



Newsletter

February 2014

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association



Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

Annual Conference

May 8 – 10, 2014

Shocco Springs, AL



A message from the President

Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Annual Conference at Shocco Springs May 8th, 9th, and 10th. You can register now by calling Shocco at 1-800-280-1105 and tell them you want to register for the Alabama Foster Adoptive parent conference. You will have a choice of spending the night Wednesday the 7th and Thursday the 8th or you can choose to spend Thursday and Friday nights. If you want to spend 3 nights you will be responsible to the 3rd night.

The cost to you to register is \$35 registration fee. If you want a private room to yourself you must also pay \$20 extra per night. Shocco can tell you the cost if you want to spend a 3rd night. Everyone who comes must be registered even if they are not attending workshops. This includes anyone who will be eating meals there.

Please support our Walk Me Home events this year. Shelby County Foster/Adoptive Parent association will be holding their third annual 5K Walk/Run event called the Greater Birmingham Walk Me Home Event. Mobile Foster/Adoptive Parent association will hold their 3rd annual walk end of September. Plans are under way for AFAPA to host the 4th Annual State Wide walk. This will take place in Gardendale, Al May 31st. Cullman County Foster Parents will have their 2nd annual walk sometime this fall and our newest Walk will be in Phenix City sponsored by the Russell County foster and adoptive parent association April 5th, 2014. You can visit www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome to see all walks scheduled and to get more information about each one.

The Time for an increase in Foster Care Board Payments is now. There has not been an increase since 2007 and that was 75 cents a day. Would you like to see an increase this year? If your answer is yes you need to contact your State Representative and State Senator and let them know. www.legislature.state.al. Let the Governor know visit www.alabama.gov

Deadline to apply for Youth Scholarships is March 1st, 2014. You can print out an application from the www.afapa.org website and it was also in the previous newsletter. Any questions call 334-303-1426 or email Mary Smith at smithmary1000@yahoo.com

Buddy Hooper / *President AFAPA*

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Alabama Foster Parent Association
Training
Gardendale First Baptist Church
March 15th, 2014
9:00AM to 12:00 Noon**

Workshops

- Reviewing Minimum Standards
- Foster Parent Bill of Rights/Conflict Resolution Process
- Call 888-545-2372 to reserve a spot

The APAC Library is now online! Foster Parents can also request a Certificate of Participation for resources checked out from the APAC Library.

You can view a complete list of your local resources, search by topic or keyword & easily reserve your items on our new website.

Sign up at www.childrensaid.org/apaclibrary or call 1-800-489-1886 for your client code and pin number. Items will be mailed to you in a postage paid mail bag. You can also visit your local APAC library or call and check out resources.

The APAC Library consists of books, audio cd's, and dvd's. Topics cover adoption and foster care, parenting, health and behavioral issues, abuse and trauma, special needs, professional resources; resources for children & teen's, and many other topics to assist adoptive and foster families.





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Thursday May 8th

- 8-8:30 Welcome and Conference Info
- 8:45 -10:15 Workshops Josh Kroll/Advocacy, Kari Fletcher/FASD and APAC Workshop
- 10:30-12 Judge Paul Sherling/You and Court System, Kari Fletcher, Pamela Revels/Bullying, Cheryl Anthony/All About Me, and APAC Workshop
- 1:15-2:45 SDHR/Legal, Erin Wofford/Understanding Childrens Behaviors part 1
Judge Sherling, CPR, Pamela Revels, and APAC Workshop
- 3:00-4:30 JoshKroll/Subsidy, Erin Wofford part 2, Barbara Lawrence/Special Education, ILP Program, and APAC Workshop
- 6:15-7:15 Foster Parent Trivia and Oldie Wed Game

Friday May 9th

- 8:30-10:00 Welcome, Flag Ceremony, and Guest speakers
- 10:15-11:45 Judge Britt Hammond Keynote Speaker
- 1:00-2:30 Dr. John Degarmo/Foster Dads, Barbara Lawrence/Special Education, CPR, Judge Hammond, APAC Workshop
- 3:00-4:30 Dr. John Degarmo/Foster Children and Technology, Kari Fletcher, Cheryl Anthony/All About Me, Josh Kroll, APAC
- 6:30-8:00 Scholarship Awards program and special guest speaker

Saturday May 10th

- 8:00-10:00 William Hooper/Closing Session "What will you do with what you heard past two days and follow up questions"

APAC Workshop list

- Coaching the Hurt Child
- Understanding Transitions and Promoting Placement Stability
- Maintaining Connections (focuses strongly on sibling connections/contact)
- Anger Management



THE ALABAMA FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES MARCH AS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK AWARENESS MONTH

Social Work is the profession of hope—fueled by resilience and advocacy. Social Workers matter because they help millions of struggling people every day dream differently.

Social Work is a very demanding but rewarding career. Some say foster parenting is a calling and the same can be said for Social work. This short newsletter is a tribute to all of you for what you do.

In the United States, more than 650,000 of these highly trained professionals know how daunting and immobilizing life's tragedies and obstacles can be. But they also witness the sheer determination of countless individuals and families to achieve different lives. Sometimes, all it takes to help people get on the right path is guidance toward what is possible. Other times, social workers are an immediate lifeline in crisis—providing access to resources and new life options.

Those served by social workers possess many strengths that keep them fighting for a better future despite personal and systemic barriers to success. They climb toward what is possible rather than simply accepting what the current situation may be. Professional social workers help combine these client

strengths with effective personal and public advocacy.

A Nation's Fabric

Our national fabric is comprised of many diverse lives. It is vibrant and strong because it has been woven from the stories of people from every continent into a compelling narrative of struggle, renewal, and success. Each thread helps make a brilliant tapestry that continues to be the envy of the world.

Stronger Safety Nets

Resilience and determination alone cannot overcome all crises, but weaving those strengths with targeted advocacy often can. The Social Work profession has a distinguished history of not only providing social safety nets to the most vulnerable, but also challenging systems that impede social mobility.

Positive Futures

Stories of hope in the face of tragedy share a common theme: better times are ahead. Illness, loss, abuse, and poverty shape our lives in profound ways, but how we learn to deal with each circumstance can determine how much those experiences define our limitations—or our opportunities.



*Celebrating
Foster Care
and
Adoption*

From its start in the 1960s, Social Work Month has been a nationwide effort. In 1965, the National Association of Social Work (NASW) News published a Social Workers' Month Regional Report, which documented the efforts of NASW chapters spreading the new concept of Social Work Month awareness.

The first Social Work Month theme — “Support Social Work Education in Your State” — was introduced in 1966. Back then, NASW acknowledged that the purpose of Social Work Month was to spread public awareness and knowledge of the profession. And nearly half a century later, the intent is very much the same.

“Social Work Month is a way for everyone to recognize the profession — who social workers are and what they do,” said Rita Webb,

**“It’s not NASW month,
it’s Social Work Month”**
Cohen said.

**“It’s broad, it’s inclusive,
it’s not defined in terms of the
MSWs, BSWs and PhDs,
but it’s social work
in the broader sense.”**

NASW policy adviser for women and LGBT issues. “It’s a great opportunity to educate.”

Through the decades, Social Work Month themes have evolved along with the profession. From “Doing Good Isn’t Bad-It Isn’t Easy Either” (March 1973) to the latest theme of 2013, “Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy,” this important month continues to celebrate the profession, and be a voice for all social workers.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL WORK TRAINING?

Social workers receive training through undergraduate and graduate education at programs accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) along with class work, social work students complete intensive internships in organizations where they apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world work.

Additionally, social workers are regulated in all states. Licensed social workers are required to update their skills and knowledge through continuing education requirements.

**We salute all social workers for the hard work you do for our
children and families all over the state of Alabama.**

PAST THEMES INCLUDE:

- 1965: Social Work Month-A Regional Report
- 1966: Support Social Work Education in Your State
- 1967: The Place of Social Work in the Mainstream of American Life
- 1968: The Right to Dignity, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness For All
- 1969: No Theme
- 1970: Recruitment and Career Development for Minority Groups and Disadvantaged Persons
- 1971: Social Workers-Advocates for People and Community Needs
- 1972: Professional Action for the Public Good
- 1973: Doing Good Isn't Bad—It Isn't Easy Either
- 1974: Professional Social Work—Accepting the Challenges of Life
- 1975: Professional Social Work—Accepting the Challenges of Life
- 1976: Professional Social Work--Advancing the Quality of Life
- 1977: Advancing the Quality of Life
- 1978: Advancing the Quality of Life
- 1979: Promoting a Profession
- 1980: A Retrospective (reflecting on themes passed)
- 1981: Social Workers—We'll Be There When You Need Us
- 1982: Social Work Practice with Children
- 1983: Giving the Profession a Facelift
- 1984: Listen to the Children
- 1985: Work is a Family Affair
- 1986: Aging Parents: Return the Gift of Caring
- 1987: Children in Poverty
- 1988: AIDS—We Need to Know. We Need to Care
- 1989: There's No Place Like Home
- 1990: Strengthening America's Families
- 1991: Vital Signs of a Healthy Nation
- 1992: Global Family Ties
- 1993: National Health Care—Vital Signs of a Healthy Nation
- 1994: Stop the Violence with Justice for All
- 1995: Stopping the Violence Starts with Me
- 1996: Hate Crimes—Not in My Life
- 1997: Racial and Ethnic Harmony: Respect, Understanding, Cooperation and Peace
- 1998: Celebrating 100 Years of Social Work
- 1999: The Business of Social Work: Helping People Help Themselves
- 2000: Social Work 2000: Change Is Our Business
- 2001: The New Face of Social Work
- 2002: The Power of Social Work: Community Needs, Human Connections
- 2003: Preserving Rights, Strengthening Voices
- 2004: The Power of Social Work-- Pass It On
- 2005: Social Workers. Help Starts Here
- 2006: Life's Journey. Help Starts Here
- 2007: Hope and Health. Help Starts Here
- 2008: Building on Strengths. Help Starts Here
- 2009: Social Work: Purpose and Possibility
- 2010: Social Workers Inspire Community Action
- 2011: Social Workers Change Futures
- 2012: Social Work Matters
- 2013: Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy
- 2014: All People Matter



WHEREAS, the Social Work profession creates pathways to full participation in society;

WHEREAS, the primary mission of Social Work is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable.

WHEREAS, for over 100 years Social Workers have helped America's leaders weave the nation's social safety net;

WHEREAS, every day Social Workers address the emotional, psychological, economic, and/or physical needs of millions of people;

WHEREAS, Social Workers help clients use their strengths, resilience, and self-advocacy to navigate life challenges;

WHEREAS, Social Workers help people function better in their environments, improve their relationships with others, and solve personal and family problems through a wide range of psychosocial services;

WHEREAS, Social Workers assist individuals and families in every stage of life, from all communities;

WHEREAS, Social Workers advocate for fairness and access to resources that benefit the most people;

WHEREAS, Social Work is currently one of the fastest growing professions in the United States;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are employed in many different organizations and industries, including private and public agencies, hospices and hospitals, schools and universities, businesses and foundations, military branches and veterans centers, as well as national and local public elected offices;

WHEREAS, Social Workers celebrate the courage, strength, and determination of the human spirit, and work to empower others to hope, dream and believe in their own potential;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition that our nation would be less successful without the contributions of America's 650,000 social workers, I _____, proclaim the month of March 2013 as Professional Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join with the National Association of Social Workers and Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association, Inc. in celebration and support of the Social Work profession.



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AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

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.

REMINDER

Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association Annual Conference

May 8 – 10, 2014

Opening Session May 8th 8:45 AM

Closing session May 10th 8:00 AM

Shocco Springs, AL

Register by calling Shocco Springs • 1-800-280-1105

Choice of staying Wednesday and Thursday nights or Thursday and Friday nights. Registrations \$35 per person. Extra Charge for staying all 3 nights. Shocco can explain all charges that apply.
If you have any other questions you can call Buddy Hooper at 256-507-3273.

Class called **"It's All About Me"** is scheduled to be presented twice.

This is a scrapbook type class and space is limited

CPR Class will be offered on Thursday and Friday afternoon

You must call 888-545-2372 to register for CPR and send in \$20 prior to April 25th to AFAPA
1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058 or by paypal on afapa.org website.

See www.afapa.org website for list of all workshops to be presented

DHR Foster Parents will qualify for mileage reimbursement.

Reminder – Child Care is not provided and Children are not allowed in workshops.