



# FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

## 2009 FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CAREGIVER TRAINING SCHEDULE

**Sex Abuse Indicators in Young Children**

Tuesday, February 24 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Cynthia Wallis

**Toolbox for Change: Advocating for Children with Mental Health Issues**

Friday, March 27 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Katie Terry

**Calming the Chaos: Keeping Your Sanity While Living with an ADHD Child**

Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Trainer: Ed Petrish

**Never Be Lied to Again By Your Kids**

Saturday, March 28 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: Ed Petrish

**Parenting Children w/ Disabilities in Early Childhood Through Adolescence**

Saturday, March 28 - 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Trainer: Tyrone White

**Budgeting: Making Ends Meet as a Foster/Adoptive Parent**

Sunday, March 29 - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Trainer: Tyrone White

**Street Drugs Recognition**

Saturday, April 18 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: Tyrone White

**Self-Mutilating Behaviors**

Saturday, May 9 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: David Zidar

**Helping Children w/Mentally Ill Parents**

Thursday, June 18 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: David Zidar

**Speaking the Truth in Love**

Friday, October 23 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: John Ward

**NOTE:**

*All adoptive parents are also welcome to attend these trainings.*

**To register for any of the trainings listed, please call a foster care specialist at 330-345-5340.**

**\*\*Please remember to pre-register at least five days prior to the training. If we do not have ten people registered by that deadline, the training will be cancelled.\*\***



# FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

## Foster Family Feature

By: Kathy Smith, Caseworker II - Placement



Dwayne & Richelle Nicholas

A little over two years ago, Dwayne and Richelle Nicholas made an inquiry to Wayne County Children Services to adopt or foster a child. Since then, they have become licensed foster/adoptive parents and have taken placement of four different sibling groups of children under the age of five.

Dwayne is a Security Officer and part of the Ohio National Guard Forces in Mansfield. He is also an EMT / Firefighter for the Village of Loundonville. Richelle is employed as an Intake Coordinator for a local Medical Supply Business and is a Licensed Practical Nurse.

While the Nicholas' live in Ashland County, Richelle works in Wooster and the children go to Day Care here, also. They also transport to medical appointments and visits as needed.

Dwayne was deployed for six months in 2008. While Dwayne was gone, Richelle accepted placement of a little girl, age 2 1/2 and parented by herself. Dwayne got home in August, and fortunately, had an opportunity to meet this little girl who has stolen their hearts.

This family is an asset to our foster care program and are committed to helping children in need.

## FOSTER FAMILY HUMOR

You know you're a foster parent if...

- ...You spend more time with your washer and dryer than you do your spouse.
- ...You watch your two week placement go from crib to junior high.
- ...Your personal stash of children's clothing rivals that of the local Goodwill office.
- ...The term "basically a good child with a few problems" doesn't mean the same thing coming from a caseworker as it does in the real world.
- ...Your idea of a "social life" is talking to the checkers at the local Wal-Mart.
- ...Your heart is bigger than your brain!





# FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

## New Foster Care Ad Campaign Launched

By: Regina Schwartz, Foster/Adoption Recruiter

A new recruitment ad campaign was launched this past fall and is already having a big impact. The goal of the campaign is to get more people interested in fostering/adopting older children and includes billboards, radio spots, newspaper feature articles and newspaper advertisements. The focus on finding homes for teens isn't new, but the ads are an effort to send a clear message that people can't miss...Wayne County's foster teens desperately need homes!



As a result, the teen home situation has been improving. The placement unit received a record number of inquiry calls about teens in November, three existing foster homes for younger children gave teens a chance, and two new teen homes were licensed. We are already in a much better situation than we were at the end of the summer, and are hoping to see even more progress in 2009.

Anything you can do to help spread the word is appreciated. You can host a fosterware party, pass out foster/adoption brochures, or just tell your friends and neighbors about the need. Remember, advertising campaigns are great, but word-of-mouth is even better!

---

## FOSTER CHILD RECOGNIZED AT BOARD MEETING



(l to r) Julie Tuel, Stephen, Glenda and Matt Wade

At its January meeting, the Wayne County Children Services Board and Wayne County Commissioner Scott Wiggam recognized Stephen R. with a Certificate of Achievement for progress he has made since being placed in foster care. Since being placed in the Wade Foster Home, Stephen has begun to follow a safe, nurturing and consistent routine and has learned to be patient when waiting his turn. He is doing very well in school and has made a great adjustment to this foster home.

As a reward, Stephen received a gift certificate for a Discovery Flight at a local airport. Stephen will get to take a ride with a licensed flight instructor and learn more about flying. Stephen's foster parents, Matt and Glenda Wade, and his caseworker, Julie Tuel, were also recognized for their contributions to Stephen's progress.

Great job, Stephen, Julie, Matt and Glenda!