



Newsletter

Summer 2010

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

University of Phoenix & NFPA - Partners in Education Scholarships for Foster Youth and Foster Parents available

The University of Phoenix has offered 50 scholarships to alumnus of foster care and foster parent the opportunity to earn a college degree under the banner of the University's First Chance Scholarship program. This degree program is for a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. The NFPA has now partnered with the Foster Care Alumni of America to offer these scholarships nationwide.

The University of Phoenix is pleased to partner with the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) to offer a First Chance Scholarship Program. NFPA was established in 1972 as a non-profit, volunteer organization. Its mission is to support the needs of foster families as they provide a safe environment for those in foster care.

University of Phoenix understands the importance of making higher education highly accessible for students of all ages and backgrounds. As the largest private university in North America, we take very seriously our social responsibility to our students and the communities we serve. University of Phoenix is particularly adept at aiding non-traditional students complete their education by designing programs around their busy lives.

Through this scholarship program, fifty (50) full-tuition scholarships will be awarded in 2010. Each scholarship will allow alumni (former foster youth) and foster parents the opportunity to complete an undergraduate or master's degree

program at the University of Phoenix. Recipients may choose to attend a University of Phoenix on-ground campus or may attend University of Phoenix online.

A complete list of the Eligibility Criteria is listed on the www.nfpaonline.org web site.

Applicants must be one of the following:

A current foster youth (graduated from high school by August 2010) or

An alumnus of foster care; or

A foster parent who is either currently fostering a child or has fostered a child within the past two years; is and will remain licensed by the foster care system in their state; and will continue to foster children throughout the duration of the degree program. Must be a regular member of NFPA and provide NFPA number. If not a current member, please join online at www.nfpaonline.org.

Deadline Date:

A complete application and supporting documentation must be received on or before July 23rd, 2010. Applications received after the designated deadline date will not be considered. No exceptions.

Award Date:

The scholarship committee will determine the recipients of the scholarship by August 31, 2010. You will be notified via email by the award date regarding the status of the scholarship. You will receive a notification email regardless if you were selected as a recipient or not.

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Please go to the nfpaonline.org website for complete instructions and the complete application and the NFPA membership application.



A Message from the President of **AFAPA**

Hard to believe Summer is half gone already. Someone commented to me the old saying time flies when you are having fun should not count for the Summer time. We all whether young or old love the Summer time and all the activities that come with it. Children especially enjoy being out of school and having time to play outside. It is a time for families to have fun together and I know from experience that foster children are not different. You will create memories that will last a life time. One day you may get a call or someone might find you on Facebook. The following is from another state but thought you would enjoy hearing some comments.

Today I was asked what keeps you doing foster care.....last night I got my same answer that I have gotten so many times. About 15 years ago we had two little boys living with us for many years...they were adopted by a family in another state. I lost contact with them but think of them so much. They found me on Facebook and today one of them called. They remember the little things pancakes on Sat. mornings going to the movies.... they remember Family. We were familyand we still love them and they us...That's what its all about!!

Oh My I love Facebook. I can't believe the kids I have worked with, they find me and its so good to hear how they are doing and where they are in their lives. It happened again today. *Sallywhat a success story she made of her life!! It can be doneGod Bless.*

Just a reminder that it is against the Minimum Standards Policy to place pictures of your foster children on Facebook without permission. What we are talking about here are adults now who are searching for those connections from foster families they have memories of.

Another very successful Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Conference at Shocco Springs. There was a total of 382 who attended this year. The workshops were good, the food was good, and the networking was priceless. Plans are already in place to hold the conference at Shocco next year May 12th through the 14th, 2011. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and hope the articles included will be of help to you as you care for the children. If you ever need any information of help just call or email. You can call the toll free number 1-888-545-2372 or email me at buddy@afapa.org. You can also check the web site for more information www.afapa.org. Have a good rest of the Summer.

~ Buddy Hooper



IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE CHANGES TO THE ALABAMA FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT BY LAWS

There were some changes to the by laws that may affect some of you. Membership is still available to all Foster & Adoptive Parents in Alabama. The changes made affect who is considered a member for purposes of voting rights and changing the by laws. The by laws now state Known Members. The complete Constitution and by laws are on the AFAPA web site. The following are the changes that were approved at the regular membership meeting May 14th, 2010.

Article VII. Amendment

The by-laws of this association may be added to, amended, repealed or revised in whole or in part by majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the association, provided that written notice of intention to add, amend, repeal or to revise the by-laws in whole or in part has been given to each known member at least thirty (30) days prior to scheduled meeting by publication in the association's newsletter.

Article VIII. Dissolution

In the case of dissolution of the association, all assets and property of the association will be disbursed with payment being made to creditors and all remaining assets being distributed to other 501(c)(3) non-profit Foster, Kinship or Adoptive Parent organizations in the State of Alabama.

Revised May 2010

If you are a foster or adoptive parent and received this newsletter by mail from AFAPA you are considered a known member. If your agency mailed it to you then you will need to have the agency send us your address or you can send your information to AFAPA by email or regular mail to be considered a known member. Membership is free to all foster and adoptive parents in Alabama.

Send your name, phone number, address and email address to afapa@afapa.org or mail to: Also include what county or agency you are licensed by.

**AFAPA
1091 County Road 1659
Cullman, AL 35058**

Foster Parents and the Law:

When children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care, their world is thrown off balance. Even though they are leaving a home where they were neglected or abused, they are often scared, ashamed and nervous about the unknown. Good foster parents help restore balance to the child's world. It is the foster parents who comfort the child, determine his needs, provide support, and often, love. Foster parents are the players in system who are often unseen, laboring behind the scenes to make a home for the

child. That can mean getting the child enrolled in school, taking them to doctors and making sure they have contact with family, countless day to day needs are met by foster parents.

There are many reasons foster parents should actively participate in Agency (ISPs) and court processes. Foster parents are often in the best position to give an account of the child's well being. Foster parents see the child every day and have an understanding of the child's developmental level, needs, routines, likes and dislikes. That level of knowledge cannot be achieved by courts or agencies, who have limited contact with the child.

By becoming more regularly involved, foster parents can learn about the system, and gain a better understanding of how and when to speak or take action. There are many reasons foster parents do not participate in the process. Sometimes they are expressly excluded, but often they do not participate because of their own fears and beliefs, or the beliefs and prejudices of others in the system. Foster parents often fear if they speak up in court they will be reprimanded, or misunderstood, or even anger the judge or the agency. Learning about the adversarial process can help minimize some of those fears. Improving foster parent presence in the courtroom will make the professionals involved more willing to hear the foster parent's point of view.

While it is true that others within the system must become more educated and aware of the important role that foster parents play, there is a lot that foster parents can do to improve their image. Foster parents can educate themselves about the system, advocate effectively and present themselves as a valuable part of a team working toward the best interests of the child.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 requires courts to make two types of findings: that the agency has made reasonable efforts to prevent a child from being removed from the home, and a finding that remaining in the home is contrary to the child's welfare. The finding that the agency made reasonable efforts to prevent removal must be made within 60 days of the child's being removed from the home. The law also requires the agency to make ongoing reasonable efforts to reunify children in foster care with their parents. The law also addressed concerns that children were lingering in foster care. It provides for initial 6 months and 18 month case reviews and subsequent reviews every 12 months.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) was enacted in 1997. Once ASFA was enacted, states had to amend their own laws to conform. States are not required to use exact language so as long as the state law accomplishes the federal goals it meets the federal requirements. ASFA requirements have been woven into previously existing state laws.

MEET ADRIAN



Adrian is a sweet and quiet, red head, born February 1998. He is currently attending 6th grade for the 2009-2010 school year and is making average grades. He loves Taekwondo and has been actively participating in this activity for the past two years. Adrian enjoys the beach and swimming. He likes to play with his friends, play video games and watch television. He enjoys the outdoors and is an active child. He will need a family who can get him involved in activities and will advocate for any educational needs he may have. He will need continued support in the areas of English and math as he continues to strive in those subjects. He will do fine in a home with other children and is basically an all around laid back kid. Adrian is ready for his forever home and hopes you can be the family for him.

Photograph provided courtesy of
www.heartgalleryalabama.com

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Most courts and judges have still not grasped the basic concept of ASFA: that the child's rights are paramount. The child's right to a permanent home supersedes the rights of the adults, including the birth family, foster parents, prospective adoptive parents, and the state's need to save money. The first consideration must be what is best for the child. If ASFA were followed, the average time in foster care would in most cases be less than 12 months.

Foster Parents in Court and Guardian ad Litem

Recently there was a meeting held in Montgomery between representatives of AFAPA, AOC (Administrative Office of Courts), the State Bar Association, and a district court judge. During this meeting the subject of foster parents and the court system was discussed and what are some of the issues foster parents have. One of the items discussed was the duties of the GAL. As a result of this meeting it was suggested that we put articles in the newsletter to tell about some of the duties and responsibilities of the GAL so foster parents would have a better understanding when speaking with the GAL. One of the big concerns of foster parents is not knowing who the GAL is. Two suggestions were made: first call the case worker and ask, second if the case worker doesn't know you can always call the court clerk to get that information. This group agreed to continue working together to look at ways to educate GAL's and foster parents on each of their roles.

Improving foster parent communication with the GAL:

Another suggestion was after learning the name of the GAL

was to give them a call and set up an appointment to meet them and for them to meet the child they represent. Make sure you let the GAL know you want to be included in the discussion of the child in your care. If you can't take the child take a picture of the child.

What is a GAL?

What is a Guardian ad Litem (GAL)? A licensed attorney appointed by a juvenile court to protect the best interests of an individual without being bound by the expressed wishes of that individual. This new definition clarifies the role of a child's guardian ad litem (GAL) from a child's attorney. A GAL is not bound by the child's decisions, and directions, but is required to exercise the GAL's own best judgment regarding the best interests of the child. As required by federal law as a condition of federal funding, state law requires that a GAL be appointed "in every (court) case involving an abused or neglected child." Now codified under 12-15-102(10) code of Alabama.

What are duties of the Guardian ad Litem: Code of Alabama 12-15-304

The duties of the guardian ad litem include, but shall not be limited to the following:

Irrespective of age of the child, meet with the child prior to juvenile court hearings and when apprise of emergencies or significant events impacting the child. (Some judges in the state have made it a court order that the GAL meet with the child prior to court). In addition, the guardian ad litem shall explain, in terms understandable to the child, what is expected to happen before, during, and after each juvenile court hearing.

Conduct a thorough and independent investigation. Advocate for appropriate services for the child and the family. Attend all juvenile court hearings scheduled by the juvenile court and file all necessary pleadings to facilitate the best interests of the child.

Questions towards foster parents on GAL performance:

When did you meet the GAL? How much time did GAL spend with child prior to the court hearing? Did the GAL speak to the child in terms they could understand? Did the GAL to your knowledge attend all court hearings? Did the GAL file any pleadings or motions? To your knowledge, did the GAL conduct a thorough and independent investigation? Would you recommend the GAL to be used in other court proceedings?

Foster Parents being notified and right to be heard in court. Alabama Code 12-15-307

Relative caregivers, preadoptive parents, and foster parents of a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state shall be given notice, verbally or in writing, of the date, time and place of any juvenile court proceeding being held with respect to a child in their care.

MEET JACK



Jack, born in March 1996, is a very quiet and reserved young teen. He is in the 7th grade (2009-2010 school year). He has a laid back personality and enjoys just hanging out with his friends. He said that he wants people to know that he is funny and is fun to be around. He also enjoys playing football and basketball.

Jack is a good student and earns good grades in school. He enjoys school and likes history and math. Like his sister, Jack demonstrates strong values and he enjoys attending church on a regular basis.

Jack is the youngest of a large sibling group and he admires his older siblings. He often seeks their advice about things going on in his life and follows their guidance. He would like to maintain contact with his older siblings when placed with a family.

We are looking for an adoptive family willing to nurture these two young people and guide them into adulthood. A placement in Alabama is preferred so that Jack & Mildred may maintain contact with older siblings who have aged out of foster care.

Foster parents, preadoptive parents, and relative caregivers of a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state have a right to be heard in any juvenile court proceeding being held with respect to a child in their care.

No foster parent, preadoptive parent, and relative caregiver of a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state shall be made a party to a juvenile court proceeding solely on the basis of this notice and right to be heard pursuant to this section.

Your opinion matters. The court must rely on the information that comes before it. In order to make an informed decision, the court has to rely on information given to it. Do not be afraid to speak up.

What is an individualized service plan?

DHR must develop ISPs for all children and families for whom it is providing on-going child welfare services and foster care.

Individualized:

The ISP builds on the family's strengths and addresses the family's unique needs.

Service:

The ISP identifies specific services that will be provided to the child and family so the safety and well-being can be achieved.

MEET KAYLA



Kayla, born in March 1996, is a beautiful, bright young lady with an eye for fashion and an ear for music. Kayla loves singing and dancing. She enjoys sports including softball and volleyball. Kayla also has a heart for animals, ESPECIALLY horses! She has experience taking care of horses and helping to train them. Kayla strives academically when she is encouraged to stay focused. She also has lots of dreams for her future. Kayla says she wants to be a lawyer, an animal cop or a photographer when she grows up.

Kayla needs a home that is structured and active. Her brother was recently adopted by his foster parents. The adoptive family for Kayla needs to be willing/able to facilitate/maintain connections between the children. She also has an older brother and sister whom they love very much and would want to stay in contact with.

photo provided courtesy of
www.heartgalleryalabama.com

Plan:

The ISP identifies the goals for the family, identifies the steps to be taken, and identifies who is responsible for each step or service.

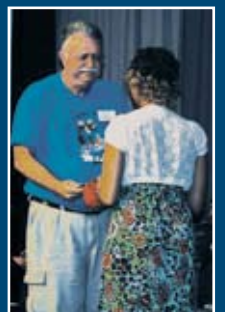
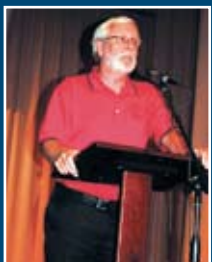
Who writes an ISP and who attends?

The ISP is written at an ISP team meeting. The ISP team members should be partners in developing the ISP. The ISP team should include the child if age appropriate usually 10 years old or older, the birth family, foster parents, DHR worker. Others who may be included in an ISP meeting are the child's teacher, family pastor, relatives, therapists, attorneys for the child or family, another DHR staff involved with the child or family, and an advocate requested by the foster parent.

What does the ISP contain?

1. The child's physical and mental health, safety, education, and social needs.
2. Additional assessments needed to help identify the strengths and needs and time frames for obtaining those assessments
3. Immediate steps that are going to be taken to meet the child's safety needs.
4. Visitation for child
5. Outcomes or permanency goals for the child and when it's expected these outcomes will be achieved.
6. Steps to promote a timely return home or placement with relatives, if this is the child's permanency goal.

ALABAMA FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT CONFERENCE AT SHOCCO SPRINGS



May 13, 14 & 15, 2010



MEET WILL



Will, born in July 1992, is an exceptional child though limited by cognitive and developmental challenges. Will has goals and dreams and with the right family these can be achieved. In addition Will may need the services provided by special education, vocational rehab and possibly other adult service providers in order to be successful.

Will was adopted at a very young age with two siblings; however, his adoption disrupted and he is once again available for adoption.

Will changed schools just prior to the end of the 2009-2010 school year. He will be moving to the 12th grade this coming school year. He is working toward an occupational diploma. He has a great passion for electronic games and the computer. He would benefit from a training program in this area.

He is very likeable and makes friends easily. He enjoys the outdoors. Will needs a family that can provide him with a sense of safety and security when he is frightened. Will loves animals and going to school. Will is in need of a loving, caring family that will provide him with meaningful connections and supports throughout his lifetime

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When is the ISP Written?

An initial ISP meeting must be held within 30 days of when DHR determines that a case will be opened for the child for on-going child welfare services. An ISP must be held within 72 hours of removal from the home followed by an update within the next 30 days.

Where are ISPs held?

Any mutually agreed upon location.

Will I be notified about the ISP meeting?

All team members should be notified of the date, time and location of each ISP meeting to allow time to prepare for and participate in the meeting. Parents, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers must be provided written notice about any ISP meeting. The remaining team members may receive either verbal or written notice.

What if there are problems with the ISP?

The DHR worker is responsible for addressing concerns about how well the ISP is being implemented. Minor issues that can be resolved without the full team involvement may be dealt with informally. Any issues that are controversial or complex should be handled in a team meeting.

Will I receive a copy of the ISP?

You must be given a written copy of the plan at the end of the meeting. If this is not possible, then you should receive a copy at least within 10 days of the date the meeting was held.

When will the ISP be reviewed? Can you call an ISP?

An initial ISP must be reviewed within 30 days of the date it was developed. After that, the team must review ISP's at least every 6 months from the date of the initial ISP and more frequently as needed. Any team member can call for a meeting to review and revise the ISP. Contact the DHR caseworker if you want to have an ISP meeting. ISP's must be reviewed and revised when any of the following occur:

- At your request or at request of other team members
- When there are changes in the families circumstances
- Prior to the decision to remove a child from home
- After an emergency change in a child's out-of-home placement
- When a change in an out-of-home placement is anticipated
- When the ISP is not adequately managing risks or new risks are identified
- When you or another team member feels that the child or family is making little or no progress toward the established goals
- When any judicial or administrative review recommends or direct that changes be made to the ISP
- Within 30 days of the case being closed
- When Medicaid rehabilitation services have been authorized and a treatment plan review is required.

The DHR caseworker and other team members must make good faith efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of the ISP

The ISP must be realistic and appropriate, with goal and steps that fit the child's present placement and level of functioning.

Swimming Pool & Water Safety Starts With You!

When the weather turns warm, everyone wants to be in or around the water. Hanging out at the pool, beach, lake, river, etc. is a great way to beat the heat. But let's not forget, that water can be dangerous if you don't take the right precautions. Water related accidents/death can happen at any time of the year! Swimming is a lot of fun, but drowning is a real danger and can happen so fast. Many water related accidents can be avoided by knowing how to stay safe and following simple rules.

Swimming Pools

A swimming pool includes in-ground, above-ground, wading pools, hot tubs and spas. All pools should be maintained in clean and safe condition. Homeowners should develop rules to assist with pool, hot tub, spa, etc. Safety - These rules should be posted and reviewed with each family member including foster children. Pools that exceed two feet in depth

MEET MILDRED



Mildred, born in February 1993 is an outstanding teenager that anyone would love to have for a daughter. She is in the 11th grade (2009-2010 school year). She describes herself as being very considerate of others, reliable, and self-assured. She is outgoing and generally happy at all times. She is ambitious and has her college and career path planned. She is constantly pushing herself to learn more and achieve new things on a daily basis.

Mildred enjoys being active in extracurricular activities such as gymnastics, taekwondo, and the school show choir. She is currently on the dance team at her high school. She has many friends and gets along with most everyone. Like most teenagers, she loves to shop and look nice wearing the latest fashions. Mildred has strong morals and values and religion plays a huge factor in her life. She desires a family that shares her faith.

Mildred is very nurturing to and is protective of her younger brother Jack. She has older siblings that she would like to maintain contact with.

(above or in ground) shall be enclosed by a fence or a solid wall. Please refer to the **Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes**. The sides of the above ground pool can not be considered as a fence or wall. The fence shall be at least 4 feet in height, with a locking gate. The gate shall remain locked at all times the pool is not in use. Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. The adult to child ratio while swimming shall be one adult for each child younger than 2 ½, one adult for every three children 2 ½ years up to six years of age, and one adult to every five children 6 years and older. Direct supervision is required at all times by someone age sixteen and older certified in First Aid/CPR and certified in water safety when children are using the pool or playing in the fenced area. Each pool shall be equipped with a ring buoy, rescue tube or other appropriate flotation device with an attached rope of sufficient length to cover the pool. The pool shall have depth markers, lifelines, and ladders or steps in the deep and shallow ends. Step and/or ladders should be removed on above ground pools when the pool is not in use.

Foster parents with pools need to be aware of local pool safety regulations. Many cities and communities have enacted safety regulations governing residential swimming pools (in ground and above ground) with many being more restrictive than **Minimum Standards**. Apart from these laws, parents who own pools can take their own precautions to reduce the chance of their children accessing the family pool or spa without adult supervision.

Hot tubs and spas that are not emptied after each use shall have a safety cover that is locked when not in use. The water temperature should not exceed 104 degrees Fahrenheit. A foster child's maximum time in the hot tub or spa shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Lakes, Ponds, Rivers, etc.

Having a lake, pond, river, etc. on your property is a tremendous responsibility when it comes to safety issues. You can't always see the bottom, so you don't always know the depth of the water. Adult supervision is always needed around open water.

A fence shall enclose any play area when there are hazards, such as bodies of water that would place a child's health and safety at risk. CPR/First Aid and basic water safety is required for all foster families who reside near a body of water.

If you're going out on a boat, always wear a life jacket that is Coast Guard approved. Even if you are a good swimmer, something could cause the boat to tip over and you could be trapped.

Foster parents should consult with their county resource worker prior to installing a swimming pool (in-ground or above ground), hot tub, pond, etc. to ensure that the pool, hot tub, pond, etc. meets the **Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes**. This contact with the resource worker can prevent changes having to be made after the fact.

In closing, teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water. Drowning is the second most common cause of death from injuries among children under the age of 14. Drowning can happen so fast – sometimes in less than two minutes after a person's head goes under the water. Remember to always exercise precaution and safety.

Submitted by: Debbie Green, LBSW
SDHR-Family Services
Office of Child Welfare Policy

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



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR FOSTER PARENTS IN AFAPA REGION 3

What: Network Training Meeting

Where: Prattville Elementary School at
134 Patrick St. Prattville, Al in Autauga County

When: Saturday July 17th, 2010 beginning with
registration at 8:00 AM

Classes: Begin at 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM

Workshops:

Shaken Baby Syndrome

by Kelley Parris-Barnes Director of Alabama
Department of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Lying, cheating and stealing presented by
APAC

ISP's presented by Martha Hooper
Child Care will not be provided. If you need child
care contact your local DHR resource worker for
assistance.

See Regional Rep Map for counties that are in
Region 3.

For more information contact Aunita Keith Region
3 Representative 334-874-4176

MEET KEANTE



Keante is a black male born in May, 1999. He will be in the 6th grade for the 2010-11 school year. He currently residing at a basic group home and is doing well in this placement. Keante is an intelligent child who makes good grades and is typically on the A/B honor roll. He wears glasses because he has difficulty seeing things that are far away. Keante has participated in karate before and enjoyed this activity. He likes to play video games, trade baseball cards and play with YuGiOh cards. He enjoys sports and wants to play baseball, basketball and football. He played church league basketball this year and enjoyed it very much. Keante continues to work on impulse control and refraining from taking things without asking. Keante has an incredible smile. Keante has a real desire to please others and wants to be accepted by his peers and by adults. He is compassionate and caring.

I know there is still magic in me

My foster parents were my advocates at a time when I needed one most. They saw who I was and they saw who I could be. They helped me to see the strength in myself, the strength to change my world. I came to them a lost child and I left a young person with dreams for my future. Maybe still a bit scared, maybe still unsure, but with hope for whatever lies ahead.

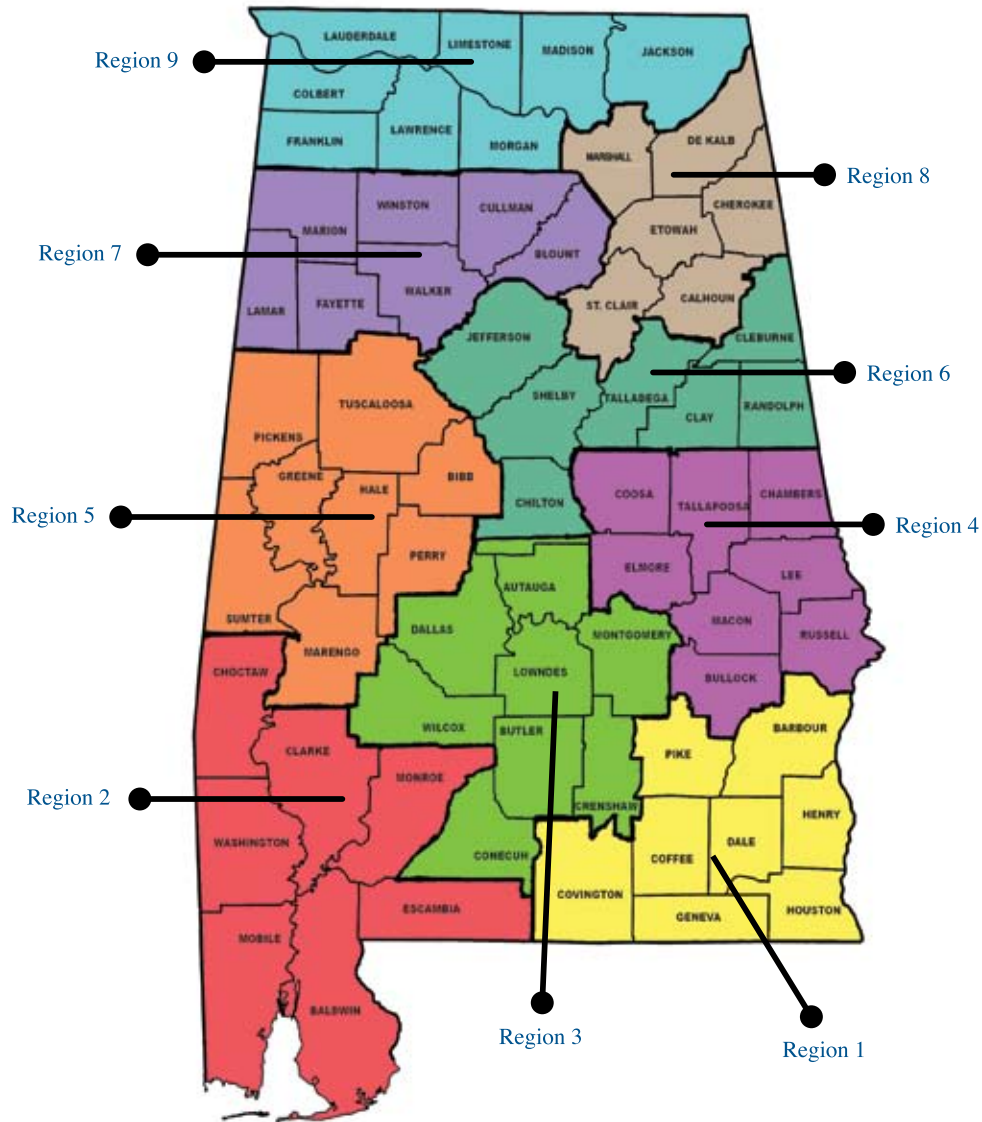
~ Foster Care Alumni



My Aunt and Uncle are more than that to me. They are mother and father, the parents I should have had and now do. In a word, I adore them. Thank you God for creating these beautiful, loving, caring and sensitive people. I am so blessed. Words clumsily describe the honest beauty of these wonderful people.

~Kinship Care

AFAPA REGIONS



Who's Your Regional Rep?

REGION 1

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REGION 9

Martha Hooper
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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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1-888-545-2372
www.afapa.org

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.



AFAPA Mission Statement

To Empower Foster and Adoptive Parents by offering training and information that will enable them to advocate for and meet the needs of children in their care.



PURPOSE

of Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

To act as a unified voice in serving, advocating, promoting and encouraging foster and adoptive parents as we serve Alabama's children and their families.

SOME OF THE ALABAMA FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

Values and Beliefs

- Treating Children and Families with Dignity and Respect
- Providing safe living environments for Alabama's children
- Promoting respectful partnerships between foster and adoptive families and local and state agencies
- Encouraging child-driven, goal oriented decision making
- Provide pertinent training and education
- Promoting a fair and equitable system of financial support for Alabama's Children
- Having a financially visible and accountable organization
- Appreciating the unique cultural and ethnic difference of the families we serve.
- Develop ways to increase the number of foster and adoptive homes.
- Actively develop ways to retain foster homes