



Foster Care & Adoption Resource Center (FCARC)

info@
wifostercareand
adoption.org

800-947-8074

6682 W.
Greenfield Ave.,
Suite 310
Milwaukee, WI
53214

*Shelter from
the Storm*

This May we once again celebrate Foster Care Month in Wisconsin and across the nation.

Whether you're a foster parent, relative caring for a child, worker, mentor, teacher, health provider, neighbor, or another vital member of the community, your commitment to some of our most vulnerable children in our state does not go unnoticed. Your help provides "shelter" for children, youth, and families as they work through the various reasons they are working with child welfare.

So with gratitude for the "shelter" you provide, we are excited to announce a new "look" to the state foster parent public image and recruitment campaign, *Foster Parents Rock*.

In 2011, the *Turn a Life Around* foster parent recruitment campaign began as a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families, the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center, and SERVE Marketing, Inc., the only nonprofit advertising agency in the United States. After the campaign launched on May 1, interested families downloaded 155 information packets in the first three days through the www.fosterparentsrock.org website. Interest remained high throughout 2011 and most of 2012. As with any advertising campaign, however, interest levels are now starting to drop off. So, in order to keep interest high and to celebrate the great work our foster parents do, Serve is helping us refresh the



campaign by changing things up.

What Do We Hope Will Happen?

Similar to what took place in 2011, we hope to do several things with the campaign refresher:

- Change the perception that foster kids did something bad to be in foster care. The opposite is true—challenges are a regular part of their lives.
- Recruit new foster families.
- Acknowledge the hard work that our current foster families do and recognize them for their efforts.

We want you to know that as we work with SERVE to develop new concepts, there is always a high level of appreciation for all that current foster families do and continue to do. We hope that when you have the opportunity you are willing to share with others your story of providing help and "shelter" because, as you know, the words you share about fostering are more powerful than any campaign. Campaigns simply help us get out the message and encourage others to consider foster parenting. Your experience brings these efforts to life. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Wisconsin's children, youth, and families.

*A publication of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center
in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*

Responsibilities of a Resource Specialist

Resource Specialists at the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (FCARC) are a very mobile team of social workers. We travel to meet with foster and adoptive families across the state, and are available to answer questions from foster care and adoptive families, youth in care, and foster care and adoption staff.

We receive questions from staff and families while we are at regional or state meetings, or while we are at conferences and support meetings. Resource Specialists also receive questions via email. The most important thing to remember is that our Resource Specialists are here to help. We never want you to hesitate to call or email should you have questions or need assistance.

Recently, one of our Resource Specialists received an email request from a foster care coordinator. The coordinator needed a resource for a foster family who initially was going to be an adoptive resource, but who ultimately decided they could not fulfill that role. This was a difficult and emotional decision for this family to make. Their foster care coordinator was looking for supports and resources to provide them during this challenging time.

Our team of Resource Specialists immediately identified this as a priority topic that we would research and create a tip sheet about. We knew that other families might also be looking for a similar kind of resource. The tip sheet, "Not for Forever" is now up on the tip sheet page

of the FCARC website. You can find it here: www.wifostercareandadoption.org/Portals/fcarc/Tip%20Sheets/What%20Do%20I%20Do/NotforForever.pdf.

Resource Specialists are also involved in numerous outreach events, such as attending foster care coordinator regional meetings, special needs adoption meetings, tribal meetings, foster care parent support groups, foster care and adoption conferences, Youth Advisory Council meetings, and state meetings, just to name a few.

Not long ago, we were invited by a foster care coordinator to conduct an outreach presentation at an agency-wide staff meeting. During this presentation, we were able to showcase a sampling of our lending library resources, share our foster parent recruitment tools, promote an upcoming training, and answer questions about our offerings and services.

Our Resource Specialists are available to answer *YOUR* questions and be *YOUR* "Go To" Resource. If you haven't talked with one of us, our hope is you will pick up the phone and give us a call or send us an email. We are here and ready to help.

**Email us at
info@wifostercareandadoption.org
or call us toll-free at
1-800-947-8074.**

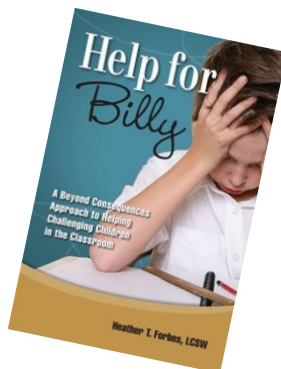
A publication of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center
in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Resources from the Lending Library

Help for Billy: A Beyond Consequences Approach to Helping Challenging Children in the Classroom

by Heather Forbes

This easy-to-read book, with tables, outlines and lists, clears the way for a better understanding of the true nature regarding traumatic experiences affecting the brain and learning.



some very practical ways to implement therapeutic parenting every day.

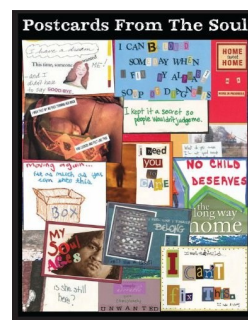
Postcards from the Soul

by Foster Care Alumni of America

When you open *Postcards From the Soul*, you'll see into the depths of the often-hidden emotions of people who have shared extraordinary experiences.

This collection of

postcards is both moving and illuminating. Every postcard tells a piece of the life story of a real person. Maybe even somebody you know.



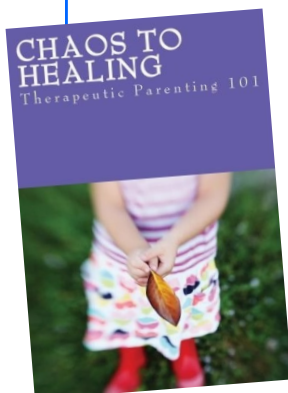
Flux: Life After Foster Care

by Leigh Ecke

Written by over 100 adult alumni of foster care, *FLUX* is an honest, useful, and interesting look at what it means to become an adult after growing up in the foster care system.

Chaos to Healing DVD

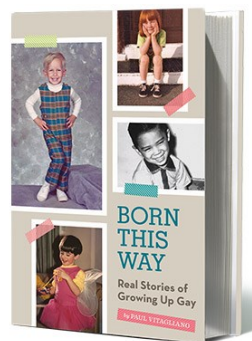
While many resources provide excellent theory on therapeutic parenting, many people still find themselves floundering day-to-day as they interact with their hurting children. Billy Kaplan, a Clinical Social Worker, and Christine Moers, a therapeutic parent, sat down one day to talk about



Born This Way: Real Stories of Growing Up Gay

by Paul Vitagliano

Based on the hugely popular blog of the same name, *Born This Way* shares 100 different memories of growing up LGBTQ.



Childhood photographs are accompanied by sweet, funny, and at times heartbreaking personal stories.

Find the library at:
www.wifostercareandadoption.org

*A publication of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center
in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families*

New Office of Youth

The goal of the Office of Youth Services is to focus the Department's efforts to help youth in the child welfare system and other vulnerable youth excel in school, obtain job skills and opportunities, and learn healthy lifestyle behaviors. The office will support and encourage safety, permanent family relationships and positive social, emotional, and educational outcomes for youth during their time in the child welfare system; as well as prepare them with educational and life skills so they can succeed as adults. Adolescents aged 12-21 in or at risk of entering the child welfare system present unique and complex challenges. The new Office brings a stronger and more coordinated program and policy focus to youth in the child welfare system and other vulnerable youth.

Objectives

The objective of this office is to support and facilitate safety, permanent family relationships, and positive social, emotional, and educational outcomes for youth while they are in and after they leave the child welfare system.

Contact

The Office of Youth Services is a new and exciting opportunity to be more responsive to the needs of older youth in the child welfare system. If you have questions or ideas, please contact:

Wendy Henderson

Director, Office of Youth Services
Division of Safety and Permanence
608.261.8709

Wendy.Henderson@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (WFAPA)

WFAPA provides great opportunities to get together with other foster parents through its spring and fall conferences. They also have an extensive website, www.wfapa.org, a newsletter and a network of supportive WFAPA members and other foster parents who can be a resource for you.

The fall conference will occur on October 18-20 at the Stone Harbor Lodge in Sturgeon Bay.

Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center

6682 West Greenfield Ave., Suite 310, Milwaukee, WI 53214

Toll free: 800-947-8074 · Phone: 414.475-1246 · Fax: 414.475.7007

Services Provides: Resource Library · Phone Support · Networking/Outreach