

MAY 2015

NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



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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!



www.ifapa.org

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- Unexplained bruises or scars, withdrawn behavior, or anxiety/fear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

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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)

NEWS FROM YOUR IFAPA PEER LIAISON

Support Group Happenings

NCIFAPA Support Group

- *We will be cancelling our May 12 support group meeting so families can attend the **May Appreciation Event**.
- *Tuesday, May 19 Activities start at 5:30 p.m. **See attached flyer**
- *Training "Special Kids, Special Love- Autism Awareness"
- * **RSVP to Amanda Nash by May 15 , 641-421-1219**
- * Contact Christie McGuire with questions at 855-929-2005

HHWW Foster/Adoptive Parent Support Group

- * Monday, May 11 @ Hamilton Co. Extension Office
- *5:30 p.m.--Meal (RSVP number attending to Julie by May 10th)
- *6-8 p.m.--"Keeping Children Healthy and Safe" (2 hrs credit)
- Dress to be outside
- *Childcare is available (Ages 0-18)
- *Contact Julie Schroeder for more information at 515-291-3029

Ames Foster/Adoptive Support Group

- *The last meeting of the summer will be Thurs., May 14, 6-8:00 p.m.
- *"Documentation" trainer Linda Dodson (2 hrs credit)
- *Cornerstone Church, 56829 US Hwy 30 in Ames
- *Childcare is not available
- *Contact Christie McGuire for more information at 855-929-2005

Fort Dodge Lunch and Learn

- * The next meeting of the Fort Dodge Task Force is Thursday, May 28th, 11:30-1:00 p.m.
- * Lunch will be provided (RSVP by noon May 27 to Julie)
- *Task Force meeting and training "Placement During the Summer Months" (1 hour credit)
- * Grace Lutheran Church, 211 South 9th St. in Fort Dodge
- *Contact Julie Schroeder for more information at 515-291-3029

Marshall County Support Group

- * This support group is done meeting for the summer and will start back up again in September!
- *Watch the newsletter for details!
- * Contact Mindy Speake for more information at 515-291-1292

SPRING TIDBITS

IFAPA Activities

Save the Date!

IFAPA's Fall Conference

Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17, 2015

Five Sullivan Brothers
Convention Center – Waterloo

Summer Trainings

The latest IFAPA training schedule is now available. There is a wonderful selection of topics to choose from through August. **Register online or Call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1**

http://www.ifapa.org/training/ifapa_training_schedule.asp

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!

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!