffolding, affect regulation, and the growth of self-control
- Helping children heal from the effects of prior maltreatment and losses
- Identifying attachment-caregiving needs for each child (i.e. developing evidence-based individualized treatment plans and case management plans)
- Coaching caregivers to read their children's complex pattern of cues and miscues, and pull the child into a healing relationship dance
- Best Practices: the use of scientifically developed methods and tools for ongoing assessment and outcome measurement



WELCOME NEW FOSTER PARENTS



Please welcome Magen Duffy and Anthony Schniepp to the foster parent community. Magen and Tony live on the south side of La Crosse with their two children. They also have two very friendly dogs and a cat that loves to be the center of attention. This family comes to foster care with the intention of providing care to a specific child. Magen works as a post-adoption resource specialist for Catholic Charities of La Crosse. They are already busy working with this department's permanency plan for a child and learning about the different aspects of family interaction time. The couple has already attended the Pre-Placement training offered by this agency and will likely be attending the Foundations training in the future. When you see them at one of the foster care events or trainings please welcome them to foster care.

Please welcome Donna and Wayne Dolan to our foster care community. The couple lives in Rockland with their great niece. They have recently "empty nested" four children into the adult world, one very recently heading off to post secondary school to gain his CDL for truck driving. Wayne and Donna have cared for their great niece for many years and are familiar with kinship and guardianship aspects of this agency. While some distance away from La Crosse, the parents indicate that they are very willing to transport children for the needs of the permanency plan. They are looking forward to caring for children of any age. It is likely that they would enjoy providing respite care as they begin in foster care. They have already attended the required foster care training. If you should meet them at the foster care picnic on May 28th, please welcome them.

Please welcome Kelly and Troy Wing to the foster care community. The couple lives on the north side of La Crosse with their two children. They have been licensed specific to a relative child that they have cared for since the child's birth. It is their hope to adopt this child in the future. The Wings have also expressed a desire to remain as foster parents with this agency for future placement of children in their home. Kelly and Troy have completed the Foundations training and the Pre-Placement training that is required of all newly licensed foster parents. The couple is already familiar with family interaction time and working with multiple team members towards a permanency goal for a child. If you should happen to meet them at one of the up-and-coming foster care events or other trainings please welcome them to this community of Everyday Heroes.

Please welcome Carol and Dan Kalmes back to the world of foster care. The couple lives in Onalaska with their daughter. They have been licensed with our agency in the past and have cared for several children. They come back to foster care after three of their four children have become adults and left the home for employment and continuing education. Both parents indicate that they are looking forward to caring for younger children again and providing help to children and families in need. Their daughter is particularly excited about becoming a foster family because she looks forward to helping little kids. The Kalmes return to foster care bringing with them their past experience and wisdom of foster care. If you should see them at a future training or foster care event, please welcome them back to the foster care community.

fostering perspectives

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

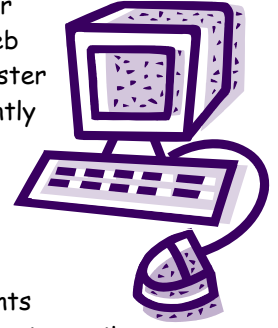
"I really believe I would not have lasted seventeen years as a foster parent if it wasn't for a strong sense of humor. If you are a seasoned foster parent you know this is true. If I didn't have a light heart at times, I would have cried endlessly at the injustices afflicting our communities' children. We see first hand the heartache of our children and of their families. We, who work as foster parents and front-line workers, are a different breed. We sign up to help suffering children and families. We sign up to be in the middle of a family's crisis. Neglect, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, physical/emotional abuse, and homelessness are only a few of the things we see firsthand. We don't read it in the newspaper or view it on the television. We hold the victims in our arms as we try to comfort them. And that is what we offer, safety and comfort."

By Donna Foster, retired foster parent.

From "Tribute to foster parents", November 2001, Fostering Perspectives, Vol. 6 No. 1

LA CROSSE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES FOSTER CARE WEB SITE

It is finally here! Just in time for Foster Parent Recognition Month we are re-launching the foster care web site with many additions. As we talked about in last month's Connections, we hope this web site serves two purposes. One purpose is to promote awareness of foster care and recruit new foster parents in La Crosse County and a second purpose is to provide ongoing support to all of you currently licensed child foster parents.



The web address is: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/HumanServices/FC/docs/fostercare

Please take the time to explore the new and improved web site. We would appreciate your comments regarding the information that you find on this site. Please send your comments to Sharon McHugh via email (mchugh.sharon@co.la-crosse.wi.us), phone (785-6056), or mail (Sharon McHugh, La Crosse County Human Services, 300 4th St. N., La Crosse, WI 54601). We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for all that you do for the children and families that are in need in our community.

CHILD TRAUMA

La Crosse County Child Protective Services has been chosen as one of eight counties in Wisconsin to develop a trauma informed/responsive system of care for children exposed to serious trauma. The team assembled within our CPS system will meet weekly to meet the objectives of the Wisconsin Trauma-Informed Systems Project. During the process information will be shared with foster families and community services. The team has attended a two-day advanced training with Dr. Bruce Perry. At this time we would like to invite you to take a look at some of Dr. Perry's thoughts and his work with children who have experienced maltreatment during their early childhood years. You can go on-line to www.childtrauma.org to view information presented by The Child Trauma Academy. We would also recommend that all foster parents read Dr. Perry's book, *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*. We will have two copies here at our lending library that may be checked out for two weeks per home. The book is also available at the library.

Here is some basic information about the Child Trauma academy...

Program History:

The Child Trauma Academy is a unique organization dedicated to helping understand and serve high-risk children. Founded in 1990 by Dr. Perry as the Center for the Study of Childhood Trauma, the original partner in this unique "institute without walls" was St. Joseph Carondelet Children's Center, a not-for-profit agency in Chicago, Illinois serving abused and neglected children. In 1992, the Center became the Child Trauma Programs and moved to Houston when Dr. Perry became Chief of Psychiatry at Texas Children's Hospital at Baylor College of Medicine. The Child Trauma Programs functioned as a component of the Psychiatry Service at Texas Children's Hospital affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. In 1994 CIVITAS Initiative, a Chicago-based communications foundation, became a primary funding partner and from 1995 to 1998 the Child Trauma Programs became the CIVITAS Child Trauma Programs, a partnership between the three primary institutions supporting its work, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital and CIVITAS Initiative.

In 1998, in recognition of a shift in our focus to interdisciplinary educational activities (e.g., judges, caseworkers, psychologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists, foster parents, educators, early childhood specialists) we became the Child Trauma Academy. With a number of innovative public and private partnerships and programs, our work - while still focused on maltreated children - became increasingly focused on non-medical models of care and cross-agency collaborations. Our work was beginning to impact policy on a state and national basis and our research projects became increasingly focused on clinical and systemic outcomes. By 2000 our primary partners came from the public-private partnerships we had created to implement our innovative programs, specifically the State of Texas via the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) and a visionary corporation, Digital Consulting and Software Services (DCSS).

FOSTER CARE FACTS

In this month's Connections, we are introducing the "Foster Care Facts" quiz and contest. It is my hope that this featured article will promote continued interest in the Connections newsletter and the new web site for La Crosse County Alternate Care providers. There will be a ten question quiz about general foster care facts that all of you will have a chance to complete and submit for a chance at a prize. The prize will be a gift certificate for a local restaurant or other family activity business in the area.

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 4th Street North P.O. Box 4002 La Crosse, WI 54602-4002 or email at herber.will@co.la-crosse.wi.us. If the contest is well received this month, we will definitely continue running the contest on a monthly basis.

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

1. Which month is the national recognition month for foster care?

2. In what year was the Alternate Care Unit first created at La Crosse County Human Services?

3. Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter HFS 56 has been changed to DCF 56. What do the letters DCF stand for? _____
4. La Crosse County contracts with Family and Children's Center of La Crosse to provide independent living education to teens in foster care. Who is currently the Youth Development Specialist responsible for this program? _____
5. Where is this year's (November 19th, 2009) Holiday Open House being held?

6. In what policy for La Crosse County foster parents does it indicate "Floors, tables, counter and stove tops must be clean and free of food or soiled dishes or pots and pans"?

7. What federal act requires all child care providers to be fingerprinted?

8. What form should a foster parent use to report "any physical or emotional harm that may have occurred to a foster child placed in" their care? _____
9. At what age is a child eligible to operate hazardous machinery with the consent of parents, foster parents, and the supervising agency? _____
10. How many dental examinations and cleanings do foster parents have to make sure children under the age of 13 have each year? _____



SPONGE-PRINT BOUQUET

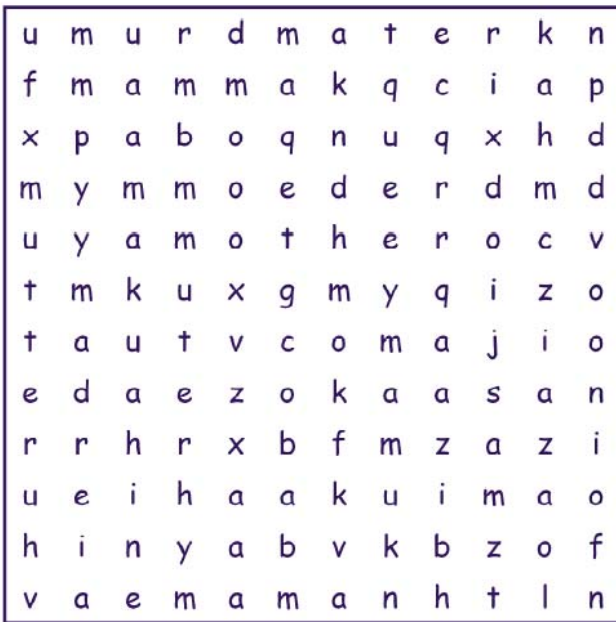
Materials needed:

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Paint
- Paint brush
- Newspaper
- Container of water
- Sponges



MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Can you find the word "mother" in all these different languages?



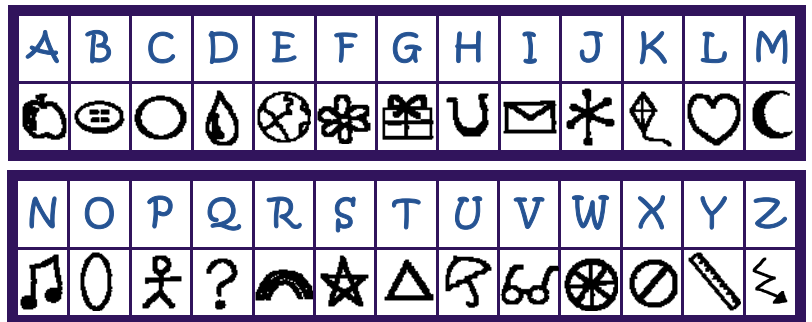
Instructions:

1. On a large piece of construction paper draw a flower vase with crayons or markers. Draw flower stems coming out of the vase and add leaves to the stems if you like.
2. Cover the craft area with newspaper. Lightly moisten a clean sponge.
3. Brush some paint on the sponge with a paintbrush.
4. Dab the paint-covered sponge on the paper at the end of the stems to make flowers.
5. Make different shapes of flowers. Rinse and wring out the sponge when you change paint colors. Fill the vase with colorful blooms! You could even paint the vase. Air dry flat.

SECRET MESSAGE

Use the code to solve the message below.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Moeder (Afrikaans) | Maji (Hindi) |
| Ahm (Arabic) | Mamma (Italian) |
| Mother (English) | Okaasan (Japanese) |
| Maman (French) | Mater (Latin) |
| Mutter (German) | Haakui (Maori) |
| Makuahine (Hawaiian) | Madre (Spanish) |
| | Mzazi (Swahili) |
| | Muter (Yiddish) |



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 or contact them at their toll free number I-800-947-8074 .