

# NEWS FROM YOUR 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](http://www.ifapa.org)

## Greetings, Families!!!

By now, school is in full swing for most of you! Here's hoping all is going smoothly! If you have high-school students in your home who will be needing assistance with senior pictures or prom expenses, remember to apply for a Friends of Children in Foster Care Program grant! Visit [www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org) (resources tab, then foster care resources tab).

## ADOPTION SATURDAY

Are you adding a kiddo to your forever family this Adoption Saturday?

If so, I want to hear about it! Please look for me that morning!

I will be glad to take your family photo!

If you aren't adopting that day, it is still an awesome event to attend!

Music, crafts, CAKE, and connecting!

Did I say CAKE?

This joyous event is Saturday, November 15, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Polk County Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St. (downtown Des Moines).

## HELP ME SUPPORT OTHERS!

Do you know of an adoptive or kinship family who is struggling and is not connected with IFAPA? Well then, what are you waiting for? Share my contact information with them and/or send them to [www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org)!

IFAPA supports ALL foster, adoptive, and kinship families in Iowa!

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## RESOURCES

It's a scary thing as a foster parent, having an allegation of child abuse or neglect brought against you, but it happens. IFAPA can help get you through it not only by providing a listening ear but also by providing you with a guide that gives you an idea of how the abuse assessment process works. The booklet is easy to read and in addition to outlining the process step by step, it also defines child protective terms, clarifies the foster parents' legal rights, and addresses the emotional issues families face during an assessment. Please visit [www.ifapa.org](http://www.ifapa.org) to view the guide online (click on the publications tab at the top of the home page).

***“A child born to another woman calls me Mom. The depth of the tragedy and the magnitude of the privilege are not lost on me.”***

***- Jody Landers***

A few tips to keep in mind as you are fostering:

- ◆ Please remember that foster parents are not the “parent, guardian, or custodian” of these children. Each of these terms implies a liability, which you do not want the authority to take on. Even if someone tells you that it is OK to sign, please do not. Birth parents can sign and in case where birth parents have lost their rights OR their whereabouts are unknown, you can take paperwork to DHS for signatures. Protect yourselves by not signing any paperwork.
- ◆ Schools are required to waive all “school fees” for children who meet financial eligibility for free meals, FIP, SSI or the child is in foster care. This includes: Textbook fees, driver education instructional fees, transportation for resident pupils attending public school who are entitled to transportation, school supplies (approved only when the school accesses a specific amount, such as “school supplies..\$5.00”), eye and ear protective devices.

(compliments of Black Hawk County Peer Liaison Dianna Seedorff)

**Have a GREAT month, and stay in touch!**

## Support Group Spotlight

Are you looking for some training credits, or maybe just wanting to learn more about a variety of topics that may be relevant to the foster/adoptive/kinship children in your home?

Please join me for the “new” Connections Support Group Meet-n-Greet, where we will get to know each other and talk about what you hope to get out of your upcoming support-group training season!

The Meet-n-Greet will be Tuesday, September 16, at 6:00 p.m. at DHS RiverPlace, 2309 Euclid Ave., Room 1A, Des Moines.

There WILL be snacks!

Going forward, the Connections training support group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. at RiverPlace every third Tuesday of the month. It meets all 12 months of the year, and child care is provided. Each support-group training will be worth two credit hours.