



Wayne County Children Services Board

2534 Burbank Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691

PHONE (330) 345-5340 - FAX (330) 345-7082 - www.waynecsb.org

The CONNECTION

JULY/AUGUST 2009

You may have seen the following Public Service Announcement in a local newspaper, but we think it's worth repeating in our newsletter for those who didn't see it.

"I Only Left Her Alone For A Minute!"

LEAVING YOUR CHILD IN A PARKED CAR CAN BE A DEADLY MISTAKE!

Child Abduction – The statistics are startling when it comes to missing children. In 2008, 22,402 children were reported missing in Ohio.

Infants and young children need appropriate supervision at all times to keep them safe. Leaving your child unattended, even for a brief time, puts your child at risk of being abducted.

Older children need to be warned of the dangers and properly informed of safety issues – issues that might save their lives.

Heat Stroke & Death – Because of its many windows, the inside of your car is like a greenhouse. It sounds incredible, but even if the weather is mildly warm and you leave your windows slightly opened, the temperature inside the car can reach 120 degrees to 140 degrees in a matter of minutes.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion include high body temperature, mental confusion, headache, nausea, lightheadedness, muscle pain and cramping. A heatstroke is an extension of heat exhaustion in which a child's temperature rises to greater than 104 degrees. In extreme cases, coma and death may occur if treatment is delayed.

DON'T HESITATE.....CALL 9-1-1 IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS IN DANGER.

*This public service announcement is brought to you by
Wayne County Children Services and the Wayne County
Sheriff's Office.*



THE CONNECTION

JULY/AUGUST 2009

**WAYNE COUNTY
CHILDREN SERVICES**

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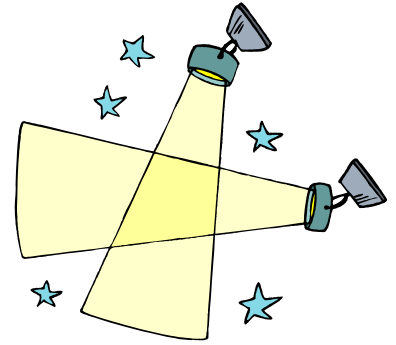
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Employee Spotlight

By: Bethany Sherrieb
Social Service Supervisor



Tiffany Green

Caseworker II - Intake

Tiffany has worked at WCCSB for four years. She is a Caseworker II in the Intake Unit. She investigates new referrals of child abuse and neglect, ensures child safety, makes referrals to community agencies and transfers cases for ongoing services as needed.

Tiffany attended Ashland University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work.

One of Tiffany's lasting memories is receiving the Caseworker of the Quarter Award in 2008. She enjoyed being recognized for a job well done.

Tiffany enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, and attending dog shows with her Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Truman.

Tiffany likes working for WCCSB because of all the friends that she has made. She also enjoys knowing that she is helping children and families.

If Tiffany had one wish about her job it would be that there were more community services available to help families who are in need.



NEW STAFF ADDITIONS

The agency is pleased to announce the following addition to our team:

Amber McClain - Amber began her employment with WCCSB on 07/01/09 as a Caseworker II in the Intake Unit. Amber was born and raised in Wayne County and currently resides in the Orrville area. She graduated from The University of Akron in 2008 with a BA in Social Work. In her spare time, Amber enjoys spending time with her daughter, Skylar, solving Sudoku puzzles, collecting JFK memorabilia, playing volleyball, and watching 80's movies.

STAFF NEWS

Staff Member Anniversaries

July

Connie Imhoff, Network Administrator
07/14/93 16 years

April Dreher, Caseworker II/Screeners - Intake
07/12/99 10 years

Tasha Siebert, Caseworker II - Intake
07/15/02 7 years

Angie Chrostowski, Case Aide
07/22/02 7 years

Randy Rice, Caseworker II - Ongoing
07/29/02 7 years

Dawn Durkee, Caseworker II - Ongoing
07/05/06 3 years

Linda Crooks, Social Service Supervisor
07/02/07 2 years

August

Bethany Sherrieb, Social Service Supervisor
08/10/92 16 years

Melissa Humbert, Caseworker II - Ongoing
08/02/99 10 years

Eric Killinger, Social Service Supervisor
08/26/02 7 years

Carla Jessie, Clerical Specialist II
08/02/04 5 years

James Barry, Caseworker II - Ongoing
08/04/08 1 year

Kristin Rogers, Caseworker II - Ongoing
08/04/08 1 year

Just Married....



Best Wishes to Jill (Network Technician) and Eric Killinger (Social Service Supervisor), who were married on May 11th in a private ceremony at the Paris Chapel in Las Vegas. The couple then took a mini-honeymoon in Vegas and plan to take an "official" honeymoon in England in the future.



Congratulations to Caseworker Michelle May and her husband, Ryan, on the birth of their second child, Luciana Marie. Luciana arrived on July 8th.

Volunteer News
By: Jackie Wynn, Volunteer Coordinator

Dog Bite Prevention – Our Kid’s Day Theme!

Saturday, June 6, was a beautiful summer day, which found Wooster filled with lots of excitement coming from the children who attended Kid’s Day! Sponsored by Main Street Wooster, Inc., Kid’s Day is a celebration of summer vacation from school.

Once again, we teamed up with Caring Therapy Canines Paws for Love group to promote dog bite prevention and safety for children. Children visiting our shared space were treated to stickers, coloring pages, and dog tattoos. A BIG thanks to our volunteers Randy Regan and Dave Wynn, and all the therapy teams with Caring Therapy Canines for helping with our activity and promotion of safety!



Wayne County Fair NEWS....

It’s that time again! Once again we will be welcoming volunteers, foster parents, staff, and service organizations to help with the Tot/Tag Station. Would you like to help? It’s a “fairly” painless task and you get free admission to the fair in exchange for your three hour shift!

The fair is: **Saturday, September 12 – Thursday, September 17.**

We need YOUR HELP!! Attendants are needed for the following shifts:

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY
Shift #1: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Shift #2: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shift #3: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Shift #4: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
Shift #1: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Shift #2: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Shift #3: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The attendants working these tents are asked to greet parents and children, assist with lost children, offer safety information, and keep the tents tidy.

To volunteer for the Tot/Tag Station, please **contact Jackie Wynn at 330-345-5340 Ext. 2378 or wynnj01@odjfs.state.oh.us**. Again, **FREE admission tickets are available to individuals who volunteer to help.**



FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

FOSTER FAMILY FEATURE

Belle and Eli have been licensed since July, 2006. They originally had gone through training to care for a relative who resided in Florida via the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). This did not work out and the child was placed with siblings there and adopted by another party. While this door closed for the Troyers, it opened the opportunity to foster children in their own community.

Belle and Eli have accepted eight placements of a few days to two years. The children's ages range between six months and 13 years. They have also helped with many respite for other foster families. They adopted their son, Marquel, in February, 2008.

Eli retired from the City of Orrville in 2003. He enjoys fishing and has a large collection of Hot Wheels cars. Belle is the owner/operator of Classic Tux. Belle enjoys scrap-booking and sewing. They have four adult children and 11 grandchildren who all live in Wayne County. The Troyers enjoy activities where they spend a lot of time with family.



Belle & Eli Troyer with Marquel

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Clothing & School Supplies for Foster Children



Foster Parents wanting to take part in the People-to-People Ministries Back to School program need to sign up at the People-to-People office located at 454 E. Bowman Street, Wooster.

Sign up is at the following times: July 28, 29, August 3, 4, 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On July 28th and August 4th the sign up times are extended in the afternoon until 5:45 p.m.

Foster parents need to bring the Individual Child Care Agreement that places the child into their home and their foster parent ID. Foster Parents also need to know the child's age, grade, birth date, and social security number.



FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

Adoption Journey Ends in Success

By: Regina Schwartz, Foster/Adoptive Home Recruiter

Adoption can be an arduous process, but it can also change lives in amazing ways. Just ask Christopher and his adoptive dad, Jeff.

When 10 year-old Christopher became available for adoption a year and a half ago he said he didn't want to talk about adoption, didn't want to be adopted, and stated that he planned to stay in foster care for the rest of his life. He literally refused to even speak to his adoption caseworker for a period of time after the case transferred to her.

As most of us know, however, social work is not for the faint of heart and caseworker Amy Rice didn't give up. She placed Christopher's profile on the Ohio Adoption Website (OAPL) and continued trying to talk to Chris. After about two weeks Christopher finally began to open up to Amy.

Amy learned that Chris was a very bright, helpful boy who liked sports and video games. She also learned that he enjoyed riding his bike, being outside, and making people laugh. On a more somber note, she discovered that Christopher felt hopeless and filled with anger, that he was destructive, seemingly always in trouble, and had never had a true friend.

During the time Amy was getting to know Chris, Jeff was 400 miles away looking for a child to adopt when he saw Christopher on the OAPL website. Jeff was a teacher who loved children and wanted very much to be a dad. He sent his homestudy to CSB and Amy decided to set up a visit. After some cajoling, Christopher finally agreed to meet Jeff and even made a special craft for him at school.

Jeff made the long drive from out-of-state and stayed for the weekend. After that visit, both Chris and Jeff wanted to continue getting to know each other and to consider adoption. Chris and Jeff had several visits in Ohio and out-of-state, then six months later Christopher was placed with Jeff.

Chris has adjusted wonderfully to his new home, neighborhood, school, and family. Since he was placed in October of 2008, he has played intramural basketball, he's participated in group therapy as a leader and motivation to other kids, and has joined a swim club with Jeff. He's also been receiving guitar instruction, practices almost daily, and has become quite accomplished.

Most importantly, though, Christopher and his adoptive dad have become very bonded to one another and Christopher has formed several friendships and one very close friend. Chris was adopted on July 8, 2009, and recently called Amy to tell her he is "happy and jolly and all that good stuff."

Please join us in congratulating Jeff and Christopher!



FOSTER/ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEWS

2009 FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CAREGIVER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Speaking the Truth in Love

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

Trainer: John Ward

Re-Parenting the Wounded Child

Saturday, October 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: John Ward

Play with a Purpose

Friday, November 6 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Trainer: Bert Nero

Child Development

Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Trainer: David Zidar

Chemically Dependent Parents

Saturday, November 7 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Trainer: David Zidar

Computer Safety

Saturday, November 7 - 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Trainer: Pieri Levandofsky

Coaching & Mentoring for Foster Parents

Sunday, November 8 - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Trainer: Mel Gravely

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.****

AGENCY STATISTICS

| <u>Intake Services</u> | <u>April, 2009</u> | <u>May, 2009</u> |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Reports of Child Abuse/Neglect | 111 | 124 |
| Reports of Child Abuse/Neglect-one year ago | 135 | 122 |
| Annual Total | 386 | 510 |
| Monthly Increase/Decrease | - 18% | + 2% |
| <u>Substitute Care</u> | | |
| Agency Foster Care | 61 | 63 |
| Purchased Therapeutic Care | 14 | 13 |
| Purchased Residential Care | 16 | 15 |
| Independent Living | 0 | 0 |
| Total Placements | 91 | 91 |
| Total Bed Days | 2,502 | 2,672 |
| Relative Bed Days | 1,027 | 1,033 |
| <u>Adoption Services</u> | | |
| Finalized Adoptions | 0 | 2 |
| Total Year to Date | 4 | 6 |
| PASSS Approved | 1 | 5 |
| <u>Protective Services</u> | | |
| Families Served | 156 | 157 |
| Children Served | 310 | 310 |
| Children in Permanent Custody | 26 | 26 |
| Case Aides/Miles Driven | 9,916.09 | 7,549.83 |
| <u>Kinship Services</u> | | |
| Relative/Kinship Placements | 33 | 37 |
| Kinship Assistance Approved | 5 | 0 |
| Kinship Permanency Incentive | 6 | 3 |
| <u>Volunteer Services</u> | | |
| New Inquiries | 36 | 36 |
| Active Volunteers | 83* | 79* |
| *includes 7 Board Members & 13 Advisory Board Members | | |
| <u>Parent Education</u> | | |
| Steps to Better Parenting I: | | |
| Adults Enrolled | 11 | 11 |
| Adults Successfully Completed Program | - | 7 |

WE'VE CHANGED OUR PARENTING CLASSES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

STEPS TO BETTER PARENTING: THE EARLY YEARS

For Parents of Children Ages Birth to Four (4)

Future classes will be scheduled as the need arises. A waiting list will be maintained. Please call to sign up.

Instructor: Heather Fath

Location: Varied Locations in Wooster

STEPS TO BETTER PARENTING: THE MIDDLE YEARS

For Parents of Children Ages Five (5) to Twelve (12)

Future classes will be scheduled as the need arises. A waiting list will be maintained. Please call to sign up.

Instructor: Heather Fath

Location: Varied Location in Wooster



Topics Covered in Both Classes Include: Learning appropriate development expectations, increasing knowledge and ability on how to manage the behaviors of your children, increasing self awareness and ability to be empathic, positive discipline, communication, expressing feelings, family stress, modeling appropriate behavior, consistency, and personal boundaries.

Books and materials are provided at no cost to participants. You must attend eight (8) out of ten (10) classes to receive your completion certificate.

Class participants must call personally to register - 330-345-5340.

OUR MISSION...

In partnership with the community, Children Services of Wayne County protects children at risk of abuse or neglect and strengthens, preserves and empowers families. Through evaluation of that risk, we identify and coordinate community services. We work in collaboration with others to provide these children with safe, nurturing and permanent families, whether their own or another. We seek to enhance community awareness by educating the public.