



YA Foster Care

News and Notes

Youth Alternatives

Volume 4 Issue 3



September/October 2007

Upcoming Training and Conference:

Annual FFTA Conference:
October 19th and 20th:
This conference focuses on "The Caregiver's Journey." Hours are from 8:30-4:30 on Friday and 8:30-12:30 on Saturday. This conference includes meals and counts for ten contact hours. It is being held at the Holiday Inn West in Portland.

At lunchtime there will be a "Rejuvenation Room" including massage, chocolate fountain, aroma therapy, music and paraffin dip for hands. The cost of the conference is \$50 per person or \$75 per couple. YA will reimburse you... save your receipts! Please contact Sarah MacLaughlin at 523-5038 FMI or to request registration info.

YA's All Agency Day:
October 31st from 8:30-3:00 at the Italian Heritage Center. Contact your case manager FMI.

Home Improvement:

If you are working on a DIY project you may want to check out the following resources:

- ◆ Maine Housing and Building Materials Exchange. For low-income families. Visit them on the web at www.mainebme.org. They are located in Lisbon and Sanford.
- ◆ Habitat For Humanity ReStore with locations in Bath, Lewiston, Camden and Portland. They sell donated building materials.

New Dental Office in Sanford:

Children's Dentistry of Sanford has been recommended by a fellow foster parent. They are reported to be VERY child friendly and they take MaineCare. Mark and Megan Lucier are the dentists' names. Their number is 324-0026.

Save The Date!!!

Please reserve Tuesday November 13th for All Foster Parent Day. It will be held here at YA from 8:30-3:00. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Mediation:

Struggling with a transition in your home? Having difficulty communicating with a family member? Brainstorming new approaches can facilitate new views and make all the difference.

Mediation Services are now available to all YA Foster Families. Why not take advantage of this free support service?

Contact Deb Bopsie @ 523-5028 with questions, or contact your case manager. If you are ready for a referral for these services, call Liz Bailey at 523-5027.

YA All Stars

The Annual YA Funtown Party was enjoyed by many.



Back To School!
Have a great year everyone.

Useful Websites:

Child Welfare Training Institute: www.cwti.org

Consumer Product Safety Commission hazardous toy recalls: www.tinyurl.com/5au7q

Infant and Child product recalls (non-toy items): www.tinyurl.com/3fsv5

Foster Parent Support Group

One of our foster parents, Robbie Howard has kindly initiated a foster parent support group. It will be held at the school she runs in Poland. The first meeting will be Friday, October 19th from 6:00-8:00 PM.

It will start with a pot-luck dinner, so please bring a dish to share. Please bring your children along as there is space and games for play.

Please call Robbie on her cell phone (207-713-8518) for directions to the school:

Poland Spring Academy
14 Hope Springs
Poland, ME 04274

If you know how to get there, RSVP's are not necessary.

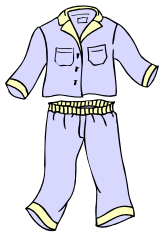
Hall of Flags



"A celebration of adoption."

This event will be held on Tuesday, November 13th from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Unfortunately this conflicts with our planned All Foster Parent Day, but perhaps you know someone who would like to attend this celebration at the State House in Augusta. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested.

Foster Parent Clothing Swap



Be aware that some thoughtful foster parents have organized a clothes-swap here at YA. The clothes are in the basement of The Family Center. Check it out at All Foster Parent Day if you don't before then.

Ingraham-YA Merger Update

From Mike T. :

"I am delighted to report that the Board Chairs of Ingraham and Youth Alternatives (YA) signed an agreement to merge on Friday, August 10. We expect to have a closing in the next 4-6 weeks, once a few lingering issues are dealt with.

JUST WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

The merger will allow us to continue our tradition of providing high-quality services and will also, quite importantly, enable us to expand our services to Maine's vulnerable children,

adults and families. Not only will the merger result in an organization that provides a better and broader range of services to clients, it will result in an organization that has more to offer employees in terms of growth and development."

