

THE PERMANENCY PLANNER

Michigan's Foster Care Review Board Program

Supporting safe and timely permanency through review, advocacy, and collaboration.

Summer 2011



Rewarding Excellence in Child Welfare

By Jim Novell

Program Manager, Foster Care Review Board

Those who choose a professional or caretaking role in the field of child welfare assume the awesome and honorable responsibility of protecting, advocating for, and caring for our state's most vulnerable children and families.

It is important work because, in every case, the future of a child is at stake. It is rewarding work because, in each case, we have the opportunity to make a positive impact on a child's life. Likewise, it is also difficult and demanding work filled with long hours, less-than-adequate pay, and multiple and diverse challenges. In reality, each and every case involves the complexities and frailties of the human condition, as well as the politics and limited resources of the social services system established to address the more-problematic aspects of that condition.

The work of our courts, caseworkers, and foster parents is always open to public critique. More often than not, the critique is negative, particularly when a high profile media case casts aspersions on all who dedicate their lives to this work.

The citizens who compose the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) come to recognize and appreciate that there are many judges, referees, caseworkers, attorneys, and foster parents who excel in addressing the needs of these children and families. They work diligently to overcome systemic limitations and go above and beyond policy, court rule, and statutory standards to help ensure the safety, well being, and timely permanency for children and families, with little - if any - positive recognition for their work.

To address this oversight, the FCRB initiated the annual Child Welfare Awards, which honor exemplary service to children in Michigan's foster care system in the following five categories:

Jurist of the Year, Foster Care Worker of the Year, Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem of the Year, Foster Parent of the Year, Parent Attorney of the Year.

(Continued on next page.)

*When I approach a child, he
inspires in me two sentiments;
tenderness for what he is, and
respect for what he may become.
~ Louis Pasteur*





(Rewarding Excellence in Child Care, cont.)

Finalists and winners are chosen by a panel of child welfare professionals and advocates, including award winners from the past year. This year's award recipients will be recognized at the FCRB annual training conference on November 10, 2011, in Southfield, Michigan. All finalists receive a letter of congratulations for their nomination that identifies the person who submitted their nomination. **The deadline to submit a nomination for the 2011 awards is September 15, 2011.** Complete information and links to all five nomination forms are provided below.

So, please, if you know of someone who is doing outstanding work in any of these categories, take the time to submit a nomination. This will not only recognize their efforts, but will help to highlight to the public the important and often excellent work that is performed within our state child welfare system.



~ 2011 Child Welfare Awards ~

*** Case Worker * Jurist * LGAL * Foster Parent * Parent Attorney ***

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Nominations for the 2011 Child Welfare Awards will be accepted through September 15, 2011. On an annual basis, the Foster Care Review Board recognizes one jurist (judge or referee), one foster care case worker, one lawyer-guardian ad litem (LGAL), one single foster parent or foster parent couple, and one parent attorney for exemplary service to abused or neglected children in the Michigan foster care system.

Nominations for the 2011 Child Welfare Awards are now available online >>>
(Click a category to submit a nomination):

- [Jurist of the Year](#)
- [Foster Care Worker of the Year](#)
- [LGAL of the Year](#)
- [Foster Parent of the Year](#)
- [Parent Attorney of the Year](#)

2010 WINNERS

Hon. Faye M. Harrison
Jurist of the Year

Amy Venard
Foster Care Worker of the Year

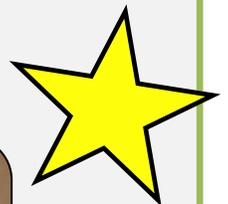
Viola King
LGAL of the Year

Elaine B. VanLeeuwen
Foster Parent of the Year

Tracy Green
Parent Attorney of the Year



Clockwise from upper left: James Novell, Viola King, Tracy Green, Jack Kresnak, Elaine VanLeeuwen, Amy Venard, Judge Harrison



Foster Care Review Board
Annual Training Conference
By Jim Novell
Program Manager



2010 REVIEW

The 2010 Foster Care Review Board Annual Training Conference was held last November at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant. In collaboration with the State Court Administrative Office, Court Improvement Program, we once again brought to Michigan several renowned national child welfare experts. These presenters shared a wealth of knowledge and addressed the very real need for our state to improve the frequency and quality of parent-child visitation, as well as the timeliness and frequency of reunification of foster children with their birth parents. Research indicates that the quality and frequency of both parental visitation and parental involvement are key factors in achieving reunification.

Our thanks to:

- **Judge Leonard Edwards**, former president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, for his presentation on judicial oversight of parental visitation in family reunification cases;
- **Rose Wentz** of the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections at the Hunter College (New York) School of Social Work, for her presentation on establishing a purposeful visitation plan that supports parent child attachment and bonding;
- **Kelly Beck**, with the Seneca Center for Children and Families, San Leandro, California, for her presentation on the role attorneys for children and parents play in improving visitation; and
- **Wendy Rickman and Lori Mozena**, from the Iowa Department of Human Services, for sharing the successful practices they have implemented in the state of Iowa.

Materials from the 2010 conference are archived on the State Court Administrative Office website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/cws/TrainingDevelopment.htm#role>.

The FCRB would also like to thank **Mary Chaliman**, Program Manager of the Medical and Mental Health Unit within the Michigan Department of Human Services, for her presentation at our November 5th session, and **Jack Kresnak**, President and CEO of Michigan's Children, for his address and presentation of the 2010 Child Welfare Awards during the November 6th ceremony.

(Continued on next page.)



****SAVE THE DATE****
2011 Annual Training
Wednesday and Thursday
November 9 & 10, 2011
Southfield, Michigan



(Annual Training Conference, cont.)

2011 PREVIEW

The 2011 annual training conference is scheduled for November 9 and 10 in Southfield, Michigan. It will build on the findings and recommendations set forth in our 2010 Annual Report regarding placement stability for children in foster care.

We have commitments from a number of national and local experts who will address why placement stability should be a priority for everyone involved in a case, and how to best achieve it.

Registration for 2011 training conference: FCRB board members and advisory committee members will receive instructions and details shortly. All others can visit the following website:

<http://webcast.youniversity.com/youtools/companies/viewSchedule.asp?affiliateId=133#detailBox>



DHS Update

By Suzanne Stiles Burke
Director, Bureau of Child Welfare

On July 18, 2011, in the federal court class action originally known as *Dwayne B v Granholm*, U.S. District Court Judge Nancy G. Edmunds approved a renegotiated Modified Settlement Agreement (MSA) between the Children's Rights advocacy organization and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The new agreement focuses reform efforts on the principles of good practice and outcomes, instead of merely process compliance. Both the prior Consent Decree and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) have shown that we cannot just change written policy, make new forms, and put a quality assurance system in place and expect systemic change to occur. It must go deeper. Systemic practice changes in how we do our work must occur. Some specific highlights of the reform efforts are:

- Continued lower caseloads for child welfare workers. Following an early retirement wave that devastated DHS staffing resources, more than 800 new child welfare workers have been hired and are completing their training.
- Formal adoption and training of a case practice model, MiTEAM, which will provide for consistency in practice and clarify expectations for caseworkers.
- Creation of Foster Parent and Adoptive Parent "Navigators," who will offer support, guidance, and mentoring to prospective applicants before, during, and after the applicants become foster and adoptive parents.
- Modifications to the foster home licensing process to streamline it where possible, and thus reduce the length of time to licensure.
- Expansion of foster and adoptive home recruitment and retention efforts, including faith-based partnerships that can spread awareness of the need for foster and adoptive homes for children in Michigan's child welfare system. 1,300 new non-relative homes must be licensed by June 30, 2012.

Now is an opportune time -- while caseloads are more manageable, stakeholder relationships are strong, and family-centered practice is at the forefront -- to provide the leadership and support necessary to make significant changes in the child welfare system.

Our goal is to build a unified understanding of how we work internally and externally with children, families, caregivers, and community partners. That will have a direct impact on how we engage and involve staff, parents, caregivers, and children in all aspects of what we do.



Road Trip

By Kathy Lohr (Falconello)
FCRB Administrative Assistant

When I first considered booking a motor coach to transport board members from Southfield to Mt. Pleasant for last year's annual training conference, I was not at all certain the idea would be accepted or approved.

My "sales pitch" to board members and management focused on substantially reduced mileage costs to the program, benefits to the environment, elimination of driving stress and wear-and-tear on members' vehicles, and increased camaraderie. There was no cost to board members or their spouses/companions.

We ultimately had a group of 24 people on this maiden voyage aboard the "land yacht" (as a few of us affectionately referred to it), and I was fortunate to be among them. The experience was truly positive, and I thoroughly enjoyed the companionship of my fellow travelers. Last year's group was quite animated and lively the entire way to Mt. Pleasant, then – not surprisingly – quiet and restful on the return trip.

This year, members from northern counties will have the opportunity to rendezvous and travel on a motor coach to Southfield for our upcoming annual training conference in November (details will be provided soon).

"Thank you" to all who took advantage of this opportunity in 2010 and to those who shared the following comments and input:

"I thought the motor coach was a great idea. It saved us a tiring drive and was quite comfortable. Also, I was able to enjoy the conversation of my fellow travelers. Great idea!"
Gary Madden

"The experience was positive. I would definitely do it again. Not having to drive was restful going and coming."
Ethel Knight

"Riding the bus was so easy, leaving the driving to the driver left us more time to chat with each other and get to know more about other boards."
Nancy Arnold

"I loved being on the bus. Luggage was not a problem, the bus driver was an o.k. guy and the traveling companions were just great. If I get the chance, I would do it again – but not the tardy part."
Wilhemina Cotton
(Those of you who know Wilhemina will have to ask about her story.)

"I thoroughly enjoyed the bus ride from Tel-Twelve to Mt. Pleasant for the FCRB annual meeting in November. The opportunity to travel with fellow board members and not have to deal with the stress of driving was WONDERFUL. It afforded me the opportunity to get to know other board members as well as my own in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. We shared stories, food and "naptime." It was a great experience. Hopefully, we will be able to take advantage of this cost-saving opportunity again."
Anita Orr

"I had the best experience going to the training by bus. I had the opportunity to meet and talk to other members. The place selected for pick up was just fine. In general I would do it again."
Edna Chang

"I found the bus to be relaxing, and without the stress one would have driving. Plus there was a lot of company and if you wanted to sleep, talk, or read, you could. Pack a lunch and a drink and the trip is wonderful. I didn't have to think of what if I got lost or could I make it to the next gas station because I forgot to gas up before I left. The bus is the best way, especially if you are driving alone!"
Clara V. Dawkins

"I found the motor coach to be stress-free, relaxing and overall a positive experience. The coach was warm, we had an excellent driver and we left both Detroit and Mt. Pleasant on time. The pick up sight [sic] was well lit and oversight of the parking area was provided [by the] Meijer store. I couldn't have asked for more convenience."
Cassandra Wells

"The bus sure beat driving and was so much more relaxing than having to pay attention to traffic. It took about the same time to get [there] as if I had driven. In addition, it was great to have an opportunity to talk to folks with similar interests. In conclusion, it is a great idea, and even saves the State money."
Don Novak



Saluting Kevin Sherman



The early retirement legislation of 2010 may have saved the state money, but it cost the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) a valued and long-term employee. Kevin Sherman, who had been the program representative in our Gaylord office since 1998, officially retired from state employment in December of last year.

Kevin primarily covered review boards in northern lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. He did an exemplary job in both developing cohesive boards and conducting comprehensive reviews. Legend has it that because Kevin had to spend so much time on the road traveling to the most remote counties, he sometimes read his cases during the long, open-road drives. If true, this feat should not be a surprise, considering that Kevin served in Iraq in 2008 and 2009 when, as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army reserves, he managed some of Iraq's most dangerous war criminals.



Prior to joining the FCRB, Kevin had worked for two local court systems and the Department of Human Services for over 20 years. Upon retirement, Kevin was again deployed by the Army, but this time stationed here in the U.S.

Kevin's service to both our country and our state's most vulnerable children and families is worthy of our utmost appreciation.

Foster Care Review Board Student Interns

Jessica Condeni completed her internship with the Foster Care Review Board this past May, and we wish her continued success in all future endeavors.

We welcome two incoming Wayne State University student interns, **Erinn Alderman** and **Patricia Jones**, who will join us in the Detroit office this September.



The 2010 Annual Report of the Foster Care Review Board is now available online at the Michigan Courts website:

http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/fcrb/fcrb_ar10.pf

Foster Care Review Board New Members - 2011

The Foster Care Review Board would like to welcome the following new volunteer board members:

Board	Name	County
01	Denise Carr	Wayne
02	Katrina Floyd-Dixon	Wayne
04	Paula Cunningham	Wayne
04	Darryl Lewis	Wayne
04	Nancy Silveri	Wayne
04	Theresa Thomas	Wayne
06	Johnette Connors	Wayne
07	Wain Saeger	Wayne
09	Robert Thomas	Wayne
10	Janice Cowan	Wayne
10	Kimberly Sutherland	Wayne
11	Janet Evans-Covington	Oakland
11	Kay Norton	Oakland
11	Gary Shripka	Oakland
12	Helen Springer	Macomb
13	Quincy Dobbs	Genesee
13	Agnes Greene	Genesee
13	Toyonna Robbins	Genesee
17	Pamela Fitzgerald	Jackson
17	Diane Langan	Hillsdale
18	Lynn Nee	Shiawassee
21	Carol Bennett	Kent
22	Mary Roberts	Kalamazoo
25	Jill Ernest	Cass
25	Mary Spessard	Berrien
26	Colin Buell	Midland
26	Michael Love	Midland
26	Roy Myatt	Midland
27	Rebecca Garland	Benzie
28	Jean Frentz	Emmet
28	Jeanette Wiebenga	Roscommon
30	Doris Posey	Chippewa



Holiday Donations

THANK YOU to the following people who made donations to Big Family of Michigan at the 2010 FCRB Annual Training Conference last November. These donations are used to purchase holiday gift cards for older foster youth.

*Beatrice Bikali
Jennifer Carpio-Zeller
Marvin Dick
Brenda Godfrey
Elayne Gray
Angie Greenslade
Heather Leidi
Kathy Lohr
Rubina Mustafa
Don Novak
Rosemary Sear
Joan Smith
Rita Smythe
Rhonda VanHurley-Wilson
Lucinda Wakeman*

This list is taken from a sign-up sheet. Please note that several donors asked to remain anonymous.

In 2010, Big Family of Michigan served approximately 15,000 children at holiday parties held throughout Michigan.

Needed for 2011

Big Family of Michigan accepts help and donations for projects all year long. Listed below are needed items:

- Toothbrushes, small travel-sized toothpastes
- Gift cards (Target, etc.)
- Toys
- Helpers

Big Family of Michigan

<http://www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org/>

Remembering Henry Bohm

It was with great sadness that we learned one of our long-standing and beloved board members, Henry Bohm, passed away in February of this year at age 81. Henry had been a board member in Wayne County since 2000. He was a strong, articulate, and outspoken advocate for children and families, as well as for improving accountability of the system that served them.

As a professor emeritus of physics at Wayne State University, Henry could never quite reconcile with the fact that the field of child welfare, which cares for our state's most vulnerable children and families, lacks the rigorous practice standards and accountability that is common to good science and successful businesses. Pity the poor caseworker who came unprepared to present an adequate report on a case that Henry was reviewing.

Henry was a remarkable man who lived an eventful life. He was born in Vienna, Austria. As a boy, he and his family fled Austria shortly after the 1938 occupation and annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany. The family ultimately emigrated to the United States in 1941, and all became United States citizens. Henry served in the United States Navy and Reserves, where he attained the rank of lieutenant commander.

Henry was married to the love of his life, Lucy, for 53 years. At his memorial service, Henry was remembered by all who knew him, particularly his two children, as a beloved father and devoted and loving husband.

Henry did his undergraduate work at Harvard, his initial graduate work at the University of Illinois, and obtained his PhD in physics from Brown University. He came with his wife and children to the Detroit metro area toward the end of 1959, when he accepted a teaching and research position in the Department of Physics at Wayne State University. Along with earning his full professorship, Henry served at various times as department chairman, vice president for graduate studies and research, vice president for special projects, provost, dean of faculties, and dean of the College of Liberal Arts.



Henry was tireless in his efforts to help improve the lives of those around him. In addition to his work with the Foster Care Review Board, he was also engaged in groundbreaking research on autism. He will be greatly missed by all of us involved with the Foster Care Review Board Program and by society at large, which has lost a remarkable humanitarian.





Wolverine Human Services Vassar House

By Jeanne Fowler
FCRB Advisory Committee
Child Advocate, Writer, Speaker, Artist

My motto is that we must constantly work to make a difference in a child's life. One way I try to do this is by traveling to many places and speaking to a variety of organizations, taking the audiences along on the journey of an abused child. I want social workers, foster parents, police, lawyers, doctors, and caregivers to understand what an abused child experiences before and after they enter the foster care system.

I recently visited Wolverine Human Services in Vassar, Michigan, to speak to their staff. This is a wonderful facility that can house over 300 children and is situated on 73 acres. Youth at the facility are between the ages of 13 to 18 years old, with the majority 15 and older.

For many of these children, Vassar House is a last resort. They have exhausted all resources available through their families and the juvenile justice system. Many of these youth are addicted to drugs or alcohol or both. Many have turned to gangs seeking the "family" they do not have. They arrive at Wolverine suffering the effects of chemical addictions, abuse, and neglect. They are filled with anger and they trust no one.

Vassar House is an incredibly uplifting facility. It not only provides professional counseling for youth-related issues and drug addiction, but it also provides these children with schooling and teaches them a trade.

There is a huge area in the girls section where residents can raise a vegetable garden. Flowers are planted and cared for throughout the facility grounds by many of the children. With assistance from Habitat for Humanity, the boys have built four homes for families in the Vassar area, and there is a meat packing plant on the grounds where the teens are taught how to butcher and wrap beef. These youth learn valuable working skills and trades to take with them when they leave.

Many different elements throughout the program are specifically designed to help the youth build trust, in both others and themselves. There are obstacle courses to work through, with only their peers to lean on. Everything is geared so the children will "leap into the future," stronger and surer of themselves, with skills that will enable them to survive in the world away from the support structure of this facility.



Wolverine Human Services is a social service agency providing safety, sustenance, nurturing, and therapeutic intervention to children. Wolverine's programs focus on adolescents suffering from the social injustices of abuse and neglect and those involved in delinquent activities. <http://wolverinehs.org/>



Family Reunification Day

By Christine Vadino
Permanency Specialist
3rd Circuit Court Juvenile Division



On June 23, 2011, over 100 people gathered at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to celebrate Wayne County's 2nd Annual Family Reunification Day. The 11 families honored at this year's event represented hundreds of families who were reunified in Wayne County during the past year. Smiling parents and children were joined by their jurists, attorneys, foster care specialists, and extended family members for an inspiring program followed by a luncheon reception.

The event was hosted by the Third Circuit Court, with the assistance of the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) and a number of agencies and organizations, including the Foster Care Review Board. Through the generosity of private donors—including FCRB members—each family received \$140 in gift cards, and each child received a book geared toward the child's interests.

Keynote speaker Janiva Magness, an internationally acclaimed blues singer who serves as an ambassador for the Foster Care Alumni of America, spoke of living in 12 different placements after the suicides of her parents. She credited her last foster parent and the dedicated professionals in her support system for loving her when she could not love herself. As a result, she said, "the tragedies of my life no longer define me."

Presiding Judge Leslie Kim Smith of the Third Circuit Court's Juvenile Division said that most children who enter foster care are there because of neglect that is rooted in poverty, and that their parents are "good people in difficult situations trying to do better for themselves and their children." Michigan DHS Director Maura Corrigan, in her closing remarks, said the day was "a demonstration of love in action."



Judge Lynne Pierce, Janiva Magness, Presiding Judge Leslie Kim Smith, Chief Judge Virgil C. Smith



Judge Lynne Pierce, Chief Judge Virgil C. Smith, Janiva Magness, DHS Director Maura Corrigan, Presiding Judge Leslie Kim Smith



"If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."

~ Rachel Carson



National Foster Care Review Coalition

<http://nfcrc.wordpress.com/>

The mission of the National Foster Care Review Coalition is to serve as a national coalition of independent foster care review programs to ensure, through individual case review and advocacy for systemic change, the safety, well-being, and timely achievement of permanency for children in foster care by:

- Informing and influencing individual state and national policy makers, as well as the public;
- Promoting the establishment of an independent review system in each state to assess the status of these children; and
- Supporting the work of active independent review systems.

Strategies to achieve our mission:

- Providing a mechanism to gather and distribute data from independent review systems in order to impact systemic reform;
- Identifying those areas in the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process where independent foster care review programs may assist their state's assessment and systemic improvement efforts; and
- Collaborating with groups, programs and organizations that have similar goals in order to effect positive system change.

All editions of **The Permanency Planner** are available online at:
<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/fcrbnewsletters/fcrbnews.htm>

Parent Partner Program

Support for Parents with Children in Foster Care

The Guidance Center has partnered with several other area agencies to provide “Parent Partners,” a support and resource service to parents whose children have been placed in the foster care system. The program is completely voluntary and is not part of a treatment plan. A Parent Partner can assist by providing support, empathy, and information about the foster care system, courts, services, etc. They are also available to accompany parents to court proceedings, Team Decision Meetings, other agency required meetings, etc., with discretion and for only the purpose of providing support. The Parent Partner will help to identify issues and barriers that may be preventing parents from reuniting with their children and may also be able to help secure services that may be available to help with reunification.

What is a Parent Partner?

Parent Partners are parents who have gone through the child welfare system and successfully reunified with their children. Parent Partners are sensitive to the concerns of birth parents, and are credible when they share their knowledge of the system. The Parent Partner program is a support and resource service extended to parents who experience an out-of-home placement of their children. The program is completely voluntary and is not part of the treatment plan.

What clients are eligible for Parent Partner services?

Any parent experiencing out-of-home placement of a child due Protective Services or Foster Care involvement and whose case plan has the goal of family reunification is eligible for services. The family must live in one of the zip codes listed below to be referred to The Guidance Center for Parent Partner services.

How can a Parent Partner help me?

A Parent Partner can assist the client by providing support, empathy, and detailed information about the Foster Care system, the courts, and the available family services. A Parent Partner will accompany your client to court proceedings, Team Decision Meetings (TDMs), and other required meetings at the client's discretion for the purposes of support. Parent Partners meet with the client in-home on a weekly basis to help the client work through their Parent-Agency Agreement or Court Ordered Treatment Plan. The Parent Partner facilitates understanding between the system and the client. The Parent Partner helps identify issues and barriers that are preventing the client from reuniting with their children. The Parent Partner may also be able to secure services to help the client reunify with their children.

How do I refer to a client to Parent Partner services?

A Protective Services Worker, Foster Care Specialist, POS Worker, or TDM Facilitator may initiate services by completing form WC-583. Please submit this completed form to the Gatekeeper, Pandrea Robinson (Western Wayne CFS) or Julie Hamel (South Central CFS). Funding is provided by a grant through DHS. No individual billing or funding authorizations are required.

The Guidance Center
15601 Northline Road
Southgate MI 48195
Phone: 734-785-7705 ext. 7291 or 7188
Website: www.guidance-center.org





It is a greater work to educate a child, in the true and larger sense of the word, than to rule a state.

William Ellery Channing

The Khan Academy

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free, world-class education to anyone anywhere.

All of the site's resources, including hundreds of online video tutorials, are available to anyone. It doesn't matter if you are a student, teacher, home-schooler, principal, adult returning to the classroom after 20 years, or a friendly alien just trying to get a leg up in earthly biology.

The Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge.

*Shared by Glen Gronseth,
Management Analyst
SCAO Child Welfare Services*



School Supplies Needed!



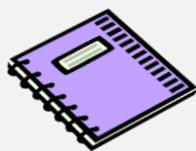
Big Family of Michigan is asking for donations of school supplies for needy foster children throughout Michigan. Donations can be mailed or dropped off:

Mail: Big Family of Michigan, Attn: Jeanne Fowler, 30541 Utica Road, Roseville, MI 48066.

Drop off: Please contact Jeanne Fowler for details: 248-885-0155.

Items can also be dropped off at the Detroit office of the Foster Care Review Board, 3034 W. Grand Blvd., Ste. 8-400, Detroit, MI 48202, 313-972-3280, or given to any advisory committee rep to bring to the September 23 meeting in Lansing.

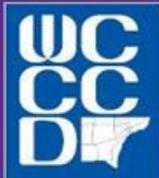
Additional information is available at www.bigfamilyofmichigan.com. Thank you, as always, for your commitment to the foster children of Michigan.



Big Family of Michigan
Attn: Jeanne Fowler
30541 Utica Road
Roseville, MI 48066

<http://www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org/>





Wayne County Community College District's
School of Continuing Education
in Partnership with
The Kinship Organization
Present

The 22nd Annual Kinship Adoption Festival



**Saturday,
September 24, 2011**
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Northwest Campus
8200 W. Outer Drive • Detroit, MI 48219

The Adoption Festival is designed to increase community awareness of children in the foster care system waiting to be adopted. The festival will feature workshops, children activities, food, entertainment, and display tables with various adoption agencies' information. This festival will also educate participants about the adoption of children with special needs, sibling group, and teen adoption.

The First Step Starts With You!
Open To the Public at No Cost!

For more information and to register for the event, contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at 1-800-589-MARE or visit the website www.mare.org. You may also contact WCCCD's School of Continuing Education at 313-496-2704 or log onto www.wcccd.edu

National Adoption Day
Saturday, November 19, 2011
www.nationaladoptionday.org

Michigan Events:
<http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/events/michigan>



Calendar

- Sept. 23** **FCRB Advisory Committee**
Hall of Justice, Lansing
- Sept. 24** **22nd Annual Kinship Adoption Festival**
WCCC, Northwest Campus, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit
- Sept. 29** **Self-Care for Child Welfare Professionals (1/2 day)**
SCAO-CWS and Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Lansing Center, Lansing
Contact: Heather Leidi, LeidiH@courts.mi.gov, 517-373-5322
- Oct. 12-13** **System of Care Conference: Innovation & Transformation – Building on Our Success**
Radisson Hotel, Lansing
Contact: www.impactssystemofcare.org
- Oct. 14** **Permanency Forum**
SCAO-CWS
Clarion Hotel, Kalamazoo
Contact: Heather Leidi, LeidiH@courts.mi.gov, 517-373-5322
- Oct. 20-21** **16th Annual Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Summit**
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids
Contact: Erika Engel, engele2@michigan.gov, 517-241-6131
- Nov. 9-10** **SCAO-CWS-FCRB Annual Training Conference: Achieving Placement Stability for Children in Foster Care**
Westin Southfield-Detroit, Southfield, MI
Nov. 9 - all; Nov. 10 - FCRB only
Register Online (non-FCRB only!): <http://webcast.youniversity.com/>
- Nov. 19** **National Adoption Day**
- Dec. 16** **Big Family/Wayne SWAT Kids' Christmas Party**
Detroit, MI www.bigfamilyofmichigan.com



Michigan Foster Care Review Board

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/fcrb/fcrb.htm>

DETROIT OFFICE

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313-972-3280

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Links of Interest

Adopt Us Kids

<http://www.adoptuskids.org/>

Big Family of Michigan

<http://www.bigfamilyofmichigan.org/>

Child Welfare.com

<http://www.childwelfare.com/index.htm>

Creating Independence and Outcomes (CIAO)
(Foster Youth Demonstration Project)

<http://ciaoproject.editme.com/>

Earth Services

<http://earthservices.org>

Foster Youth in Transition

<http://www.michigan.gov/fyit>

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org>

National Foster Care Review Coalition

<http://nfcrc.wordpress.com/>

Mentor Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/mentormichigan>

Michigan's Children

<http://www.michiganschildren.org/>

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
1-800-589-MARE

www.adoptionfestival.org

Michigan Assoc. for Foster, Adoptive and
Kinship Parents

<http://www.mafak.msu.edu/>

Michigan Court Improvement Program

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/cip/cip.htm>

Michigan Federation for Children & Families

www.michfed.org

Voices for Michigan's Children

www.michiganschildren.org