



CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, AND STRENGTHENING FOSTER FAMILIES

BREMER, BUTLER, FRANKLIN, AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

# Allison Area Foster Parents

## Meetings Resume September 20, 2011 “Blur the Lines Between Work and Play”

After our summer break, our regular support group meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 20, from 7-9 p.m. at Vineyard Community Church, 319 W. Bremer Avenue, in Waverly. We have a great training lined up for this month when Play Therapist John Upshaw, will speak on “Blur the Lines Between Work and Play.” John is highly regarded in this area and many of our families have benefited from his work with children in their homes. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to hear John and ask him questions about issues your children might be dealing with.

In the recent survey of our families, many of you indicated that you would like to have the option of eating at the church prior to our meetings. This month, we will have a choice of cheese, beef, and ham pizzas, as well as beverages, available from 6:30-7:00. Families who participate will be asked to chip in to cover the cost of the pizza. **If you plan to come and eat pizza, please RSVP with the number of individuals in your family by Tuesday, September 19,** so we can order a sufficient number of pizzas.

We will have child care available for infants through 12-year-olds in the Sunday School area of the church. Kate Haberman-Foelske will also be returning to facilitate our teen group during our meetings, so please encourage your birth, foster, or adopted teens to come with you to the meeting for a chance to meet with other teens in similar situations.



In addition to the pizza prior to the meeting, we will continue to have snacks and drinks available during and after the meeting, so please bring some type of snack item to share with the group. We will provide paper products and beverages.

For those who have not attended our meetings previously, we have a lending library where you can borrow resources, as well as life-books, quilts, backpacks, school supplies, personal hygiene items, My Stuff Bags, and other items available for you to take. Our meetings are also a great place to connect with other foster and adoptive families for support as well as locating respite care.

### The Computers Have Arrived!

Eighteen of our families took advantage of our offer to help obtain laptop computers through the iFoster program. The computers have arrived, and we will have them available for pickup at the September 20 meeting. If you ordered a computer, please bring a check for \$130 made payable to the Allison Area Foster Parent group. If you don’t attend the meeting, we will contact you to make other arrangements to get the computer to you. If you didn’t place an order but have decided you want to, you can go to the iFoster website at [www.ifoster.org](http://www.ifoster.org) and place an order yourself. They will have an ongoing supply of several different models of laptop and desktop computers available at very low prices.

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# ODDS AND ENDS

We are pleased to announce that IKN Licensing and Support worker Katie Squier and her husband are the proud parents of Benjamin Gerald Squier, born August 19, weighing 8 lbs. 15 oz. While Katie continues on maternity leave for the next several weeks, Pam Bradshaw will be covering her families.

Due to the DHS decision not to allow the use of Pack 'n Play portable cribs for foster children, we will no longer have them available in our lending closet. However, we are pleased to report that we received a \$500 grant from Bremer County Partners which allowed us to purchase two full-size cribs and mattresses plus one smaller portable wooden crib which meets regulations. They are available to check out for a period of up to three months if you take a placement of a little one and don't have a crib immediately available. We also have a variety of other items available in our lending closet including car seats of various sizes, high chairs, baby swings, Bumbo chairs, etc. For a complete list of items available to loan for use with foster placements, check our website at [www.freewebs.com/allisonareafosterparents](http://www.freewebs.com/allisonareafosterparents). A complete list of the resources available in our lending library is also available on our website. The library is kept at the Vineyard Community Church in Waverly and you can check out items at any regular monthly meeting.

The group formerly known as Elevate has changed its name to AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential). AMP members are youth ages 13 and up who have been involved in foster care, adoption, or other out-of-home placements. The Waterloo AMP chapter will be having its Fall Kickoff event on Tuesday, September 13, from 4-6 p.m. at the Quakerdale Campus in Waterloo. All area foster and adoptive teens are welcome to attend. AMP will also be presenting a Hair and Skin Care Seminar at the Bremwood Campus on Monday, September 19, from 5:30 to 7:30. Foster parents, as well as youth, are welcome to attend that event. For more information about AMP and its activities, contact Teanna Smart at 319-433-8172.

The activities of our group are funded by generous grants and donations from the Waverly-Shell Rock United Way, the Bremer, Butler, and Grundy County Community Foundations, the Waverly Community Foundation, the Waverly Exchange Club, the Fredsville Lutheran Church, and the Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Reinbeck. We thank all of these groups for their support.

**Small deeds done  
are greater than  
great deeds  
planned.  
—Peter Marshall**

*Do you need Mandatory Reporter or CPR/First Aid training? If so, there will be classes available for CPR/First Aid on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00-4:30 p.m. at Hawkeye Community College and for Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting on Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. or 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cedar Falls Country Inn and Suites. Call IFAPA at 1-800-277-8245, extension 1, to register for Mandatory Reporter training. Registration and payment for CPR/First Aid are accepted only by mail. There is a form on the back of your IFAPA Fall Training Booklet or on the IFAPA website at [www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org).*

**We are in the process of developing a list of area foster families who are available to do respite for other families. We will have a sign up sheet at our September meeting. If you don't attend the meeting, but are willing to have your name and contact information on the list, please call (1-877-467-4100) or email ([magnall\\_ifapa@msn.com](mailto:magnall_ifapa@msn.com)) and we will include you. If you have a preference of age and gender of children you can accommodate, please indicate that, along with your phone number and/or email.**

***A good time was had by all at our August Back-to-School Potluck and School Supply Giveaway. Thanks to a donation from the Waverly Exchange Club, we were able to provide backpacks and school supplies for 30 area foster and adoptive children.***

The IFAPA Peer Liaison for Bremer, Butler, Franklin, and Grundy Counties is Dianna Seedorff. If you have questions or concerns or are in need of support, you can contact Dianna at 888-235-4521 or 319-235-2534 or by email at [seedorff\\_ifapa@hotmail.com](mailto:seedorff_ifapa@hotmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 20: Regular Meeting, 7-9 p.m.  
Vineyard Community Church, Waverly  
Play Therapist John Upshaw Speaking

Saturday, October 1: Fall Family Event 3-6 p.m.  
Barn Stahl Petting Zoo and Corn Maze, Wellsburg  
See Attached Flyer

Saturday, November 19  
Adoption Saturday Event  
Hamilton County Court House in Webster City

Tuesday, November 15: Regular Meeting, 7-9 p.m.  
Vineyard Community Church, Waverly  
Cheryl Tanis Speaking on Youth Dream Teams

December: Family Christmas Event  
Date and Time to Be Announced

## Other Area Support Group Meetings

We are fortunate to have several excellent foster/adoptive support groups in this area. Families are welcome to attend any group that meets their needs and works best with their family schedule. You can find a complete list of support groups on the IFAPA website at [www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org). Some other September meetings in this area include:

**Black Hawk County Foster and Adoptive Parent Group**  
Tuesday, September 13,  
7-9 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W. 8th Street in Waterloo  
Training on Special Education Basics (3 hours credit)  
Call Dianna Seedorff for more information at 888-622-4521

**Independence Area Foster Parent Group**  
Tuesday, September 8  
Potluck at 6:30. Support and election to follow.  
United Methodist Church, 313 2nd St. SE, Independence  
Call Dave Brace for more information at 866-547-1753

**Mason City Area Foster Parent Group**  
Tuesday, October 20  
Doors open at 6:30; Speaker from 7-9 p.m.  
DHS Liberty Room, 22 North Georgia Street in Mason City  
Training on Family Interaction  
Call Christie McGuire for more information at 800-720-9850 Code 62