

# NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



**CANDICE YORK**

IFAPA Peer Liaison

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**I UNDERSTAND...  
I AM A FOSTER PARENT TOO**

IFAPA recognizes that foster parents often need the perspective of peers during the foster parenting and adoption experience.

I can provide support and assist you with questions regarding:

- Licensing requirements
- Training needs
- Respite care
- Behavior challenges
- Working with birth families
- Confidentiality issues
- And much more!

April 2015

## Human Trafficking: Protecting Our Youth

**What's Happening:** Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. It includes both sex trafficking and forced labor. Youth with difficult family situations or histories of trauma, including those in foster care, can be at greater risk. Any child under age 18 engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, even if the youth's participation is not forced or coerced. This includes:

Prostitution  
Stripping  
Pornography

Human trafficking also includes forced labor. Common examples involve:

Selling illegal drugs  
Begging  
Door-to-door sales crews (e.g., magazines)  
Restaurant work  
Hair and nail salons  
Farm work  
Au pairs and nannies  
Domestic work

**What You Might Be Seeing** Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 states. Victims can be children (as young as 9) or adults, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, male or female. Signs that youth may be involved in human trafficking:

Frequent, unexplained absences from school  
Running away from home  
Unexplained bruises or scars, withdrawn behavior, or anxiety/fear  
Knowledge of sexual situations or terms beyond what is normal for the child's age  
Signs of drug addiction, sudden changes in clothes, friends, or access to money  
Having a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" who is noticeably older and/or controlling  
Expressing concern for family members' safety if they share too much information  
Working unusually long hours and being paid very little  
Living at a workplace or with the employer, or living with many people in a small space



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**Be aware of recruiting tactics.** Traffickers target victims through social media websites, telephone chat lines, afterschool programs, at shopping malls and bus depots, in clubs, or through friends and acquaintances. Ask questions about your youth's friends—especially new friends and those who appear to be significantly older. Monitor computer use and know where he or she hangs out. Traffickers may also be family members or even peers.

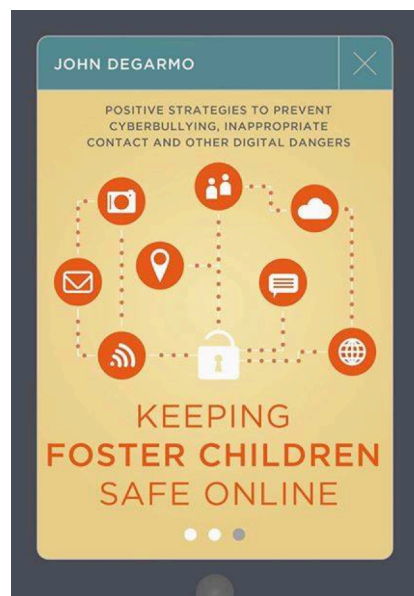
- **Understand that trafficked youth are victims, not criminals.** If a person has been forced to commit illegal acts, he or she is a victim and is not guilty of a crime. Help the youth understand that he or she will not be punished for seeking help.

- **Report suspected trafficking.** If you think a youth may be involved in trafficking: If the youth is in immediate danger, call your local police department or emergency access number (e.g., 911). To report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1.888.373.7888, text BeFree (233733), or submit a tip online at <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org>.

- To report a sexually exploited or abused minor, call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1.800.THE.LOST or report online at <http://www.cybertipline.org>.

(Source: *Child Welfare Information Gateway*)

Foster Care Online Safety Tip of the Week: Consider drawing up an online family agreement contract with your foster child. This agreement form would include a number of the rules and policies you have set in place within your foster home for all computer and cell phone use, and should be followed by all within the home, both foster child and family members. Stress to your foster child that this is intended to protect the child, and to help ensure his safety. From the book *Keeping Foster Children Safe Online* by Dr. John Degarmo



## 1-2-3 Magic Cake



2 boxes of cake mix. (1 can be any flavor; the other **MUST** be Angel Food cake mix). Mix them together and store in air tight container. Just put 3 tablespoons of the dry mixture in a big coffee mug and stir in 2 tablespoons of water. Microwave for one minute. You will have a single serving of cake. Yum!

May 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 pm

Union County Support Group

Crest Baptist Church 1211 Poplar St. Creston

Child care provided.

Look forward to some new training opportunities in Ottumwa and Mt. Pleasant coming this Fall. More information to come.