



A Publication of the Alabama Foster Adoptive Parent Association

Connections

Summer 2009

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MEET DWAN



Dwan was born in December 1996. He has large brown eyes and has dark curly hair. He is small in stature and has a light skin complexion. He is a friendly, well-mannered, playful and pleasant child. He is very athletic and loves physical activities such as football and basketball. He also enjoys riding his bike and playing electronic game system. Dawn will be in the 7th grade for the 2009-2010 school year. He loves reading and P.E.

He attends church regularly and likes "hearing the word" and also enjoys the music. The things he likes most about himself is his smile and when he does things that make other people proud of him.

Dwan wants a home with parents that are loving and nurturing to him. He tells us that his idea of a perfect family is one who will "love me despite my faults". He would also love to remain in contact with his siblings. Dwan needs parents that can help him recognize the importance of honesty and being respectful of other peoples' property. He also needs someone who is patient and understanding and can help him learn to walk away from negative behaviors. Dwan is very excited about the possibility of being adopted, but he has to be reassured that he will still be able to communicate with his siblings.

photo courtesy of www.heartgalleryalabama.com

A Special Thank You to our friends at Heart Gallery for suppling us with photos of the children in need of adoption.



To see more of Alabama's waiting children
(and to hear their voices) please visit
www.heartgalleryalabama.com

**See more children
for adoption
throughout the
newsletter**



From the President of AFAPA

Hope everyone has had a good Summer. Hard to believe it is time for School to start back. It has been a busy Summer for all of us at AFAPA since the Conference at Shocco Springs in May. It was really one of the best Conferences we have had. With almost 400 in attendance for the 2 nights and 3 days. We will again have the conference at Shocco next year May 13th thru 15th, 2010.

New Officers were elected at the AFAPA conference. New officers will take office October 1st, 2009 and serve until September 30th, 2011. The new officers are listed below.

William Buddy Hooper President
 Joe Anthony Vice President of Adoption
 Mary Smith Vice President of Foster Care
 Joette Vick Treasurer
 Brenda Caudle Secretary
 Regional Representatives were also elected to serve 2 years beginning October 1st, 2009.
 Region 1 – Deloris Seay Houston County
 Region 2 – Dollie Mims Baldwin County
 Region 3 – Aunita Keith Dallas County
 Region 4 – Sharlene Casteel Russell County
 Region 5 – Ida Ellis Greene County
 Region 6 – Deborah Crawford Jefferson County
 Region 7 – Sue Thomas Lamar County
 Region 8 – Darla Works DeKalb County
 Region 9 – John Potts Franklin County

*Congratulations to all these new officers
and Regional Reps*

Thanks to all of you have supported the Walk Me Home Shirt Project. We still have lots of shirts left for a donation of \$10 so let me know if you would like one. Check the www.nfpaonline.org website for more information on supporting a Walk in your community.

AFAPA has partnered with the Alabama Birthday Wish for Foster Children and has been able to donate \$1000 to this program from the Walk Me Home donations. I have included several pictures taken at the fundraising event in Montgomery June 7th, 2009. For more information about this program go to www.alabamabirthdaywish.org.

AFAPA continues to receive donations that we work very hard to get to our foster families around the state. Those of you who attended this year's conference were able to receive some of those donations. We have recently received more donations of socks from a coalition of Baptist Churches in the Birmingham and surrounding areas. One of our biggest donations ever came from a bank which had taken in about 300 dresses, 150 of which are beautiful wedding dresses and the other 150 prom or evening dresses. AFAPA is working on a plan to let you know exactly what dresses we have and what size. We will hope to have this list available in the next couple of months with a picture of each dress so that our foster and adoptive parents can pick out a dress that will help children in their home. We may be able to post these on the afapa.org website so keep a check in the next few months.

AFAPA is currently making plans for more mini conferences this Fall so check with your regional rep or call the AFAPA toll free number for up to date information on training in your area. AFAPA will also come to your local association meeting and do training for you.

We are working with county DHR offices to help with the distribution of the newsletter this quarter. If you are aware of situations that the newsletters are not getting to our families please email me at buddy@afapa.org and let me know. If you are a local association president and would like newsletters to pass out at your meetings for new foster parents just send me your name and address and I can mail them to you.

Thank you to all who attended the 2009 AFAPA conference. Here are a few pictures I was able to snap this year. Some are of the 12 scholarship recipients, some are of the almost Newly Wed Game and some are of the talent show. I think it was the best conference yet with almost 400 attending. Lots of good training and fun. If you missed it this year make plans to attend next year again at Shocco Springs May 13th, 14, 15th, 2010.



Dear Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association Members,

We believe at AFAPA that when we find something that will help benefit our member families and agencies that it should be shared with everyone. Today, we are pleased to announce our new partnership with Pre-paid Legal Services Inc (PPL).

PPL benefits provide individuals solutions for life event legal issues we all face everyday as well as identity theft protection. Our new partnership with Pre-Paid Legal Services Inc. has been formed with the Regional Vice President, Jason Lavender and Managing Agents, MaryAnn Griffin and Valerie Cooper. We were especially attracted to these two individuals because MaryAnn Griffin & Valerie Cooper are foster and adoptive moms and Jason was a foster child before being adopted. Both understand the importance of families having equal access to the justice system and the many challenges we face.

The first benefit that is offered is exclusively for foster families. Pre-Paid Legal Services acknowledges that foster families face a higher risk of needing legal assistance, especially through false allegations. The plan offered is called the Life events legal plan offering legal advice on any subject, will preparation, adoption legal services, contract review, document review, letters, phone calls, assistance with moving traffic violations, and trial defense services etc... These plans are combined with an identity theft shield plan to help protect your identity. One out of seven individuals has dealt with or knows someone who has had their identity stolen, in fact every 3 seconds it happens. Please see the page in this newsletter explaining covered benefits.

For child placing agencies and businesses, they also provide a huge value by offering a no cost risk assessment for the company and voluntary benefits for the employees. With PPL and the programs they provide, they are able to help all entities better educate and protect the private information that they handle every day and show good faith measures regarding the state and Federal Laws. The partnership between AFAPA and Pre-Paid Legal Services offers any individual who participates in the voluntary benefits a discounted rate and the best part is that it helps support AFAPA who helps support you!

This plan is available to Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents, and Kinship Care Parents in Alabama.

Call Mary Ann or Valerie today to find out more about how you can protect yourself or your business with these great new benefits! Mary Ann's number is 512-917-1593 and Valerie's number is 682-465-0337.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the abused and neglected children of Alabama and to AFAPA and for giving the companies that support us your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

William Buddy Hooper
President AFAPA

RESPIRE CARE SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS

Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network (Alabama Respite) is a statewide organization whose purpose is to identify and develop a network of high quality respite resources for families and caregivers of individuals with significant disabilities or health care needs. Respite is temporary relief for caregivers.

Over one million Alabamians have a disability or chronic illness. Alabama has an estimated 400,000 full-time caregivers who are providing 425 million hours a year of unpaid daily care to their loved ones at home, at a market rate of about \$4 billion dollars. These families are saving the State of Alabama a huge amount by taking care of a loved-one at home; however, caregivers need some time away to recharge or regenerate their energy to continue their day-to-day duties. Respite is the key component of family support and the service most requested by a caregiving family, yet remains in extremely short supply. Although caregiving at home can be rewarding, it can also be extremely stressful on a family – mentally, physically, emotionally and financially. Without a break, caregivers can experience "burnout", which could lead to unintended abuse or neglect of their loved-one.

Respite can be provided in a variety of settings such as a family or relative home, community setting, day center, or church. Respite reduces stress, improves parenting and other caregiving duties, increases time with spouse or other family members, and allows families the freedom to participate in community activities. A key to offering quality respite services within a community is to provide several choices from which caregivers can choose what is best for their specific need.

Alabama Respite offers a variety of services for caregivers and organizations that serve individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses across our state. For ease of access to information and referral to our state's respite services, Alabama Respite maintains a website, **www.alabamarespite.org**, hosting a database of over 100 available resources by county, and a toll free number, 866 737 8252, available to caregivers and service agency personnel as well. Our staff provides public awareness about respite in Alabama, offers technical assistance for individuals and communities wishing to develop new or maintain and enhance existing services (Sharing the Care), trains caregivers, and advocates for caregivers by educating policy makers.

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Protect Your Legal Rights & Your Identity

As a benefit of your membership with AFAPA we are happy to make the following protection available to you.

Foster Family Life Event Legal Plan

While identity theft coverage is very important, it is equally important to have access to legal council for everyday and unexpected life event legal needs

Preventive Legal Services:

- Unlimited Phone Consultations on Unlimited Matters
- Unlimited Letters Written on members Behalf
- Unlimited Contract/Document Review (ten pages or less per document)
- Will Preparation & Durable Power of Attorney (including yearly updates)

Additional Legal Services:

- **Motor Vehicle Legal Services** Representation (Moving Violations, Driver's License (Reinstatement) Assistance, Defense of criminal charges, Personal Injury and Property Damage Recovery)
- **Administrative Inquiry Benefit** In the event an administrative inquiry arises from you or your spouse's responsibility as a licensed foster parent, you will receive up to 10 hours of legal consultation, advice, and representation for 2 inquiries or investigations per year. Limited to 5 hours per occurrence.
- **Administrative Hearing Benefit** In the event that inquiry moves to an administrative hearing, you and your spouse will receive the following benefits: Your 1st year of benefits you will receive 116 hours of hearing time, and 4 hours of preparation and consultation with your Provider Law Firm.
 - 2nd year = 132 hours, and 8 hours prep and consult
 - 3rd year = 148 hrs and 12 hrs prep and consult
 - 4th year = 164 hrs and 16 hrs prep and consult
 - 5th year = 180 hrs and 20 hrs prep and consult

Legal Shield:

- 24-hour toll-free access to legal assistance in the event of an arrest, detention or questioning by a law enforcement officer.

Identity Theft Shield

Covers all 5 areas of identity theft: Financial, Social Security, Medical, Driver's License and Character/Criminal

Evaluation of your current credit standing with detailed analysis

- An up-to-date credit report (looking for accounts you may not be aware of etc...)
- A personal credit score

Continuous (Daily) Credit Monitoring looking for:

- New accounts opened in your name
- Derogatory notations
- Public records
- Inquiries made
- Change of address requests (updates with Post Office daily)

Complete Identity Restoration:

- Trained Experts will take the steps to restore your good name and credit for you
- No out of pocket expenses and time spent away from work
- Fraud alert notifications will be sent on your behalf
- Applicable follow ups will be done with affected agencies and institutions, including:
 - Credit card companies
 - Financial institutions
 - All three credit repositories
 - Social Security Administration
 - Federal Trade Commission
 - Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Law enforcement
 - US Postal Service, etc...

Proactive searches after a theft occurs:

- Proactive searches of applicable local and national databases will be made on your behalf.

Cost and Coverage

Your policy is only \$25.90 a month for Identity Theft Shield and Legal Plan Coverage.

Identity Theft Services Cover:

- The Primary Member & The Spouse or Significant Other

Legal Services Cover:

- The Primary Member, The Spouse or Significant Other, Never-married, dependent children up to age 21 who live at home, Never-married, dependent children up to age 23 who are full-time college students, Children up to age 18 for whom you are legal guardian, and Any dependent child, regardless of age, who is mentally or physically disabled

Please contact:

Maryann Griffin at 512.917.1593 email: mgriffin2016@austin.rr.com or
Valerie Cooper at 682.465.0337 email: valerie.cooper@rocketmail.com
if you would like to enroll or have any questions about the plan.

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Currently, Alabama Respite offers two types of funding programs available to families statewide. The first program, named the HEARTS Respite Program, is offered by your congressional district's local United Cerebral Palsy affiliate with funding made available from the Alabama Department of Child Abuse Prevention. This program is for families who have children up to age 19 with a developmental disability or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The second program, through Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network with funding from the Department of Mental Health, is for caregivers of adults or children who have a cognitive delay or intellectual disability. Both funds will provide respite vouchers to allow a family to take a break from their daily caregiving duties.

Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (AFAPA) contacted Alabama Respite to work with them to begin a Sharing the Care program in the DeKalb County area in the near future. This program will be to assist Adoptive and Kinship Parents in DeKalb County. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity to develop new respite resources for Adoptive and Kinship parents in your community, please contact Buddy Hooper President AFAPA 1-888-545-2372. To find out more about respite services in your local community, contact Java Bennett, Director of Respite Services for Alabama Respite at 256 859 4900, or Linda Lamberth, Program Manager for Alabama Respite, 256 237 3683 or call toll free at 866 737 8252.

MEET LARODNEY



LaRodney, born August 1995, is a very boy who wants a family to call his very own. LaRodney has been described as being a very sharp, bright boy with a lot of potential. He is quiet and reserved until he feels that he knows you well. He has many friends and enjoys attending school.

LaRodney enjoys playing contact sports such as wrestling, football, and basketball. His favorite sport is wrestling and his favorite pro wrestler is "The Edge". Although he is not on an organized sports team, he spends much of his time outdoors with peers playing games.

LaRodney has siblings who have been adopted by another family who he misses very much. The family who adopts him should be prepared to help him maintain his sibling relationships.

LaRodney is learning to control his anger over past abuse and needs a family who is patient and can provide him with a loving home.

ATTENTION LOCAL COUNTY PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS:

Please email or mail you contact information to
Buddy Hooper President AFAPA

buddy@afapa.org or mail to 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058

We now have conference calling available and I would like at some point in time be able to set up regular calls so County Presidents can be more involved and aware of what is going on with AFAPA. We are also looking a different ways we can distribute the newsletters to ensure all foster parents are receiving them.

**Buddy Hooper
President AFAPA**

PARENTING A FOSTER TEEN

Whether you parent a teen you gave birth to, foster parent, or adopted, thoughts of the quality of your parenting go through your mind. Thankfully teens do not need perfect parents. They need good enough parents with education and a great deal of empathy and patience. Good parenting, although challenging at times, is much more doable than perfect parenting. Understanding the stages of teen development allows patient and empathetic parenting. There are three stages of being a teen – early, middle and late. At the core of these stages is the evolution of identity that involves four jobs or tasks of the teen: One, the independence struggle by gaining independence from parents; Two, friends through increased attachment to friends begins a lesson in the world around them, and how to socialize; Three, body awareness and acceptance because self-esteem and self-worth is commonly linked with body image; And four, establishing identity such as spiritual, sexual, occupational and moral. These stages occur one to two years earlier for girls and transition the teen from childhood to adulthood.

Early Teen: Ages 10-13. The independence struggle begins when sudden irritability, sometimes rudeness and moodiness dominate a previously respectful and sweet child. Parents recognize this almost immediately.

Parenting the early teen requires sensitivity about your teen's desire for privacy and independence.

Middle Teen: Ages 14-16. The independence struggle is slightly easier for middle teens and if they have a friend with a car you may see them even less. Teens become consumed with their social, academic and athletic lives. They may also have a significant other, job or other extracurricular commitments. Their lives no longer revolve around what parents want to do. Support them, but continue to check in to be sure they are doing alright.

Late Teen: 17-21 years at least. The independence struggle should no longer be a struggle for the late teen. They have separated successfully and realize that their parents are actually a great resource. They may even ask for advice. Friends for the late teen can be few, but meaningful. The key is that the relationships have a quality of intimacy and sharing, and therefore long-term romantic relationships are common.

Taken from an article by Adekemi Oguntala, MD as it appeared in the March/April, 2009 issue of Fostering Families www.fosteringfamilies.com

Finally remember that teens know on a gut level that they need you. They may not always say it, but they appreciate your courage and commitment to always be there.

Success as a Foster Parent Book

First NFPA Book Launched

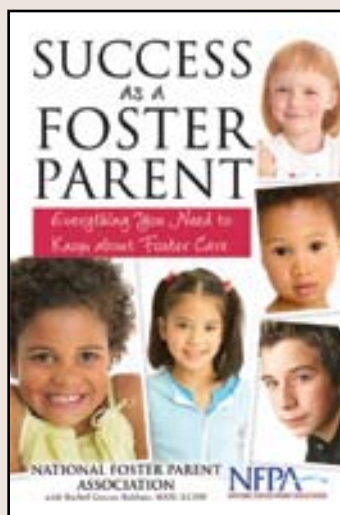
Everything You Need to Know about Foster Care

Success as a Foster Parent offers the information you need to get ready for this life-changing experience.

In it you'll discover what it takes to be a foster parent, learn about the application process, and get real-life tips from other successful foster families. Success as a Foster Parent gives you the knowledge you need to succeed, with information on:

- Finding the best foster care agencies in our area.
- Understanding the financial costs of fostering and the reimbursement you'll receive
- Making the most of the training and support available to foster parents.

- Caring for kids of all ages and backgrounds.
- Adopting a child from foster care.
- Fostering children with special needs.



Single Order Price:
\$16.95 + 4.00 shipping

The NFPA is preparing to openly market its book Success as a Foster Parent and two of the avenues are through State Associations and State Foster Care Managers with a revenue share of the profits of the book being split with each State Association. For more information and how to order the book visit www.nfpaonline.org

MEET TY I.



Ty, born November 1993 has blonde hair and blue eyes and an athletic build. Ty is currently in the eighth grade (2008-09 school year). His favorite subject is science because he likes to explore and learn about creatures and artifacts. One day he wants to be an archeologist or a geologist. Ty is very active and enjoys being outdoors. He likes playing

football and riding four-wheelers.

When asked what kind of family he wants, he stated that he wanted to live in a home where people loved and cared for him. He would also like the family to be humorous, adventurous and like the outdoors.

Ty needs help learning how to control his anger and needs people in his life that can help boost his self-esteem. Ty needs a family that will reassure him of his worth and encourage him often.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADOPTION THROUGH STATE DHR?

County DHR offices may approve families to adopt, only if the family is going to adopt a foster child placed in their home by their county department.

If you have applied to be an adoptive parent and have completed GPS and the home study process, the Office of Adoption can verify that you have an adoption home study on file with the State DHR office. Having a study on file with our office is the only way that you are considered as a possible resource for any/all of Alabama's waiting children. If you want to verify your approval status, you can e-mail Families4ALKids@dhr.state.al.us. Give us your name and birth date (for both parents if a two-parent household) and your county of residence and the name of your county resource worker. If you don't have access to e-mail (preferred method of contact) you may call and leave this information on the Recruitment hotline at 1-866-425-5437 (1-866-4AL-KIDS).

MEET JOSHUA AND TIMOTHY

Joshua, born January, 1995, is a handsome and active young man. Josh has a tender heart and is very loving and giving, though he often tries to show his "tough side". He is very loyal and protective of those he loves. Josh loves all sports, especially basketball and football, and he wants to be a professional football and basketball player when he gets older "to be like Bo Jackson". He is very interested in many extracurricular activities, especially if he gets to spend his time outdoors. Josh sometimes needs some extra help in school, particularly in reading and math and receives that help through special education services for this. He sometimes has difficulty comprehending conversations; he is able to make himself understood but does not always understand others. Impulsivity can sometimes impair his judgement. Joshua has a very independent streak in him as he wants to make all his own decisions as most teenagers do; however, he needs someone to keep him grounded.



Timothy, born in April 1996, is a handsome and bright young man. He is very polite and has a friendly outgoing and bubbly personality. He likes football and swimming, and he enjoys horses. Tim is also an avid reader and likes to spend much of his time indoors. Though Tim can get in trouble often, he is usually quite honest about things eventually, even if he knows consequences may follow. Timothy

is a very energetic child and needs encouragement to stop and think before he says or does something, as his impulsivity can sometimes get him into trouble both at home and at school. Tim usually does pretty well academically in school; he reports he wants to be some type of engineer when he grows up.

Joshua and Timothy attend church regularly with their foster parents. In church, Joshua plays the drums and Timothy is an usher; they both used to be praise dancers there. Josh and Tim

would need to be in a two-parent home with the energy needed to keep up with two energetic, growing boys, as well as provide them with the consistency and firm structure they need to be successful.

AFAPA was invited to offer Foster Parent Bill of Rights training in Crenshaw County June 9th, 2009 for workers from Crenshaw, Butler, Lowndes, and Pike Counties. After the training at Crenshaw County DHR office Buddy & Martha Hooper also attended GPS panel night for potential foster parents from Crenshaw and Pike Counties.

June 26th AFAPA conducted training for foster parents and DHR workers in Greene County.

The training consisted of Foster Parent Bill of Rights and training on the Conflict Resolution Process. For training in your county contact your regional rep or call the AFAPA toll free number 1-888-545-2372



To open the 2009 AFAPA conference a balloon release was held. 67 balloons were release to represent each county in Alabama as we all work together to find permanent homes for more than 6000 children. Later a Walk Me Home to the Place I Belong awareness walk was held with almost 200 foster parents, adoptive parents, workshop presenters, Shocco staff, and DHR staff participating. This was great to see this many people walking for foster children. We hope someone will want to sponsor a walk in Alabama this coming year to promote foster care and adoption even more. For more information on how to do a Walk in your area contact AFAPA or NFPA at www.nfpaonline.org.



HOW TO KEEP A JOURNAL

The strongest material you can have in advocating for your foster child is a well-documented daily journal. Keeping a daily journal assists you when reporting to your agency or DHR, or advocating for your foster child at meetings or court hearings. When opinions are divided, your journal provides you with reasons and documentation for your views.

Judges can only make decisions about a child's case plan based on the information presented in court. This information is often incomplete, biased or just plain wrong. Your foster child depends on you as the most informed person in the courtroom to give the judge accurate information about his or her needs. Your journal can provide critical written evidence which can correct misinformation and bolster your position for what is in the child's best interests. Federal law and Alabama State law gives you the right to be present and to give both written and oral information in court.

Include everything in your journal, the more information the better. You never know what problems may develop. Here are some situations where a daily journal is extremely helpful: 1) You may need to defend yourself against a false allegation of abuse or neglect. 2) You may feel a proposed visitation with a particular person would be harmful to the child. 3) You may be pursuing an adoption which one or both birth parents are contesting.

Write on a regular basis, daily or at least every few days. Set a regular time to write and stick to it. If you decide to write "when you get around to it" the days will fly by and nothing will be recorded. Be sure to write when your foster child has had some special event in his or her life.

Do not use your journal to attack birth parents, DHR, or any other interested parties. Instead pretend you are a camera, and record what happened each day. Did the child cry, laugh, get angry, act out, appear sad? Describe any actions of the child which lead to your conclusion: failing to eat, unexplained sickness or vomiting; fighting with another child in the household; destructive behavior of any kind. Describe the good things as well: school successes, kindnesses, good interactions with peers. Remember... facts, not feelings.

Start today to keep a journal. Your foster child needs your input.

Be sure to write in the day, month and year at the start of each week in the space provided. This can be important should a dispute arise at a later time.

MEET BRITTANY AND CALVIN



Brittany, born in September 1996, is a beautiful girl who enjoys shopping and playing basketball. She is very kind and loving. Brittany enjoys spending time with her foster family and helping out around the house. Although she needs extra help academically, she is eager to learn and tries very hard with her school work. Brittany needs medication to keep her seizure disorder under control. Overall, she is healthy.

Calvin, born October 1998, is smart and enjoys math. He is a respectful young man. Calvin has a great smile that lights up his entire face. He gets along well with his peers and likes to play basketball and video games. Calvin does very well academically.

Both of these children would fit in great with a nurturing, fairly structured family.

*Photo provided courtesy of
www.heartgalleryalabama.com*

A Special Thank You to our friends at Heart Gallery for suppling us with photos of the children in need of adoption.



MEET MICHAEL H.



Michael, born 3/97, is a charming and intelligent boy. He can be affectionate and playful. He is expressive verbally and is open to diverse settings. He is great at word search puzzles and he loves video games, tic tac toe and scrabble. Michael can beat almost anyone at any game he plays! He is very decisive and focused!

Michael responds well to positive reinforcement and likes to be given space. He needs family and friends that know how to re-direct him when needed. Michael is maturing and learning how to follow rules and give respect. He is a bright, interesting child who is fun to be around and teaches something to every adult who interacts with him. He is into technology and wants to be an inventor someday. He says in particular "of a suit that can protect you from everything but looks like clothes."

Michael would benefit greatly from a home that is calm and structured as he is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, Aspergers. He responds well to structure and does very well with routines. Michael handles change best when it is explained to him and he has been given information before the change occurs, giving him time to prepare. Transitions can go smoothly with prompt and preparation.

Michael sets goals for himself and responds to a reward system that is in place. It is felt that Michael would do better if he is the only child in the home. He could be parented in a home with two or one parent. He currently resides in a single parents household where he thrives. Michael wants very much to be adopted and has stated that he wants "a family that will always take care of me". He has been reading books on adoption and receiving assistance in the transition process.

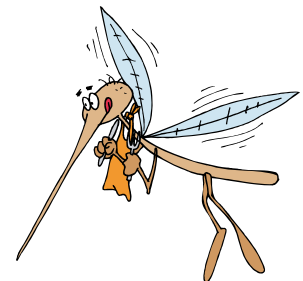
He also says he would like a family with a dog, preferably one that is not too big and is soft." He also wants everyone to know that his favorite color is red and he is excited about transitioning into the regular public school setting in Fall of 2009 and entering the 7th grade. Michael is very bright and has a dry sense of humor. He sometimes doesn't even realize he is being funny and also doesn't always recognize when you are. He loves computers and also says he enjoys soccer. If given a preference he would choose indoor activities over outdoor activities. Michael continues to wish for a forever family and hopes that it will not take too long to find the right one for him!

FUN FACTS



Squirrel Away!

To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.



No More Mosquitoes: Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

These pictures were taken at the June 7th event for the Alabama Birthday Wish Program. Thanks to HisHands Photographs for many of the pictures. First Lady Patsy Riley held a fundraising event for the foster children birthday wish program in Montgomery June 7th, 2009. The event was well attended. There were foster children, foster parents, and DHR workers from all over the state in attendance. The money raised will benefit programs to help foster children with birthdays. Day Springs Card company also announce they furnish a Birthday Card for each foster child this year.

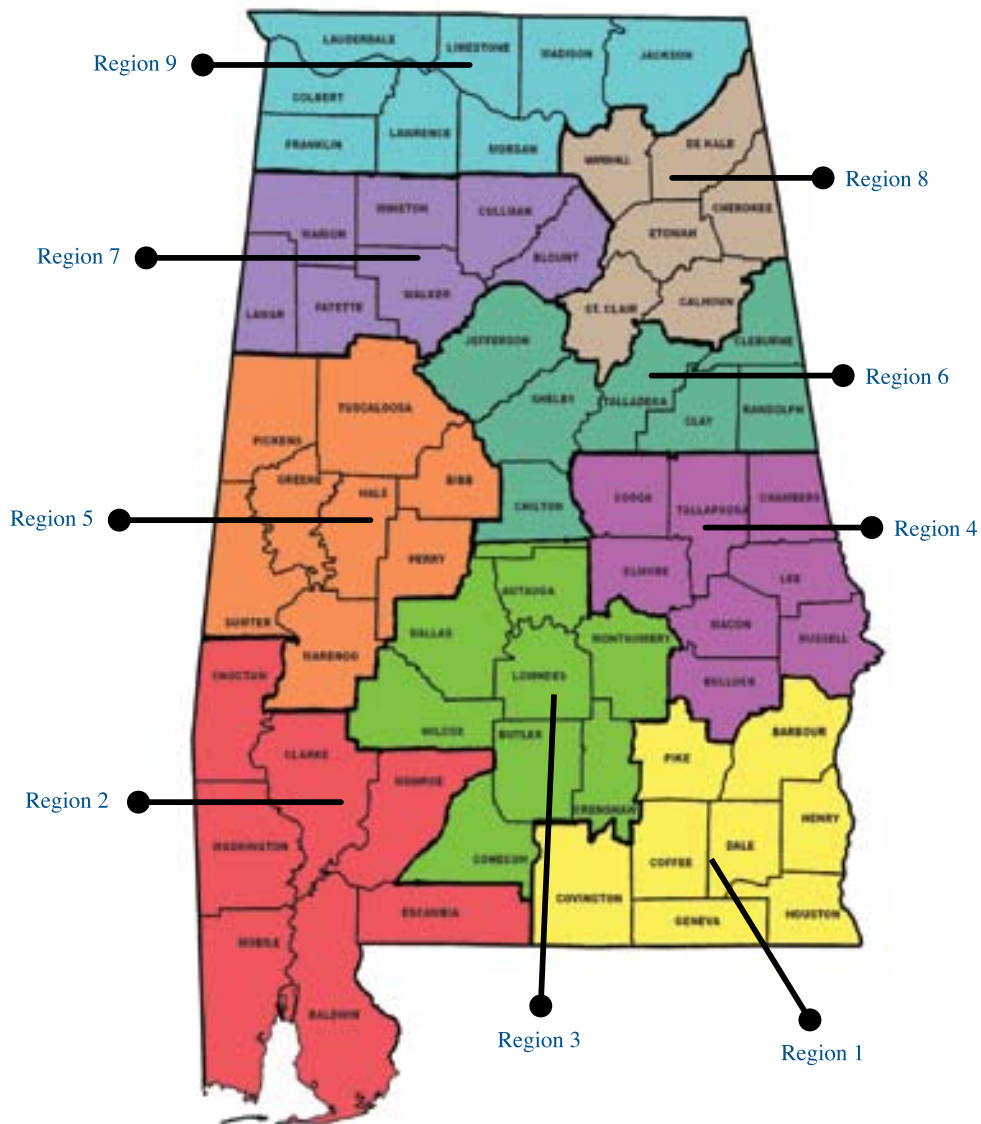


Thanks to Lee Marshall and Kids to Love foundation for again supplying school supplies to more than 3000 children in Alabama and Southern Tennessee.

Volunteers have been working at the Warehouse in Huntsville to get the packs ready to send out the local counties across the state in time before school starts back. Check the Kidstolove.org website to see if help is still needed.



AFAPA REGIONS



Who's Your Regional Rep?

REGION 1

Joe Anthony
334-886-2734 • 334-718-02440
jandcanthony@centurytel.net

REGION 2

Dollie Mims
251-604-3522 • 251-937-2336
DollBAym@aol.com

REGION 3

Shirley Merrill
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REGION 4

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frogmh@aol.com

REGION 9

Doris Wise
256-757-0308 • 256-810-0359
doriswise@peoplepc.com

Why contact your Regional Representative

- For latest info on where and when Education & Training Meetings will be held
- For assistance on who to call for guidance on specific problems/ issues you are facing
- To invite to your county association meetings to help with training and information.
- To learn more about training opportunities through out the state.



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Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058. Deadline dates fall the first of the month in February, May, August, & November.



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