

NOVEMBER 1, 2011

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!

The Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (IFAPA) wants to recognize and thank all the wonderful families who have given Iowa's children a permanent home. Your dedication and steadfast support for children is appreciated. IFAPA would like to offer our trainings and support assistance to you as a parent. Parenting can present numerous challenges. IFAPA is there to help when complications arise. Please feel free to take advantage of IFAPA's many resources (see below) and let us know how we can be of further assistance to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are 107,000 children and youth waiting for permanent families in the U.S. foster care system. November is National Adoption Month, a month set aside to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. Check out the events happening around Iowa in honor of National Adoption Month:

HOW IFAPA CAN HELP

- **Trainings for Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Parents** - IFAPA offers a variety of continuing education to foster, adoptive and kinship parents throughout the year. IFAPA strives to provide effective trainings on issues relevant to parenting children currently or previously in the foster care system.
- **Peer Liaisons** - IFAPA has eleven Foster and Adoptive Parent Peer Liaisons across the state. They are experienced foster parents and may be adoptive parents as well. Our Peer Liaisons provide peer-to-peer support and mentoring to foster and adoptive parents in their assigned area of the state. This includes providing information and assistance to families regarding foster care and adoption concerns, contacting new foster parents, and visiting support groups.
- **Resource Information Specialists** - IFAPA employs two Resource Information Specialists who are available to answer questions on adoption and foster care issues. They help families successfully meet the challenges of parenting the children placed in their home through telephone support, educational materials, knowledge of services available and connections to other families.
- **Subsidized Adoption Respite Program** - Families who receive adoption subsidy are eligible for five days of respite fiscal per year. IFAPA administers the Subsidized Adoption Respite Program for DHS by facilitating the respite payments.
- **Listserv Discussion Group** - The IFAPA listserv connects and provides support to foster and adoptive families via the internet. Members can post questions and answers and share information on topics of interest.
- **IFAPA Publications** - IFAPA publishes a variety of resource materials for foster, adoptive and kinship parents to enhance their parenting skills. All publications are free of charge and are available on our website or can be mailed to families.

To find more information about these IFAPA programs, visit our website: www.ifapa.org/about_IFAPA/IFAPA_programs.asp

Candlelight Vigil Locations:

- Ames
- Cedar Rapids
- Charles City
- Council Bluffs
- Davenport
- Des Moines
- Dubuque
- Glenwood
- Mason City
- Sioux City
- Waterloo
- Webster City

Adoption Friday/Saturday Locations:

- Cedar Rapids
- Council Bluffs
- Des Moines
- Ottumwa
- Sioux City
- Webster City

To find additional details on these events, visit:

<http://www.iowakidsnet.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.events>

Adoption Month Calendar

Find new ways to celebrate with Adoption.com's National Adoption Month Calendar featuring daily adoption related activities.

<http://www.adoption.com/national-adoption-awareness-month-2011/>

Online Adoption Resources

Visit the following link on the IFAPA website to many helpful adoption-related resources:

http://www.ifapa.org/resources/adoption_resources.asp

STRENGTHEN YOUR

FOREVER
FAMILY

A step-by-step guide
to post-adoption

Developed with the
generous support of Jockey
International, Inc. through



DAVE THOMAS
FOUNDATION
FOR ADOPTION®
Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care



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BEING FAMILY.
JockeyBeingFamily.com

FREE POST-ADOPTION GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has published *Strengthen Your Forever Family: A Step-by-Step Guide to Post-Adoption*. This online guide helps new adoptive parents prepare for adoption by finding and accessing resources that will help with their child's transition.

Topics covered include:

- Getting ready
- Identifying resources
- Finding resources
- Creating resources when none exist
- Setting expectations
- Recommended resources

The Dave Thomas Foundation is the only nonprofit charity in America dedicated to finding permanent homes for children in foster care. This guide was developed with support from Jockey Being Family, an initiative from Jockey International, Inc. dedicated to help strengthen adoptive families.

The guide may be accessed on The Dave Thomas Foundation's website:

<http://davethomasfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/DTFA-Post-Adoption-Guide.pdf>

NOVEMBER TRAININGS

Find the entire fall training schedule at:

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

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training (3 hrs credit) - This is the state approved Mandatory Reporter class required for foster parents to complete within the first year of licensure, and then every five years thereafter. In addition, the Foster Allegation Information Resource (FAIR) program will be discussed. This is an IFAPA program that provides information and support to foster parents who have had an allegation of abuse made against them.

Trainer: Steven Hayward

Sioux City - Sat., Nov. 12 (9am-12:15pm or 1:15pm-4:30pm)

CPR & First Aid (4 hrs credit) - IFAPA's CPR and First Aid class is designed to give you the confidence to respond in an emergency situation with skills that can save a life. This class is presented by a CPR/First Aid certified trainer and has been approved by DHS for foster parents. All foster parents must be certified within their first year of licensure and every three years thereafter. **Trainer: Mike Cormier**

Sioux City - Sat., Nov. 12 (8am-12:15pm or 1:15-5:30pm)

“Can You Hear Me Now?” Learn How to Effectively Manage Behaviors in Your Home (3 hrs credit) - How our children learn to control themselves is in many ways directly related to what we do to help teach them to control their behaviors. There is not one behavior management technique that will be right for every child or every situation. In this training we will explore behavior challenges faced by foster/adoptive parents and learn techniques to effectively manage these behaviors in your home. **Trainer: Julie Seemann**

Dubuque - Sat., Nov. 19 (1pm-4:15pm)

Dangerous Playgrounds - Drug Awareness and Trends (6 hrs credit) - This class is a must for all parents of youth & teens! Do you know the meaning of terms like “Spice, Budda, Robo-Trippin’,”

Trail Mixing, Space Monkey, Bootin, Banging, Cheese, 420, Cabbage Head?” Would you be able to tell if someone is drunk or high? Do you know the difference between Marijuana & Methamphetamine, prescription drugs & Ecstasy? Do you know what kids are sometimes doing to get high without using anything? It has been several years since IFAPA first presented the class “Drug Awareness”; and has since been completely re-written to reflect dramatic changes that have taken place in the past few years. This class features up-to-date “real” photos & videos to help parents gain knowledge about different substances of abuse; what they look like, how they are used, & their effects. **Trainer: Mike McGuire**

Iowa City - Sat., Nov. 19 (9am-4:30pm)

Mason City - Sat., Dec. 3 (9am-4:30pm)

Transitioning Resources: A Toolbox for Transitioning (6 hrs credit) - This training highlights important resources that can help youth in and after foster care. It will also explain how and when to access the many resources. This information will increase the youth's potential for success by maximizing their opportunity for achieving better outcomes transitioning from foster care to adulthood. This is a very educational and interactive class that will help you in finding needed resources in your area for the youth in your home. Topics discussed will be Positive Youth Development & the implementation of youth-centered planning strategies to help engage the youth in planning for their future. Teens are also welcome to attend this class with a parent. **Trainer: Teresa Sea**

Ankeny - Sat., Nov. 19 (9am-4:30pm)

Cedar Rapids - Sat., Dec. 10 (9am-4:30pm)

HOW TO REGISTER:

To register for a class, call IFAPA at 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or register through the following link on IFAPA's website:

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