



# Connections

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

Spring 2006

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Contact info on page 11

## Light up the Life of a Child AFAPA Annual Training Conference

**Frazer United Methodist Church**

**Located 6000 Atlanta Highway across from Eastdale Mall**

**Montgomery, Alabama**

**April 28th & 29th, 2006**



**ALABAMA FOSTER AND  
ADOPTIVE CONFERENCE 2006**

## From the President of AFAPA

Hello to all,

First I want to thank all of you who visited, called, sent emails, and cards of condolence for the passing of my mother January 11th, 2006. My mother was our greatest supporter as we fostered for 12 years and helped us to care for more than 40 children during that time. Sometimes those of our extended families are forgotten in their support of our efforts to foster and adopt. We could not have done it without the help and support of our families. I have been to many conferences and sat in on workshops for adoption and this is one thing that I have heard over and over as we look for resources for children waiting for adoption, contact the extended family of previous foster parents.



This issue of Connections is dedicated to helping find families for some of our children who have been waiting. So as you look at the faces of these children and children on the adoption web site think of how you can help to find them homes.

This issue is also to publicize the AFAPA annual Training Conference. We hope to have a record number of foster and adoptive parents attend this year. For your convenience there is another copy of the registration form and a schedule of the conference.

I want to thank all of those on the board and conference committee for working so hard this year to make this the best conference ever. This year we have Lakechia Decatur Vice-President of Foster Care and Beverly Owings Vice-President of Adoption co-chairing the conference committee. This is an off year for our elections so we will be able to offer more training this year. It is possible to receive 10 and 1/2 hours of training hours this year.

We have been getting more and more calls, emails and letters from foster parents asking us for information and in many cases helping them as they advocate for the children in their care. I have gotten a lot of help from the AFAPA board to answer these calls and emails.

The regional network training meetings have gone well this past quarter. There will not be any regional meetings during the months of April, May, and June because of our annual meeting, but look on the afapa.org web site for upcoming meetings to resume in July. AFAPA offers 3 quarterly meetings a year where foster parents can receive from 9 to 15 hours of training plus up to 10 hours of training at the annual conference.

William "Buddy" Hooper President of AFAPA



# Light up the Life of a Child

## Frazer United Methodist Church Montgomery, AL

Registration Form for AFAPA Conference April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Please submit one form for each person registering you may make copies

Please circle all that apply

DHR Foster Parent,    Adoptive Parent,    Social Worker,

Therapeutic Foster Parent,    Agency \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print:**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number (s)**

Daytime (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration will be limited to first 600 received!!!**

Pre-registration \$35 per person non refundable

Deadline for Pre- Registration is April 14, 2006

Onsite Registration will be \$40 per person

Make checks payable to AFAPA

Mail checks & completed registration to:

Beverly Owings

3915 Chana Creek Rd

Eclectic, AL 36024    Phone 334-541-5962 or 334-207-5962

Check if you will be attending Friday night Banquet

Include \$20 for extra persons attending Banquet only

CPR Classes limited to first 15 Parents to register for each day.

If you want to take CPR class circle the day you want to take it

Friday April 28th            or            Saturday April 29th

## Motel Information & Childcare Information

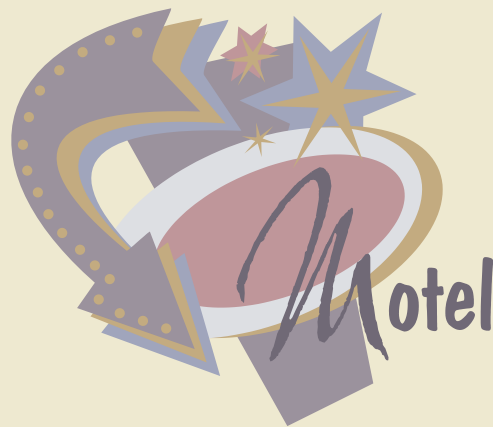
These are some suggestions for Motels in the area that have a block of rooms for foster & adoptive parents. You may make reservations at the motel of your choice or other motels in the area.

All reservations **must be made by April 14, 2006** to receive the reduced rate.

Everyone is responsible for making their own motel reservations and making payment for overnight stay!!

DHR foster & adoptive parents attending at least 7hrs of training may request a \$70 reimbursement per parent at the end of the conference to help with expenses.

Reimbursement for mileage must be filed with your county DHR or child placing agency.



**Country Inn and Suites** \$70.00/night  
5155 Carmichael Rd  
Montgomery, AL  
334-270-3223

**Courtyard by Marriott** \$74.00/night  
5555 Carmichael Rd  
Montgomery, AL  
334-272-5533

**Drury Inn and Suites** \$74.00/night  
1124 Eastern Blvd.  
Montgomery, AL  
800-325-0720

**Hilton** \$75.00/night  
1600 Interstate Park Dr.  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334-272-2225

**Comfort Inn** \$60.00/night  
4045 Carmichael Rd  
Montgomery, AL  
334-396-6300



**Reminder please remember that NO childcare will be provided for any portion of the conference, and children will NOT be allowed in workshops. Contact your local DHR or child placing agency for help in finding childcare while you will be attending the conference.**

# Workshops for Conference

## Workshops to be presented at this years conference

SEAC

CASA

Stress Management

Respite Policy

Behavioral Disorder

Getting the Best out of our child

Early Intervention—Is that right?

Making sense for your dollar

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Family Dynamics

Attachment Disorder

Therapeutic Issues in the System

Dealing with the school system

How to Communicate Effectively

RC consent decree

The Role of the GAL

Medications & their effects on Children

Anger Management

Subsidies and other adoption issues Q&A

Advocating for yourself

Health & Safety

How the Court System Works

Gang Awareness

Handling a Multi-Cultural Family

Health and Nutrition

CPR (taking only the first 30 parents to register) 15 each day

The role of the liaison (DHR & Foster)

Positive Discipline



The opening session by Judge Byars will count as a training session and the closing session by Regina Deihl will also count as a training session. In between the opening session and the closing session you will have the opportunity to chose to attend 5 workshops from the list above. You will receive a program at registration so you will be able to choose the workshops that will benefit you the most. Space will be limited to workshops so if you get to one and it is full please find another one to attend. We have worked hard to give you the work-shops that will assist you in caring for the children.

## AFAPA Conference Speakers

### Opening Session Speaker April 28th 12:30 PM

**Judge William R. Byars, Jr.** is the Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. At DJJ Judge Byars oversees a staff of 1400 who are responsible for the daily care, treatment, and education of approximately 400 juveniles who are incarcerated in DjJ's long-term institutions and 7000 juveniles who are served throughout the communities in other programs.

The Judge has spoken in over half of the states at conferences on legal issues involving children and families and has appeared as commentator on numerous news shows and in foundation documentaries on children and family issues. He has an ongoing relationship with the Supreme Court of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Social Services, which has undertaken a comprehensive, multiyear effort to improve the administration of justice to children and families of that state.

### Awards Banquet Speaker April 28th 6:30PM

**Lee Marshall** is an Emmy nominated journalist who anchors the morning and noon news on WAFF 48 News and WDRM radio.

Lee's Kids to Love segment on WAFF 48 News has profiled 175 Children waiting for forever families in Alabama and of the 175, 155 have found forever families. For Lee these stories aren't just an assignment, they are personal. As a former foster child, Lee knows the value of a forever family through adoption. Lee combines her job as a journalist, and her passion to help children to be a strong voice for those who wait. In 2004 she founded the Kids to Love Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the immediate needs of foster children right here in the valley. The primary source of funding for the Kids to Love Foundation is raised through Lee's singing and speaking appearances. Lee has received national recognition for her adoption awareness efforts from the Department of Health and Human Services and Congress's "Angels in Adoption program". Lee and her husband Jeff are originally from North West Tennessee, but now call Huntsville home. They have one child, Ella who is one.

[www.kidstolove.org](http://www.kidstolove.org)

### Closing Session Speaker April 29th 3:00PM

**Regina Deihl**, Executive Director, is a graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law and a former foster parent. Prior to joining LAPP, she was a Juvenile Projects Attorney at the California Judicial Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, where she was responsible for the development of new court forms by which foster and kinship parents may communicate with dependency court judges and for petitioning to seek "de facto" parent (party) status. She also conducted state audits of juvenile court files in counties throughout California to check compliance with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). She researched and co-authored the landmark study, funded by the Packard Foundation, *Caregivers and the Courts: Improving Court Decisions Affecting Children in Foster Care* (2002). She is the co-author of a national level manual and curriculum on foster parent legal rights and responsibilities in collaboration with the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and the National Foster Parent Association. She has extensive experience training foster and kinship parents and adoptive families in legal topics throughout the nation.

## Schedule of Events for Conference

### Friday, April 28th, 2006

Registration	10:00AM	-	6:30PM
Opening Session, Judge William Byars	12:30PM	-	2:00PM
Workshop	2:15PM	-	3:45PM
Break	3:45PM	-	4:00PM
Workshop	4:00PM	-	5:30PM
Awards Banquet and Keynote Address Lee Marshall	6:30PM	-	Until...

### Saturday, April 29th, 2006

Registration	8:00AM	-	9:00AM
Workshop	8:30AM	-	10:00AM
Break	10:00AM	-	10:15AM
Workshop	10:15AM	-	11:45AM
Lunch & Fellowship	11:45AM	-	1:15PM
Workshop	1:15PM	-	2:45PM
Closing Session Regina Deihl	3:00PM	-	4:30PM

Snacks will be provided prior to opening session  
Cost of all meals and snacks included in registration fee

## Current AFAPA Chapter Members

**Memberships must be renewed before 9/30/06**

Chambers • Covington • Coffee • Clay • Crenshaw • Cullman • Dale

Dallas • Greater Birmingham • Escambia • Henry • Lauderdale

Macon • Madison • Marshall • Morgan • Randolph

Russell • St. Clair

For information on how to become Chapter members and the benefits please contact  
Sue Thomas Secretary AFAPA

# Scholarships for Foster & Adoptive Parents

## NFPA conference May 1st—5th and North American Council on Adoptable Children Conference July 26th—29th

**Any member of AFAPA Eligible to submit form**

### Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Deadline for applying for NFPA conference March 17th and June 16th for NACAC

### Request to Attend Conference or Training

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored By: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ CEUs available (#) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-registration amount: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Cost:

Airfare: \_\_\_\_\_

Ground Transportation: (miles) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Accommodations:

Name of Hotel & Daily rate including taxes: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal expenses (based on number of meals & established rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a short summary of why this particular conference or training will be beneficial to you. Also explain how you will take knowledge you gain and use it in support of foster and adoptive families. Examples: Foster/Adoptive Parent-training/workshops, share with DHR workers etc.

Signature of Foster or Adoptive Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to Brenda Caudle 115 Caudle Road, Eva, AL 35621



## Waiting Children....

**“People say kids my age are hard to place and that time is running out for me. Please don’t give up on trying. I’m already having trouble holding on to my hope.”**



**Britany** really enjoys spending time in a family-oriented environment. One of her most memorable events is when her current foster family surprised her with a party for her 13th birthday. Britany was overjoyed and appreciative of the gesture as no one had ever taken the time to celebrate her birthday

with a real party. Britany’s favorite activities include cheerleading, skateboarding and listening to music. Britany recently joined a local cheerleading squad and was surprised to learn that she had a natural talent for the sport. She is also very talented in basketball and writing. Britany is currently attending a small school and has really excelled in this environment. Her favorite subject is history. She has aspirations of one day working in the medical field and traveling and would very much like to visit New York.

Britany has two brothers with whom she will want and need continued contact. Britany has lived in a lot of places. She’s doing really well in her current home and is looking forward to finding a family to call her own and live in forever.



More often than not, **Ryon** is a happy, energetic child. He blushes easily when complimented. He doesn’t like to talk about himself. Ryon wants to be a rap artist when he grows up. He enjoys music and has a knack for memorizing song lyrics. Ryon has a great sense of humor and is very helpful.

Ryon currently lives in a group living setting where he also attends school. If he could visit any one place, he said he’d like to “go to a home” (meaning a family rather than group setting).

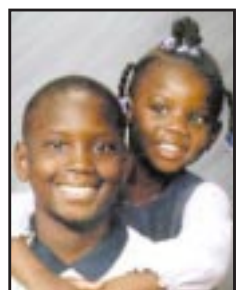
Although, he struggles with word problems he says math is his favorite subject. Ryon enjoys sports and his favorite foods are pizza and chicken. He enjoys being around people and likes to play video games. Ryon requires encouragement and positive feedback. Staff who work with him say that they enjoy watching him grow and become more responsible and it is particularly special when he sets a goal and is able to achieve it. To Ryon being adopted means someone will take him a home and take good care of him. Ryon would probably do best in a home with a couple and by being the only child in the home. Perhaps yours could be Ryon’s “forever home”.



**Charles** and his sister **Brook** live together in the same foster home. These two siblings have a great relationship and rely on each other for support. Charles is in the sixth grade. In the past he has been in a self-contained classroom (for adjustment when changes have occurred). Charles is a loving child who seems to thrive off of positive attention from adults in his life.

When asked what he’s the most proud of Charles indicated his behavior. He says his favorite subjects in school are P.E. and lunch. Charles is described as a friendly child. He loves sports. When he grows up he’d like to be football player. Charles also enjoys drawing. His favorite holiday is Christmas.

Brook has lots of aspirations. She’d like to be a dancer or a singer or a cosmetologist. Her favorite activities are dancing, skating and singing. Brook says the thing she is most proud of is herself and her brother. Brook’s favorite subject in school is Language Arts. Her favorite holidays are her own birthday, Christmas and Valentine’s Day. Charles & Brook’s “forever family” will need to be willing to allow the children to have contact with some of their natural family. Charles says adoption means that “someone will take me home with them and let me be in their family. For Brook, adoption means, “having a mother and father who want to take you to their home and take care of you like reliable parents.”



**Elton** is a fourth grader who says his proudest moments are when he does something well. He’s a handsome young man. He enjoys playing video games and his favorite subject is math. He enjoys spending time outside with his sister and his foster parents’ children. Elton doesn’t enjoy reading, but does well in math and other subjects in school. He has had a lot of

support from his foster family and has improved in his reading skills. Elton says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.

Elton loves to be helpful around the house. He enjoys talking and is very outgoing and has a great personality. He is also really good at saving his money.

**Aaliyah** is a cute and adoring child. Like her brother, she is a loving and affectionate child. She looks up to her older brother and loves to play with him. Like other girls her age, she likes to play with dolls and ride her bike. She also enjoys jumping on the trampoline. Aaliyah is very bright and learns quickly. She is currently in daycare and is loved by her teachers. Both children need a permanent loving home where they can remain together forever.

## More Waiting Children....



**Anthony** is a shy but affectionate child. He loves to play outside and his favorite drink is Coca Cola. He will take you by the hand and lead you to the refrigerator to get a Coke. Anthony has autism and is virtually non-verbal. He is, however, learning how to communicate using a communication device. He has significant learning and

developmental needs. He currently attends a special (public) school for children with severe to profound disabilities. He rides the bus to and from the school. Anthony needs help with several self-care tasks. His current house parents and teacher at school report improvement in these self-care tasks. He can feed himself and prefers finger foods. He is particularly fond of corndogs. Anthony loves cartoons, especially Scooby Doo. He likes to play with blocks and watch fish swim in the aquarium. He likes to ride in the car and attend ball games and other outdoor functions. Anthony is very affectionate with people he knows and he can steal your heart away once you get to know him. He can be described as a special young man and needs a very special family to call his own for a lifetime.



**Jacob** is an intelligent, courteous and smart child. He loves sports, art and really loves being around people. He loves to please others and receive attention from others as well.

Jacob is currently in the fifth grade. He does not receive special education services. He is extremely intelligent.

However, he has had a past history of not making good grades. In addition to his regular school, he attends an after-school program and receives tutoring as well. When Jacob grows up he wants to be pastor of large church or a doctor. He enjoys playing sports such as basketball, baseball, golf, tennis and football. His favorite subjects in school are English and Math. He says he really likes his current foster parent and is proud to be living in a place where people are nice and take care of him. When asked if he could visit any one place, he said he'd like to visit Sacramento, California. His favorite holidays are Christmas, Thanksgiving and Mother's Day. When asked what adoption means to him, he said, "Adoption will be great, because it means someone cares about me and will take care of me until I'm an adult".



**Chilton** (preferred name Tommy) is the third of four children born to his parents. He is a very curious boy. He does very well academically and performs at or above grade level in his subjects. He is currently in the 5th grade. Tommy really enjoys science and reading. He reads most every book he can find concerning science, nature and

dinosaurs. He prefers to explore outside on his own. Tommy is sensitive to loud noises and unexpected sounds. Tommy has a form of autism that creates challenges in communication. He is working on improving his social skills and has made several new friends at his current placement. Tommy really enjoys video games. He is very skilled at them and can make it to very high levels and successfully complete many different games. Tommy has a very good understanding of what it means to be adopted and very much wants to be a part of a forever family.



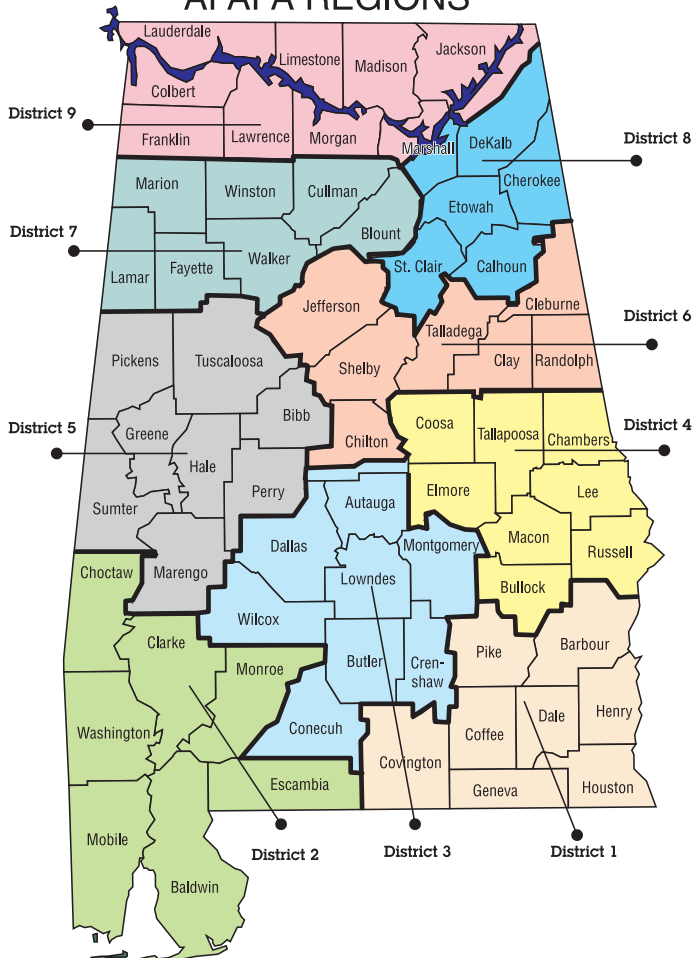
**Samantha** (Sammy) is a petite eight-year-old, who has bright blue eyes, brown hair and fair complexion. She is a charming and affectionate child who will thrive in a loving home. She has a good appetite and enjoys most foods, but likes McDonald's and enjoys meat as her favorite food. Samantha loves animals and is partial to dogs. Samantha has been diagnosed with Reactive Attachment

Disorder and has made significant strides managing some of the behaviors associated with this diagnosis. Samantha is able to now discriminate in her displays of affection. She engages in appropriate play in therapy and is able to create and enact loving and nurturing parent-child relationships. Samantha is now better able to follow directions, focus and concentrate. Even though she has experienced academic delay she is currently in a regular classroom with access to a paraprofessional. She continues to learn and enjoys school. Samantha is very sensitive to change and consistency in relationships and major aspects of her life will be important in supporting this delightful child. A married couple or single mom household, where there are only female siblings, would be a great home for Samantha.

### From Sue Thomas Secretary of AFAPA

If you are interested in receiving emails regarding AFAPAmeeetingsfoster/ adoptive news, and not already on the server list, please email Sue Thomas, AFAPA Secretary at [suthomas@bamacomm.com](mailto:suthomas@bamacomm.com)

### AFAPA REGIONS



## Why Call Your AFAPA Regional Rep:

For latest info on where and when Regional Network Education Meetings will be held.

For assistance on who to call for guidance on specific problems/issues you are facing.

To volunteer your county association or yourself to help with regional functions.

To learn more about training opportunities through out the state.

## Who's Your Regional Rep?

**REGION 1**

Joe Anthony  
334-886-2734  
jandcanthony@centurytel.net

**REGION 4**

Mary Smith  
334-567-4143  
region4@afapa.org

**REGION 7**

Contact Buddy Hooper  
256-796-0582  
buddy@afapa.org

**REGION 2**

Brenda Y. Bivens  
251-777-8646  
Kenya@millry.net

**REGION 5**

Barbara Blakney  
205-752-5660  
region5@afapa.org

**REGION 8**

Jennifer Feazell-Edwards  
256-892-1605  
edwards10@cableone.net

**REGION 3**

Aunita Keith  
334-874-4176  
akeith4176@charter.net

**REGION 6**

James & Grace Wood  
256-488-5567  
jandgwood@acs-isp.com

**REGION 9**

Larry Decatur  
256-764-3716  
region9@afapa.org

# AdoptUsKids Hurricane Relief Teams

This is to announce that the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association has been chosen to be the on-site representative of the Adoption Exchange Association (AEA)/ The Collaboration to AdoptUsKids for their Hurricane Relief Project.

Federal funding has been provided by The Children's Bureau to AEA/AdoptUsKids to provide relief for adoptive families affected by the 2005 Hurricanes. We have been chosen to disseminate assistance to families in Alabama. We are coordinating our work with the National Foster Parent Association which has been doing such a good job in the last several months in meeting the needs of hurricane affected families.

If you are an adoptive family in the state of Alabama and wish to apply for assistance under this program, please contact: Buddy Hooper President of AFAPA at the contact information contained in this newsletter or online at [www.afapa.org](http://www.afapa.org).

Funding will be available after January 15, 2006 and will be ongoing throughout the year or until all funds are expended.



Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to [afapa@afapa.org](mailto: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.

## CONNECTIONS INFO:

1091 County Road 1659  
Cullman, AL 35058  
1-888-545-2372  
[www.afapa.org](http://www.afapa.org)



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