



Newsletter

May 2015

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association



**May is
National
Foster Care
Month**



A message from the President

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Family Services has revised three sections of the Adoption Policy and Procedures; Application & Home Studies, Adoption Subsidy and Non-DHR Adoption. Adoption Policy has been revised to reflect a sibling group is two or more and children age five or older are now considered special needs. The effective date is Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

For foster children who have left foster care and are not 21.

If You Find Yourself In A Situation Where You Are Unable To Continue Living Independently And You Do Not Have Another Adult (Family Member Or Friend) Who Can Help You, Please Contact Your Local Dhr Office. Services May Be Available Until Your Twenty First (21st) Birthday.

You maybe eligible for Medicaid coverage until age 26. Contact your local DHR or state DHR at 334-242-9500

**Great news for your education.
Legislature passed Fostering Hope bill which
will pay college tuition and fees
beginning in school year 2016-2017.**

Buddy Hooper / *President AFAPA*



*Supporting foster, adoptive and
kinship parents nationally.*

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to promote every facet of foster care and to share our gratitude for those who have chosen to be a part of the life of a child experiencing out of home care. From foster, kinship and adoptive parents, to social workers, CASA/GALs, teachers, mentors, doctors, therapists, community leaders and especially the state parent group associations, the National Foster Parent Association extends our appreciation for all you do.

For over 40 years, the NFPA has committed itself to the support of foster, adoptive and kinship parents by appreciating that safety and well-being are paramount in making the journey for all of us, parents and children, successful. Recognizing that parents supporting parents brings empowerment to families, the NFPA has always recognized the state parent support organizations and their efforts to advocate in their local arenas to meet the needs of children in care through enriching the lives of the parents who open their hearts and homes to America's most vulnerable citizens.

As we go forward in the month of May, we need to send the message of how critical the need is for older youth in care to find permanency. Every year, thousands of youth age out of foster care into the world alone and at risk. Children who should be the future of our country are wondering if they even have a future and often make choices that derail their ability to experience success for many years, if ever. The NFPA is committed to seeking opportunities to make a positive change in the futures of these youth. NFPA applauds the addition of Medicaid extension for youth aging out of care to the age of 26 as well as the mandate of sex trafficking awareness and strengthening families legislation nationally.

The NFPA Board of Directors extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who works to have a positive impact on children in out of home care and youth aging out of care. You are truly leaving an immeasurable mark on the future of our nation, one child at a time.

Pat Llewellyn, NFPA President

Buddy Hooper, Council of State Affiliates Chair

Irene Clements, NFPA Executive Director

MEET ETHEL



Ethel was born July 2000. She is a sweet girl who likes to be called by her middle name which is Ree. She attends the 8th grade and her favorite thing to do in school is color. Ree likes to have a very laid back and quiet environment.

She prefers to not be in crowds of people with noise. She enjoys church but the choir sounds are difficult for her to be around so she attends sporadically. Ree has been in her current home 2 years and has adjusted very well to this single parent household. She likes to be a helper, enjoys movies and playing games on the computer. She loves her baby dolls and stuffed animals and sleeps with one every night. She can participate in all self-help skills with supervision to ensure things are done correctly. She enjoys eating out, shopping and loves animals. As long as she is kept busy she is usually very content.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET JESSICA



Jessica, born August 2005 loves school and playing with her friends during free time and at P.E. Her teachers describe her as always smiling, a hard worker and loving to learn new things. Jessica has cognitive delays and is in a multi-handicapped classroom setting. Jessica enjoys going to the zoo and likes all kinds of animals

especially dogs. Her favorite food is hamburgers and she loves going to McDonald's. Jessica enjoys playing hide-n-seek, kick ball and riding bicycles with her friends. She enjoys going to church and says her favorite part about church is singing. Jessica's caregiver describes her as loving and caring. Jessica thrives with a consistent daily routine.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

Thank You!

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



MEET JACOB

Jacob, born August 1998 enjoys playing basketball, participating in school and church activities as well as community activities. Jacobs likes to watch television and playing video games. Jacob enjoys assisting his foster parent with the sound system at the local church they attend. Jacob does well in most subjects in school but needs motivation at times in order



to keep his grades from falling. Jacob is well liked by his teachers and peers. Jacob is working on showing appreciation when things are given to him and also working on "earning" privileges instead of expecting things to be handed to him. Jacob will do well in a home with a father that is proactive in interacting with him. The "ideal" home would be one where the parents praise and encourage Jacob but will also discipline him, as needed, using appropriate consequences. He needs parents that will help him develop independent living and coping skills to become a productive adult.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

THE ALABAMA FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION



Walk for Foster Care

May 30th, 2015 10 AM

National Foster Care Month Celebration
Gardendale, AL | Buffalo Wild Wings

AFAPA will host a special event to help celebrate National Foster Care Month.

Funds raised will benefit Alabama Foster Children and
Youth Scholarships program.

This event is also meant to bring awareness to the need for more
foster and adoptive families in Alabama.

There will be prizes given away, games for the kids to play, face painting and much more.

The main event will be the National Foster Parent Association 5K
Walk Me Home to the place I belong event.

You can register to be included in this walk by visiting
www.firstgiving.com/walkmehome/alabama2015

Local Associations and other agencies who would like to help with this event or create
your own fundraising walk contact me at buddy@afapa.org or call 256-507-3273.

Be a Sponsor by donating directly to the Walk Page or send checks to
AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058.

Make Checks payable to AFAPA Walk Me Home. Donations are tax deductible.

MEET CHARLES



Charles, born August 1998 is a talented young man. He has a great sense of style. He enjoys fashion and would like to be a Cosmetologist and one day own his own salon. He is very creative. He writes his own music. He can sing and dance. Charles also enjoys helping others and wouldn't mind being a therapist one day.

Charles' favorite subject is Science and favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. His favorite food to eat is pizza and restaurant is the Cheese Cake Factory. He also enjoys swimming, playing video games and gymnastics. Charles would like to have a family that is non-judging, loving and understanding.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

Rebuilding the Broken Bond

"Want to know how to build a heart to heart connection with a child"

Nancy Thomas will share her know how in this laughter filled seminar.

You will leave understanding Attachment Disorder and what you can do about it."

When:

Friday, June 26, 2015
Saturday, June 27, 2015
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where:

Madison County Department of Human Resources
2206 Oakwood Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35810

Contact: Terry Bell – 256-427-6207 or
 Email: terry.bell@dhr.alabama.gov

MEET JAMIAYA, SHAMYA & KAMIYON



Jamiaya, born December 2002, **Shamya**, born August 2004 and **Kamiyon** (Millie) born July 2012, are a beautiful sibling group of three who are hoping to be placed together through adoption. They are currently separated and only seeing each other through visitation. These girls need structure and routine with a

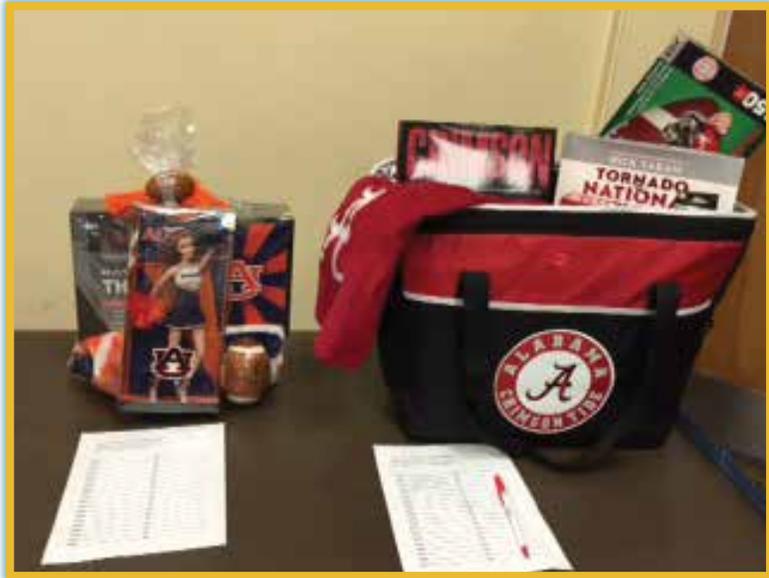
family that is patient but consistent. They would do well in both a 2 parent family as well as a single female household. Jamiaya is described as laid back and happy. She enjoys dancing and hip hop music. She enjoys video games and watching TV. Jamiaya is a picky eater and doesn't like veggies, seafood or anything with onions. She loves macaroni and cheese! She enjoys church and is involved in the youth group. She has seasonal allergies but they are controlled. Shamya is a friendly, outgoing and doesn't meet a stranger. She makes friends easily and is not a picky eater. She enjoys all types of foods and loves pizza! She enjoys cheerleading, step team, playing basketball and going to the park. She enjoys church as well and loves Sunday School. Her favorite holiday is Christmas! Kamiyon (Millie) is a precious girl who smiles all the time! She enjoys playing with baby dolls and is very friendly! She is starting to make sentences and is working on being potty trained. She is a sweetheart!

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

Scenes from the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association Annual



Conference at Shocco Springs Conference Center • May 7th - 9th, 2015



TOUCHING
LIVES
TODAY
★ TOMORROW
AND FOREVER





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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.

AFAPA presented 20 Scholarships May 8th, 2015

At Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center

During AFAPA Annual Conference

Jameka Hartley Coordinator of Alabama Reach Program of the University of Alabama

Guest speaker for the Awards Program

Richard Logan Alexander
Tina Michelle Benson
Aimee' Elizabeth Breland
Kursten McKayla Cowart
Alexis Jordan Daniel
Elizabeth Jade Epperson
Nakosha Lasha Gaddis

Deric James Grayson
Scott Kemontaye Grisham
Kate Leanne Gorveatte
Khason Elijah Lackey
Katelin Michele Molan
Felecia Michelle Pate
Kaylee Morgan Quinn

Furman Taylor
Tiffany Nichole Thomas
Olivia Grace Thomas
Keremi Nicole Vinson
Dynasty D. Wells
Kalli Ann Woody

IF more funds become available after the Walk in Gardendale May 30th AFAPA will give scholarships to the other youth who applied this year

