

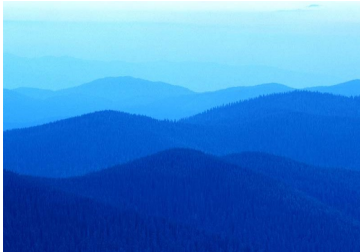
RESOURCE PARENTS JOURNAL

Quarterly Newsletter
October 2011

Child and Family Services Agency

Community Services Administration

Vol. II. Issue 2



Inside this issue:

Heart Full of Love	1
From the Desk of...	1
(cont.) Institutional Investigations Unit	2
Foster Parent Spotlight	3
Foster Parent Recognition Award Winner	3
Policy & Procedures.... What You Should	4-5
(cont.) Social Worker Visits w/children in Out-of-Home Care	4-5
Mockingbird Farewell	6
Resource Parent Training Coalition	7
Resource Parent Training Coalition Information	8
Children's Quick Recipes	9-11
Community Resource Information	12-14
Foster Parent Support Foster Parent Association Post Permanency Family Information	15

A Heart Full of Love

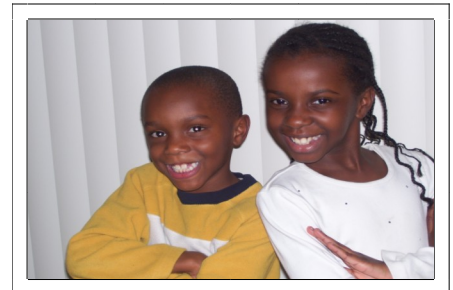
Submitted by Abdul Rahim Bah

Jamia and Joshua

Armed with cheerful smiles and warm-hearted hugs and kisses, Jamia and Joshua are a fun loving and active dynamic duo. Jamia and Joshua, ages 9 and 7, are part of a larger group of brothers and sisters. Although they know and have contact with 2 other siblings, they have always been placed together and have an inseparable bond. This bond is reflected in their shared interests and activities. For example, both children are born story tellers, who can spin elaborate tales that they are able to remember months later in detail. They love to sing and dance especially if the audience joins in the fun. Both are very helpful around the house and do chores with minimal complaint. Like all brothers and sisters, they have been known to have disagreements, but in general, they are very loving and sweet to each other.

Currently, both children are receiving specialized education to address their educational and behavioral needs. Jamia has a love of math, and Joshua does well in reading.

Although they continue to make progress, those who know them best feel that they would reach their highest potential, after they are placed in a forever home that would be able to give them love, support, and structure.



From the Desk of The CFSA Institutional Investigations Unit

Submitted by Kia Jackson-Garnett

Institutional Investigations Unit

Staff Photo



Front row: Tara Grey, Sonia North

Center: Cynthia Tibbs

Last row: Cherlithia Irving, Robert Wright, Bethlehem Zwede, Donna Wright
(not shown) Denise Carter

Please see next page to get information on what the determined staff of this unit does!

Submitted by Kia Jackson-Garnett

The Child and Family Services Agency's
Institutional Investigations Unit
Written by Cherlithiea Irving

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) is the agency legally responsible for protecting children from abuse and neglect within the District of Columbia. CFSA is responsible for licensing all placement settings within the District of Columbia. For this reason, a separate investigations Unit has been set up within the CFSA to handle Institutional Investigations.

CFSA defines Institutional child abuse or neglect as the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen (18) by a person, foster parent, employee of residential facility, or any person providing out-of-home care who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child health or welfare, to include acts and failure to protect.

It is the policy of CFSA that all reports pertaining to the maltreatment of a child in an out-of-home setting shall be reported to the CFSA Hotline and investigated in accordance with the applicable legal requirements, CFSA policies, and procedures, and training guideline, by an Investigative Social Worker, within the Institutional Investigations Unit.

The Institutional Investigation Unit is co-located at the Bundy School, 429 O St. NW, Washington, DC; (202) 442-6166. The unit is staffed with Supervisory Social Worker Cheryl Irving, Clerical Assistant Cynthia Tibbs, Family Support Worker Tara Gray, and 5 very dedicated and experienced CPS Investigative Social Workers; Denise Carter, Sonia North, Donna Wright, Robert Wright, and Bethlehem Zewde. The unit was initiated within CFSA in 2002, beginning with only two pioneer social workers, one being Mr. Robert Wright, who continues with the unit to this day.

When the Institutional Investigation unit staff accepts an investigation regarding foster parents, they develop a "special relationship" with them which involves teaming to support the safety, wellbeing, and permanence for the children and the family overall. To this end, the CPS involvement is not solely allegation focused; rather it is focused on carrying out the Agency's mission. With that in mind, the staff in this unit has been able to forge many positive working relationships with both intra/inter staff and agencies alike, to include one of the most valuable being with the Foster Parent Support Units here within CFSA. Additionally, they have worked closely with the Family Licensing Division of the Community Services Administration along with inter-agency partners to include Safe Shores and the Metropolitan Police Department's Youth Division. With these relationships, the Institutional Investigations unit has been able to share in CFSA's commitment of ensuring the safety and well being of the children in foster homes, while simultaneously providing for a level of respect, courtesy and relationship building with our CFSA foster parents.

The staff of the Institutional Investigation unit has been able to perform a phenomenal job as they, along with all the CPS investigators, are always reminded to remain relatively objective in the "principle of examining situations without bias." They understand that as an Investigative Social Worker, one must be objective enough to systematically evaluate every situation in an unbiased, factual way. CPS promotes a mindset and foundational skill that investigators understand that regardless of the validity of an allegation, a CPS investigation by nature comes with a stigma, and that it is through acknowledgement, appropriate information sharing, and transparency of practice, that each worker of the Institutional Investigation unit and of the entire CPS administration has been able to set the tone for more appropriate, positive, and acceptable future child welfare working relationships.

Thank you Institutional Investigations unit for all of your dedication and hard work. You have shown a great capacity for completing outstanding investigations, and the quality of your work is unsurpassed.

Foster Parent Spotlight

Submitted by Abdul Rahim Bah

Ms. Kay Fleming has been a licensed foster parent with Child and Family Services Agency since October 25, 2002. She has cared for a variety of ages and a significant number of children. She has a realistic perception of foster children and is capable of keeping them safe and healthy. She is described as having a generous attitude toward children, loving, trustworthy and sincere. Ms. Fleming has successfully raised children and grandchildren and knows the skills of directing children into appropriate behaviors. She enjoys being a foster parent. Ms. Fleming is family oriented and appears to be a strong resource family with many coping skills. Ms. Fleming works with all of the professionals that are involved in caring for the children.

Ms. Fleming has adhered to the rules and regulations of the Agency. She demonstrates the ability to work independently and has been committed in helping the children maintain connections with their birth families. Ms. Fleming has a good understanding of foster care and believes that fostering would be the best way for her to nurture children and to provide them love and stability. She understands the concept of strengths and needs based on her family values and has been providing the opportunities for the children to help build or maintain their self esteem. She is sensitive to the difficulties that biological parents may be experiencing.

According to Ms. Fleming, she loves children and has devoted a life time commitment to providing care for toddlers and preschoolers.



Foster Parent Recognition Award Winner

Submitted by Lisa Parker

Foster Parent Recognition

Ms. Carrie Graham, Assigned Foster Parent Support Worker



The Foster Parent Support Unit would like to recognize **Cynthia Fox** for her outstanding service as a specialized foster parent with Child and Family Services Agency. In 2009, Ms. Cynthia Fox began providing foster care services with the Child and Family Services Agency Star Program. The Star Program is a specialized program where resource parents provide foster care for children from birth to twenty one years of age on an emergency basis. During her tenure as a Star foster parent, Ms. Fox fostered over twenty children on an emergency basis.

Cynthia Fox is tenacious and committed to helping children with various disabilities and emotional issues. Many of the children have remained connected to her even after being discharged from her home. Ms. Fox believes that children should be nurtured and loved at all times. She has shown a special talent in working with teen mothers and sibling groups.

In addition to being an “on call” emergency foster parent through the Star Program, Ms. Fox continues her responsibilities as a full time government worker.

Ms. Fox has shown that she is a foster parent that willingly works in partnership with Child and Family Services Agency. She is readily available and accessible to open her home to foster children as well as agency staff.

It is with great honor that the Foster Parent Support Unit of the Child and Family Services Agency recognizes Ms. Cynthia Fox for her services. We thank Ms. Fox for being patient, committed, and providing love to all of the children that have been placed in her care.

Policy & Procedures...What You Should Know

Submitted by Tawna Cox

Social Worker Visits with Children in Out-of-Home Care

Children in out-of-home care should have frequent visits from their social workers, regardless of the type of placement in which they live. Frequent visitation and contact with children in out-of-home care enables social workers to continuously assess and monitor children's safety, permanency, and well-being.

1. To assure the child's positive adjustment to a new placement, children entering foster care or experiencing a new placement while in foster care shall receive one visit per week during the first four weeks of placement.
 - a. A CFSA or private agency social worker with case management responsibility shall make at least two visits to each child during the first four weeks after a child is placed in out-of-home care or undergoes a placement change. During each visit, the social worker shall meet with the child outside the presence of the caregiver to assess the child's safety in the home.
 - b. A CFSA or private agency social worker, family support worker, or nurse care manager shall make two additional visits to each child during the first four weeks of a new placement or a placement change.
 - c. At least one of the above visits during the first four weeks of a new placement or a placement change shall be in the home where the child is placed.
 - d. At least one of the visits held within the first four weeks of a new placement or a placement change shall include a conversation between the social worker and the resource parent in order to assess assistance needed by the resource parent from the Agency.

2. After the first four weeks of a new placement or placement change, each child in out-of-home care (i.e., foster family homes, group homes, congregate care, independent living programs, etc.) shall receive two visits per month.
 - a. A CFSA or private agency social worker with case management responsibility shall visit with each child in out-of-home care at least once a month.
 - b. A CFSA or private agency social worker, family support worker, or nurse care manager shall make a second monthly visit to each child in out-of-home care either at the child's school or alternative location.
 - c. At least one of the above-listed visits each month shall occur in the home where the child is placed.

3. If the child is placed more than 100 miles outside of the District of Columbia, a social worker from the receiving state shall supervise the placement through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). The child's social worker (either CFSA or contracted placement agency) shall monitor the placement with monthly telephone calls to the social worker from the receiving state, monthly telephone calls to the child, and visits from the child face-to-face at least twice per year.

Note: Depending on the circumstances, children placed more than 100 miles outside the District of Columbia may require more frequent visitation or contact. The social worker shall consult with his or her supervisor to assess the child's needs and determine the appropriate level of visitation and contact needed.



Policy & Procedures...What You Should Know (continued)

Submitted by Tawna Cox

Social Worker Visits with Children in Out-of-Home Care

4. During every visit, the social worker shall assess safety and risk of the children in the home (e.g., health, educational and environmental factors, as well as the initial safety concerns that brought this family to the attention of the Agency) by meeting with the child outside the presence of the caregiver. The social worker shall assess the safety of the family, household, and community through all of the following means:
- a. Speaking with the child or youth about activities and how to remain safe outside the home (i.e., in the community or at school) with a focus on preventing future harm.
 - b. Speaking with youth about their ability to protect themselves from harm and practicing self-care, including health issues related to safe sex practices, avoiding use of drugs and alcohol, and taking steps to ensure gynecological health (for female youth).
 - c. Assessing caregiver-child interactions, and caregiver responsiveness to a child's basic needs.
 - d. Observing the physical environment of the home for potential hazards, provision of food, and operable utilities.
 - e. Identifying the factors that could make the child or youth at risk for child maltreatment.
 - f. Identifying caregiver strengths as well as protective factors that reduce a child or youth's risk of maltreatment.
 - g. Formulating a safety plan with the caregiver, if needed, to ameliorate immediate danger and risk in the future.
 - h. Determining accessibility and availability of services and activities need to reduce risk of maltreatment and to promote well-being.
 - i. Engaging caregivers in the assessment of the child or youth life skills, and create a plan for the caregiver that supports attainment of these like skills.
 - j. Discussing with the caregiver his or her relationship with the child or youth's biological parents, and the caregiver's potential role as a teaming partner or possible mentor for the biological parent.
 - k. Spending part of each home visit with the caregiver and child or youth together and part of it alone with each.
5. Social workers shall discuss with caregivers all progress made on the case plan and identify next steps that need to be taken to move the case to permanency and safe closure.



Mockingbird Family Model Program

Submitted by Lisa Parker

Farewell Wishes



John P. Coon

Mockingbird Family Model Program

The Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) Program bids farewell to John P. Coon. In May 2011, Mr. Coon resigned from being the Hub Parent for the Northwest #1 MFM constellation. Mr. Coon was the original Hub Parent for the Northwest #1 MFM constellation. This constellation was started in October 2007. Mr. Coon along with his partner Joshua Tuerk were host to many monthly meetings, celebration, and activities. The Northwest constellation members always looked forward to the exciting parties, fun activities and delicious meals each month. The children especially enjoyed the Christmas parties which were always a joyful and spectacular event. Santa Claus always stopped by to read the Christmas Story and deliver gifts to the children.

Mr. Coon and his family really enjoyed participating in the MFM program. Mr. Coon loved being a Hub parent and having the children over for weekend respite. He has three children under the age of 12 so there is always a lot of excitement at their home. Nevertheless, Mr. Coon loved having the children in the constellation at his home for barbeques, splash parties, Easter egg hunts and Halloween parties.

As a Hub parent, John Coon was a lot of fun but he also was very serious when it came to assisting the resource parents. He provided support and guidance to the resource parents especially the pre-adoptive parents. Mr. Coon has a great deal of knowledge and experience with the adoption process because he has adopted three children. He adopted his two sons both 11 years old, nine years ago. One was adopted privately and the other son was adopted from CFSA. His most recent adoption was finalized last year when he adopted his daughter Gabrielle who was placed with him at three weeks of age. Mr. Coon helped the parents to understand the adoption process and the legal issues. He referred them to resources when needed and most importantly offered advice and support to those pre-adoptive parents that were on the verge of giving up on adopting. Mr. Coon attended court hearings with his constellation members and testified during the adoption trial for one couple in his constellation. Mr. Coon is an advocate for adoption and often volunteered to speak about adoption to encourage others to become foster or adoptive parents.

Mr. Coon will be sorely missed but the impact he has made over the years with CFSA children and families will be everlasting!!!

Submitted by Margie Chalofsky

Resource Parent Training Coalition

The **Resource Parent Training Coalition (RPTC)** is the tangible outcome of a working collaboration between key organizations. RPTC began with a small partnership in 2007 when DC Child and Family Services Agency, the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center, the DC Metropolitan Foster & Adoptive Parent Association, and Adoptions Together came together to discuss our growing realization that the training of our foster parents was not in alignment with the actual needs of children who have experienced the trauma of abuse and/or neglect. We conceived the idea of a coalition that would work together towards the vision of a city that provides top quality and readily available training for foster, kinship, adoptive and guardianship parents to build their capacity to best meet the complex emotional, developmental, and behavioral needs of the children in their homes.

From humble beginnings, we have grown to a citywide organization with eighteen participating agencies: Adoptions Together/Post-Permanency Family Center; Board of Child Care; Child and Family Services Agency; Children's Youth Investment Trust Corporation; DC Department of Mental Health; DC Metropolitan Foster & Adoptive Parent Association; Family Matters; Family and Youth Initiative Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center; Foundations for Home and Community; Kayla's Village; Latin American Youth Center; Lutheran Social Services; Martin Pollak Project; National Center for Children and Families/Catholic Charities; PSI Family Services; Progressive Life Center; and Sasha Bruce Youthwork. There is no cost to become a participating organizational member but it is expected that member organizations send a representative to monthly meetings and become involved in helping to move our work forward.

The coalition's focus is on comprehensively identifying the training competencies families need to successfully parent the children in their homes and on assessing the alignment between those needs and currently available training. As we have analyzed training opportunities offered to our families, we have observed that the training that foster, kinship, adoptive and guardian families receive is highly contingent upon which agency they work with, the philosophy and capacity of that agency, and a family's own ability to wade through logistical barriers to access training. Additionally, we have identified significant strengths in the training curricula of various agencies. Opening these trainings to parents from other agencies, duplicating them by implementing a "train the trainers" program, or co-sponsoring specialized training will make good training more universally available. Through honest ongoing discussion, the coalition has developed procedures for foster parents to be trained at agencies that are not their "own," while safeguarding the autonomy of individual agencies.

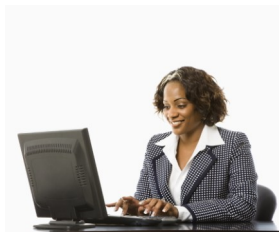
Made possible by a technology grant from Consumer Health Foundation secured by the Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center, RPTC launched our website www.dcrptc.org in the summer of 2009. The site offers a joint training calendar that includes trainings offered by our member agencies and maps training topic areas. The site is designed to allow anyone who is parenting children from the DC child welfare system to learn about and attend trainings offered by any agency. In the long-term, we intend to utilize it to build curricula or "tracks" for parents, based on needs of the individual child and family. We welcome the interest of other potential member organizations as well as foundations, individuals or businesses that would like to help us to reach our vision by supporting our efforts.

A foster parent community well trained to meet and handle complex needs is one of the most significant resources we can offer our children. Through coalition building we create a whole that is stronger than any part. For more information, please contact Margie Chalofsky at FAPAC 202 269-9441 or margiec@dcfapac.org. Thank you!

***Foster, kinship and adoptive parents
of DC children!***

***Do you need trainings on special topics?
Trainings that fit your schedule?
Trainings near your home?***

There is now a website that can help!



www.dcrptc.org

- *a calendar of trainings for foster, kinship and adoptive parents offered by both public and private agencies*
- *search by topic*
- *search by location*
- *links to agency websites*
- *links to other valuable resources*

Sponsored by the DC Resource Parent Training Coalition (DCRPTC), a joint project of 18 public and private agencies serving DC children in foster care.

For more information call: Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC) at 202 269-9441

Quick Children's Recipes

Submitted by *Kia Jackson-Garnett*



Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Cream of Chicken and Vegetable Soup

This silky-rich chicken soup is a terrific main dish on a cold Winter's night.

Rated: 🍓 🍓 🍓 🍓 🍓

[Nutrition Information](#)

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 can (12 fl. oz.) NESTLÉ® CARNATION® Evaporated Milk

1 package (16 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables prepared according to package directions

2 (about 8 oz. *total*) boneless, skinless chicken breast halves cooked and cubed

1 can (14.5 fl. oz.) chicken broth

1/4 teaspoon onion salt

DIRECTIONS

MELT butter in medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir in flour. Gradually stir in evaporated milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Add vegetables, chicken, broth and onion salt. Heat through.

NOTE: For a lower-fat version of this recipe, substitute NESTLÉ CARNATION Evaporated Lowfat Milk and 1 can (14.5 fl. oz.) light or fat-free chicken broth. Proceed as above.

Quick Children's Recipes

Submitted by *Kia Jackson-Garnett*



Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 40 minutes

Quick & Easy Ravioli Lasagna

Enjoy the extraordinary medley of whole wheat four cheese ravioli and spinach with this recipe for *Quick & Easy Ravioli Lasagna*.

Featuring layers of sumptuous ravioli, topped with chopped spinach, marinara sauce and ricotta cheese, this easy-to-make entrée is hard to resist.

A fresh interpretation of a classic favorite, this dish is a warm welcome for any night of the week.

Rated: 🍓 🍓 🍓 🍓 🍓

[Nutrition Information](#)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 container (15 ounces) ricotta cheese
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/4 cups (3.75 ounces) BUITONI Refrigerated Freshly Shredded Parmesan Cheese *divided*
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 packages (9 ounces *each*) BUITONI Refrigerated 100% Whole Wheat Four Cheese Ravioli *divided*
- 2 containers (15 ounces *each*) BUITONI Refrigerated Marinara Sauce *divided*
- 1/3 cup hot water

DIRECTIONS

PREHEAT oven to 350° F.

COMBINE spinach, ricotta cheese, egg, *1 cup* Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper in medium bowl. Arrange *one* package ravioli over bottom of 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Top evenly with *one* container sauce and all of spinach mixture. Top spinach mixture with *remaining* ravioli and *remaining* container of sauce. Sprinkle with *remaining 1/4 cup* Parmesan cheese. Pour water around edges of lasagna. Cover dish with foil.

BAKE for 40 to 45 minutes or until heated through and bubbly. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Quick Children's Recipes

Submitted by *Kia Jackson-Garnett*



Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 0 minutes

Varies

Berry "Shaved" Ice

Rated: Not Rated

[Nutrition Information](#)

INGREDIENTS

1 ice cube tray

3/4 cup (4.4-ounce container) fresh berries or chopped fruit (such as blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, peaches or mangoes)

1 cup White Grape, Berry Apple or your favorite NESTLÉ® JUICY JUICE® All Natural 100% Juice

DIRECTIONS

EVENLY divide berries in ice cube tray cups; top with Juicy Juice. Freeze until solid.

UNMOLD berry ice cubes into *heavy-duty* food storage bag. Using rolling pin, gently crush cubes until they resemble shaved ice.

Community Information
Happenings Around Town
Submitted by Tawna Cox



Welcome to Pumpkinville!

Pumpkinville is a fall festival held annually at the Leesburg Animal Park. The 2011 season we are open daily from 9am-6pm Sept. 24th - Nov. 8th!



Activities

- ◊ Hay Wagon Rides
 - ◊ Giant Hill Slides
 - ◊ Kids Hay Maze
 - ◊ Straw Tunnels & Rope Swings
 - ◊ Moon Bounces
 - ◊ Pony Rides*
 - ◊ Free Pumpkin with each Admission
 - ◊ All You can Eat Apples & Fresh Cider
 - ◊ NEW Kids Playground Area
 - ◊ FREE Entry to the Leesburg Animal Park
- EXTRA ACTIVITIES ON WEEKENDS & COLUMBUS DAY:
- ◊ 200 ft Kids Zip Line (open until 5pm)*
 - ◊ Face & Pumpkin Painting
 - ◊ Mini Tractor Rides
 - ◊ FREE [Live Entertainment](#)
 - ◊ Camel Rides*

**Admission does not include animal food, animal rides or zip line*



Inclement Weather:

If the weather is questionable (including rain and/or high winds), call (703)433-0002 or (703)669-0010 before your visit make sure the park is open.

Submitted by Tawna Cox

Community Information Happenings Around Town (continued)

CREATE Arts Center
552
in Silver Spring, MD 20910
816 Thayer Avenue
[Silver Spring, MD 20910 United States](http://www.createartscenter.org)
301.588.2787
create@createartscenter.org
[http://www.c... tscenter.org](http://www.createartscenter.org)

Hours: Office hours Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Call for class times.

Cost: Moderate

Ages: 2 And Up

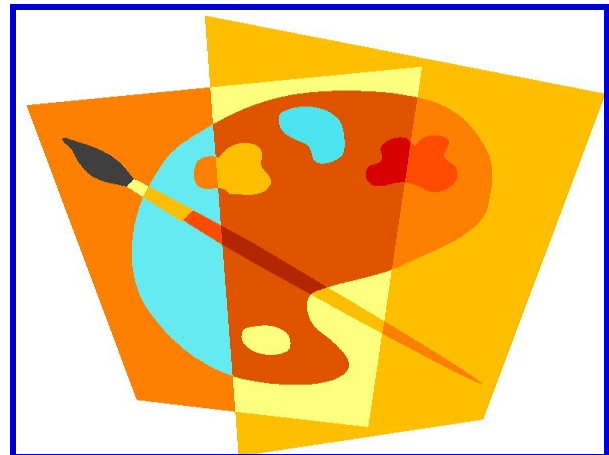
about CREATE Arts Center:

CREATE Arts Center is a non-profit organization offering **arts classes, camps, parties**, and special events for the general population, as well as **art therapy** and other art related activities for special needs clients.

CREATE's **varied arts programs** include such classes as Potluck Art, Cartooning, Drawing and Painting, Stone Carving, Teen Art Club, Bead & Jewelry Making, Stitchery & Hand Sewing, and Pottery.

During school vacations CREATE offers spring, summer, and winter **arts camps**. Children participate in art, music, theater, and recreational activities, lead by professional artists/teachers who are experts in their field. Classes include such activities as clay, drawing, painting, stone carving, mask making, paper mache, sculpture, music, drama, book making, textiles, collage, and more.

Art therapy resources include arts classes for families with autistic children, after school arts programs for children at risk; and art therapy for patients in psychiatric and other facilities.



Submitted by Tawna Cox

Community Information Happenings Around Town (continued)

Kids Euro Festival 2011 in Washington, DC
A European Embassies Arts and Culture Festival



This fall Washington, DC will host the Kids Euro Festival, one of the country's largest performing arts festivals for children with more than 200 free events around the city. The month-long event will be geared to kids ages two through twelve and will feature artists in almost every performing genre, whose talents range from bubble-blowers to a virtual orchestra to storytelling to acrobats. Kids Euro Festival is staged through the cooperation of the 27 Washington-based European Union embassies and more than a dozen major local cultural institutions.

Dates: October 14 - November 10, 2011

Embassies Participating in Kids Euro Festival

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Venues Participating in the Kids Euro Festival

[Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage](#)
[Shakespeare Theatre's Harman Hall](#)
[Strathmore Mansion](#)
[National Museum of Natural History](#)
[AFI Silver Theatre](#)
[Artisphere](#)



CFSA Foster Parent Support Staff:

Ritu Atwal, Program Manager

(202) 727-3777

Kia Jackson-Garnett, Supervisor

(202) 727-4950

Abdul Rahim Bah, Support Worker

(202) 715-7781

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Stacey Ferris, Support Worker

(202) 715-7779

Antoinette Harris-Edwards, Supervisor

(202) 727-3949

Carrie Graham, Support Worker

(202) 727-3952

Tawna Cox, Support Worker

(202) 715-7777

ReNay Newman, Support Worker

(202) 715-7778

Linda Cole, Administrative Assistant

(202) 724-3882



Child and Family Services Agency

Government of the District of Columbia
Child and Family Services Agency
400 6th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Phone: 202-442-6000

E-mail: cfsa@dc.gov

Foster Parent Association Support Group Information

DC Metropolitan Foster & Adoptive Parent Association:

President, Deborah Byrd (240) 354-3865

Foster & Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center:

Executive Director, Margie Chalofsky (202) 269-9441

Support Groups:

Adoptions Together Forever:

President, Felecia Taylor (301) 451-6513

Advocates for Kids in Need (AKIN)

President, Vivian Ledbetter (202) 246-7238 **Not under DCMFAPA**

Grief, Loss & Healing:

President, Florrie Green (301) 449-6401

Kincare:

President, Yvonne Huntley (202) 388-1309

Parents United for Children with Special Needs:

President, Joyce Forrest (202) 561-6671



Post Permanency Family Center Adoptive, Foster & Guardianship Support Group

When: 3rd Wednesday evening (every month)

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: 900 Varnum Street NE (ring bell labeled Post Permanency Family Center)

Washington DC 20017

202-526-4802

(Childcare & light snack provided)

FEELING...

- *Unappreciated for the amount of time, energy and work you put into parenting?*
- *Frustrated?*
- *Like giving up?*
- *Like other parents/family members do not understand?*
- *Like you don't have any time to yourself?*
- *That you need a place to be heard?*



*If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then please consider joining the **Post Permanency Family Center Support Group**. These free, drop-in support groups are facilitated by licensed therapists and are designed to provide a space for parents to take care of themselves (for a change).*