

MAY/JUNE 2013

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DEAR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

May is a very special month: National Foster Care Month. In case you didn't know, the designation originated in 1988, when the National Foster Parent Association persuaded then-Sen. Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution to proclaim the month in honor of foster care. President George H.W. Bush issued an annual proclamation during each year of his presidency, providing an

impetus for state, county, and city proclamations. The main focus of the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide. St. Aemilian-Lakeside is proud to work with each and every one of our foster, adoptive and relative families because, without all of you, we could not do our jobs to provide safe, caring and loving homes to children who need them most.

You can do many things as a foster/adoptive parent to celebrate Foster Care Month:

- Schedule some "you" time to wind down, relax and reflect on how you have improved children's lives
- Plan a game or movie night with your foster/adoptive children.
- Donate items to an agency or charity that helps foster/adoptive children (shampoo, toothbrushes, diapers, stuffed animals, etc.).
- Invite a newly licensed foster/adoptive foster parent to coffee and share your wisdom, experience and ideas.
- Start a life book for the child(ren) in your care.
- Treat yourself to something special, such as flowers, a massage, new golf clubs or a really large hot fudge sundae.

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www.growhope.net



And one of the most important things you can do during Foster Care Month is talk with others you believe would make great foster/adoptive parents, so we can continue to meet the needs of children in our community. To help you get the word out, St. Aemilian-Lakeside's Parent-to-Parent Campaign is still in full force. And we have great prizes! How does Parent-to-Parent work?

- Refer a family to our foster/adoptive care program by having them call 855-GROW-HOPE, e-mail us at growhope@st-al.org or visit our website, growhope.net
- When the family becomes licensed with us, you receive a \$200 referral bonus and your name will get entered into a drawing for a night at the Pfister Hotel in a deluxe room and a \$50 gift card to spend at their restaurant.
- The drawing will occur in the spring, so start referring now!

May is symbolic for new growth, fresh starts and new opportunities. Thank you so much for what you give every day, and let's take advantage of the season to Grow Hope together. The need is great and the rewards are greater!

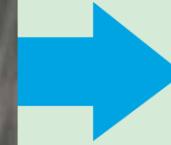
Sincerely,
Denise Pilz
Chief Program Officer
Foster Care and Family Services

SAVE THE DATE!

The St. Aemilian-Lakeside Foster Family Pool Party at Cool Waters Park is back!

Friday June 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Greenfield Park, 2028 S. 124th St., West Allis

You will receive a flyer in the mail in early June with more information and how to RSVP.



BMCW NEWS

By Arlene Happach, Director, Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare

PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Although spring was long in coming, summer will soon be here. Now is the time to think about summer camps, vacations and alternate care for school-age children. I hope you will take advantage of the many summer programs offered in the Milwaukee area. There is a list and connections to web sites on the BMCW web site <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/bmcw/family/youth/default.htm>.

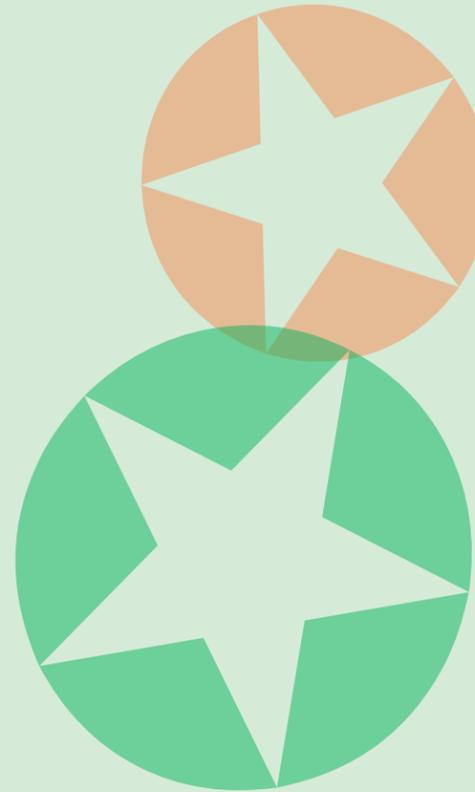
The amount of supervision varies greatly from program to program with a "drop-in" system at parks for organized activities, to fully staffed programs with check-in/check-out by parents or designees. Every program is not suitable for every child, and a discussion with the summer program manager is needed to ensure it meets the needs of the child in your home.

All foster children are eligible for free lunch, which also makes them eligible for discounted rates in the Milwaukee Recreation programs. Some suburban programs offer the same discount, and many of them will work with you on discounting rates if you tell them you are a foster parent.

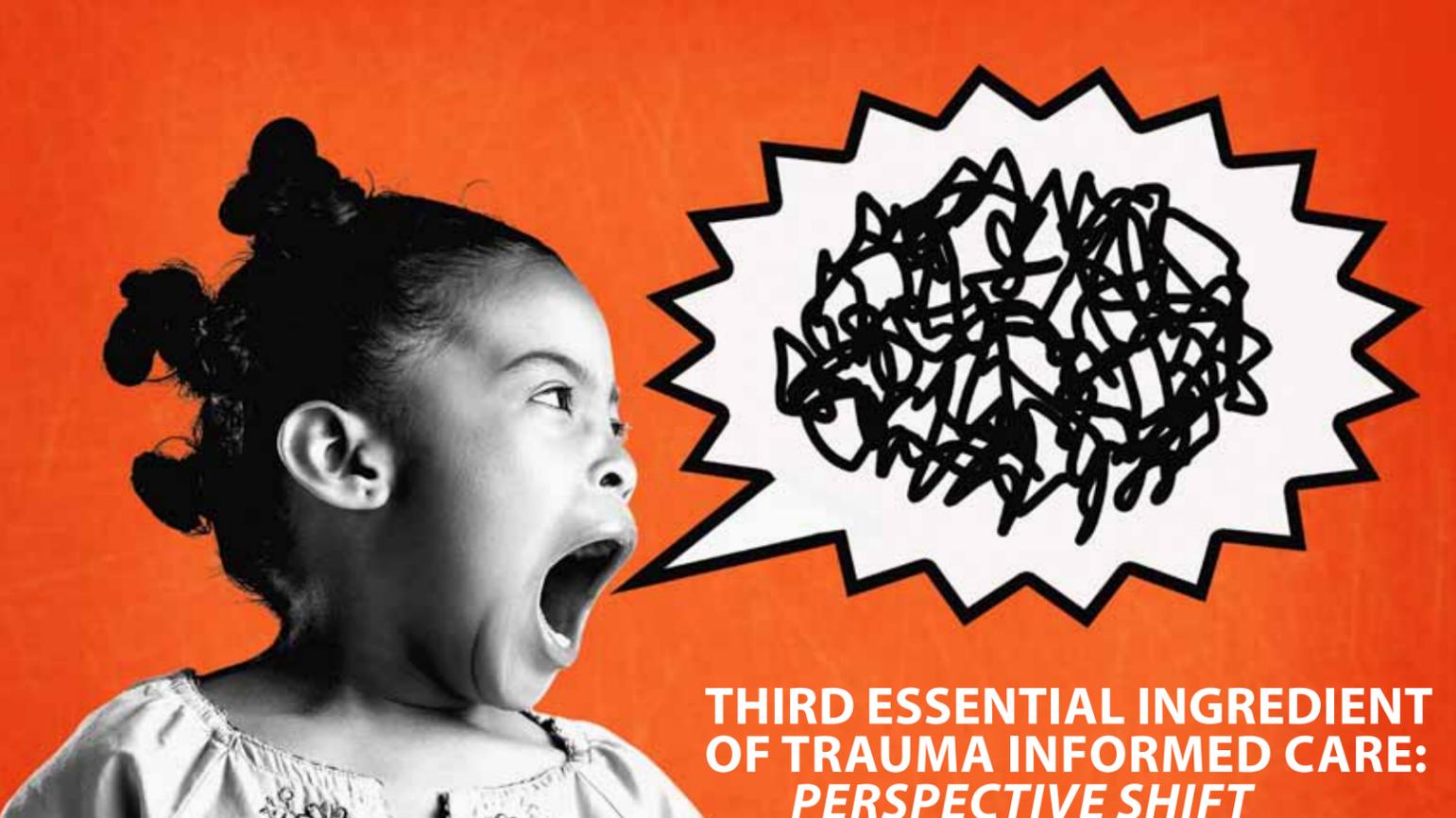
Vacations are generally considered an activity that is within the normal range of care and placement responsibility under the CHIPS order. You may plan a range of travel activities that include the child in your care. You are required to notify the case manager of the planned trip and provide a full itinerary at the earliest opportunity. The case manager will notify the biological parent and work with you to make up any visits scheduled for the time the child will be away.

If the parent objects to the trip, the supervisor will help determine if the child can go along, and respite arrangements will be made if it is determined it is best for the child not to go.

For teens, a summer job gives them experience, a little money to spend and keeps them safe. Many summer camp programs hire youth to help with younger children. High schools have information on summer job opportunities and also credit-recovery classes for those not on track to graduate.



Have a safe, family-fun-filled summer!



THIRD ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF TRAUMA INFORMED CARE: *PERSPECTIVE SHIFT*

If we want to be effective caregivers, we need to shift our perspective of the child. Simply thinking differently can provide a big shift in reality, and, in turn, promote major change.

Traditional therapeutic approaches may ask, "What is wrong with the child?" This implies that the child is somehow broken and needs to be "fixed." If we want to take a trauma informed perspective, we will ask, "What happened to him or her?" and "How can I support him or her?"

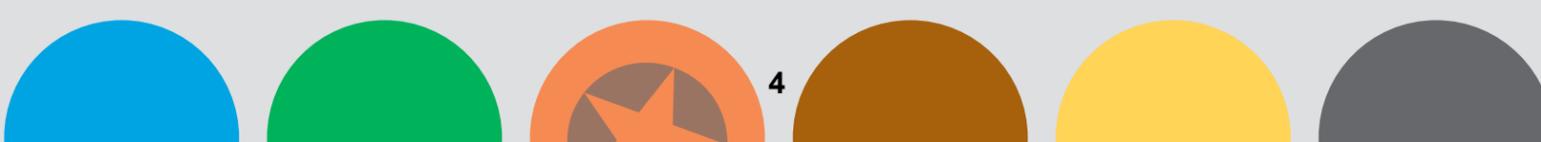
Neuroscience tells us that the words we use about a person or a situation really do matter. Consider the following comparisons between a "traditional" view and the words that might be used to describe it and a trauma informed point of view:

Traditional view	Trauma informed view
acting out child	emotionally dysregulated
willful and naughty	maladaptive behavior patterns that no longer work
manipulative	scared child who is trying to get his or her needs met
uncontrollable	lacking skills
in need of consequences and control	in need of skills to self-regulate

If this looks like merely replacing old words with new, "nicer" ones, think again. Take the word "manipulative" as an example. Not only does this word imply some sort of sinister motive on the part of the child, but from a neuroscience point of view it is just not accurate.

Children who are fearful of being harmed (and children with much trauma in their backgrounds have good reason to be) will carry this fear with them, even into new environments that are safe, like foster care. Children who do not feel safe will take extraordinary steps to fend off the danger, including running away and fighting.

Promoting real healing sometimes needs to start with our words and thoughts.



FAMILY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY GROUP MEETINGS

Connecting Bridges was formed in 2009 by foster parents to help the various parts of the Milwaukee Foster Care system work together. The group typically meets on the second Monday of the month, at varying locations. For more information, including featured speakers, call 414-326-0139 or e-mail connectingbridgesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

The United Foster Parent Association of Greater Milwaukee was formed by foster and adoptive parents to advocate for foster families and inform foster parents. The group meets at 4425 N. Port Washington Road, Glendale, on the third Thursday of the month from September through May. Representatives from Integrated Family Services/St. Aemilian-Lakeside and Children's Hospital Community Services will be on hand at each meeting to answer questions. Membership is \$5 per year. For more information, call 414-527-4720.

Voices United is a support group for foster, adoptive and kinship families. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 6-8 p.m., at Adoption Resources of Wisconsin, 6682 W. Greenfield Ave. Membership is \$10 per family per year. For more information, contact voicesunitedmilw@aol.com.



MAINTAINING SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

Children placed in out-of-home care have had many moves and major transitions in their lives, and each one can potentially add to the trauma the child must learn to manage. Often the only real source of stability and safety is the child's school, where they have friends as well as relationships with supportive adults. Moving schools not only disrupts these important links with their community, studies show that children can potentially lose six to nine months of academic progress when they switch schools.

Federal Fostering Connections legislation requires that children in foster care remain in their school of origin unless there is some compelling reason to move them. At St. Aemilian-Lakeside and Integrated Family Services, we understand that school transportation can be a challenge, and we are ready and willing to work with our foster parents to be sure that transportation and other barriers can be overcome so that children can maintain attendance at their school.

Your case manager can help you find options. Many schools have before- and after-school programs to help working parents, or they can suggest a service that has bus service to the school. Please be sure to ask for help in meeting this very important need.



AND IN THIS CORNER, BRENDA REINKE

Brenda took things to a higher level.

The 14-year-old went to live with an aunt, and after the 12-year-old begged her not to return her to her mother, Brenda became licensed as a treatment foster mother through St. Aemilian-Lakeside.

“That’s how it started; my house has not been empty since,” Brenda said.

She became somewhat of a specialist with troubled teenage boys, often being asked to take one in “just for a few months.” Over the years, she has become legal guardians to two of her foster kids and is still in touch with several of them.

She talks fondly about a 14-year-old we’ll call Billy, who came to her with Asperger’s syndrome, bipolar disorder and a cognitive delay of eight to ten years.

“He was probably my most challenging kid. When he got here, he talked for about a half hour and when he was through, I had no idea what he meant. That was my roller coaster ride.

“If anything would have scared me out of foster care, it would have been him.”

Billy would get out of a car and “run through the city like it was a virtual reality game. He’d think he was Darth Vader or that the government was going to erase his brain.”

Billy is now 23 and Brenda is his legal guardian. Why did she go that route?

“Nobody wanted him, and he was not competent to do anything on his own. ... Sure, he did some things, but he didn’t ask to be born that way.”

Then there was a youth we’ll call Mike, who came to her with slurred speech, was a bit clumsy and had a “hard-core attitude.”

“But he was a kid who, at the spur of the moment, could make a cloudy day just fun.”

Mike loved music and if he heard his favorite song, in a store or a bank or wherever, he would just break out dancing and singing.

“He sort of looked like he was having a seizure,” Brenda said with a laugh. “But who cares, he liked it!”

It turned out Mike had a mild case of cerebral palsy. But he wanted to play football. Primarily based on Mike’s speech difficulties, the coach refused. Brenda kicked into fighter mode.

“I told him, ‘Just try him out. If he can’t do it fine, but give him a chance.’”

Mike ended up playing on Pulaski High School’s kickoff team for two years.

“He wasn’t the fastest runner or the greatest player, but it was what he wanted! I never want my kids not to try something, and I don’t want people to just tell my child he’s no good at something.”

Despite scrapping like a mama bear, Brenda always tells her foster kids, “I am not here to take your mom away from you. I’m just here to be Bub (her nickname) and to show you another way of life.”

The way of life for one of her current foster boys, who we’ll call Chuck, is far from easy. He suffers from a severe genetic disorder characterized by tumors all over the inside and outside of his body. He faces probable paralysis and has a lot of other problems, including learning difficulties. But he is in a special education class at a regular school.

“I try to keep my boys as normal as possible,” Brenda said. “But the boys still call this ‘The Land of the Misfits,’” she said with a smile.

Brenda’s biggest frustration these days is doctors not explaining things clearly to her about Chuck’s condition, which undoubtedly will shorten his life.

Despite working in health care for more than 20 years, “I don’t understand a lot of it,” Brenda said. “And if I don’t get it, how do I explain it to my kid? We’re very honest about things here.”

So, she started looking into the disease and attended a forum with research specialists and took what she learned back to Chuck’s doctor.

“You have to be an advocate and push for your kids, ask the doctors, ‘Tell me what this means? What should I expect?’ We’re not going to just lay down and let his overtake us.

“I told the doctor, ‘I understand you know what you’re doing, but you’re talking about my child! ... I will prepare him for disfigurement if need, but I’m not going to be prepared to bury him if that’s not needed.’”

Brenda says that after a few go-rounds she feels like she is on top of things enough to ensure that Chuck can have the best life possible. She stresses with him the need to go to school and get an education – and to never give up.

“I told him ‘I’m not going to let anybody put an expiration date on you Just because you’re different doesn’t mean you’re not worth anything.

“I just won’t let anyone emotionally or physically compromise his life.”

And despite the undoubtedly very rocky road ahead for Chuck, Brenda plans to keep him with her.

“Until God comes and takes my baby home.”

No one would expect any less from this woman.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER BECOMING
A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT/FAMILY
FOR MORE INFORMATION, HAVE THEM CALL, TOLL FREE,
855-GROW-HOPE



RECRUITMENT MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR FOSTER PARENTS

One of the most effective tools we have in recruiting new foster families is a recommendation from one of our licensed foster parents to friends, relatives, co-workers, fellow members of their faith community and others. We want to help you help us recruit with an assortment of materials, including brochures and information folders; fun items with our program’s contact information on them, such as pens, seat cushions, shopping bags and other items, and our ever popular yard signs.

For more information, please call a community outreach specialist, Luke Fraley, 414-604-5124, or Kristy Gibson, 414-604-5128.

www.growhope.net

ST. AEMILIAN-LAKESIDE TRAININGS FOR ALL FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Register online at www.growhope.net

MAY 2013

Wednesday, May 1* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Trauma and Attachment** Learning to trust an adult caregiver is one of the most basic and important developmental tasks for children. This class looks at how attachment works, how it is disrupted and how it can be established.

Monday, May 6* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Cultural Differences and Protective Factors** This class includes discussion on how culture develops in part to protect people from the traumas and challenges of their world, and how it is an important curative factor for child survivors of trauma.

Wednesday, May 8 6-8 p.m.

➔ **What Now? A Grief and Loss Group for Foster Parents**

Join in a monthly opportunity for foster parents who have experienced a planned or unplanned separation from a foster child to receive support and learn from the collective wisdom of the group. The focus of the session will be on group members helping one another. For more information, call Mike Joranger at 414-604-5125.

Saturday, May 11* 9 a.m.-noon

Required class for all foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside:

➔ **Survivors of Child Sexual Maltreatment: Care, Treatment and Safety** This class looks at the behavioral and emotional challenges and treatment needs of children who have been traumatized by the sexually aggressive behavior of others. Discussions are included on how caretakers can be prepared to discuss sexuality openly and honestly with children, Internet and social media safety, and how child survivors of this type of abuse can be helped to feel safe in the home and community. All foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside who have not taken the "Child Sexual Maltreatment" pre-service module within the past 2 years are required to attend this class sometime during 2013. This class will be repeated several times throughout the year.

Wednesday, May 15* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **The Effects of Fostering on Your Family** Fostering can be stressful for any family; this class explores ways to minimize the stress and stay motivated and committed. A discussion on how to assess the appropriateness of referrals for your family also will be included.

Monday, May 20* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Maintaining Family Connections** Effective foster parents remember that the child has a birth family that is important to him or her. This class looks at ways to make the birth family part of the team and how to address issues of a child's divided loyalties between families.

Wednesday, May 22* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Promoting Positive Behavior** Behavior management is not a technique, it's a process. Focusing all of our efforts on trying to change behavior and neglecting the relationship can only make the behavior worse in children with severe trauma histories. We can promote positive behavior in a way that is truly trauma informed.

Wednesday, May 29* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Separation and Placement** The multiple moves endured by many foster children take their toll on development and the ability to trust and attach. This class looks at ways to minimize the trauma of separation when children transition into, out of, or between foster homes.

JUNE 2013

Monday, June 3* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Partners in Permanency** This class provides an overview of the child welfare system and how teamwork allows a child to move from foster care to permanence. The role of the foster parent in this process is examined in detail.

Wednesday, June 5* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Required class for all foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside:

➔ **Introduction to Trauma Informed Care** The "Seven Essential Ingredients" that are at the heart of the St. Aemilian-Lakeside/Integrated Family Services approach to care and treatment are presented in detail. All foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside who have not taken this class within the past 2 years are required to attend sometime during 2013. This class will be repeated several times throughout the year.

Thursday, June 6 6-8 p.m.

➔ **Trauma Informed Care: Life Books for Children in Out-of-Home Care** Life books are a non-threatening and effective way that we can encourage children in out-of-home care to tell their story and make sense of the things that have happened to them and their families. You will leave this class with life books that you can work on with all of your foster or adoptive children and tips on putting the books together.

Wednesday, June 12 6-7 p.m.

➔ **Sensory Training** Sensory activities are essential to support the foster children we work with, and they have elements of fun and therapeutic value for adults and kids. In this training, occupational therapist Ron Klemp and other staff will teach activities that enhance children's ability to calm and focus themselves. Families will participate in playful and stimulating activities and learn their purpose as therapeutic interventions. At the end of the training, foster children may take home sensory tools of their choice. Bring your family to learn simple techniques and activities to implement in your own home.

Thursday, June 13 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Movie/Discussion: Child Sexual Trafficking** The documentary film "Very Young Girls" is a thought provoking and disturbing look at children being forced to work in the sex trade. A presentation and discussion will follow.

Monday, June 17* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Required class for all foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside:

➔ **Survivors of Child Sexual Maltreatment: Care, Treatment and Safety** This class looks at the behavioral and emotional challenges and treatment needs of children who have been traumatized by the sexually aggressive behavior of others. Discussions are included on how caretakers can be prepared to discuss sexuality openly and honestly with children, Internet and social media safety, and how child survivors of this type of abuse can be helped to feel safe in the home and community. All foster parents licensed through St. Aemilian-Lakeside who have not taken the "Child Sexual Maltreatment" pre-service module within the past 2 years are required to attend this class sometime during 2013. This class will be repeated several times throughout the year.

Wednesday, June 19* 5:30-8:30 p.m.

➔ **Physical Abuse, Neglect and Other Developmental Traumas** While abuse and neglect are often cited as the reasons for children being removed from their families, other circumstances, such as parental addiction or death, witnessing domestic violence, homelessness and poverty and chronic health issues also must be considered. This class looks at providing care and treatment that is truly trauma informed by being aware of the many developmental insults that can affect foster and adoptive children.

Monday, June 24 and Wednesday, June 26* 5:30-8:30 p.m. both nights. *This is a two-part class. You must attend both sessions to receive training credit.*

➔ **The Effects of Trauma on Development** Childhood trauma often involves abuse and neglect, but many other adverse events and circumstances also can impact and delay a child's development. This two-part class looks at how adverse childhood events can impact development from before birth to early adulthood.

**Part of the level 3 pre-service series, but may be taken for ongoing training credit by foster parents of any service level who have not taken this class within the past 2 years.*

Please note:

- All classes will be held at St. Aemilian-Lakeside, 8901 W. Capitol Dr., unless otherwise noted.
- Level 1 and 2 SAL training offerings are IN ADDITION TO the training curriculum offered by the UWM Training Partnership; they do not replace the Foundation or Mastery series.
- Child care is not offered at any trainings or meetings. Due to confidentiality issues and the sensitive nature of some training material, please do not bring children to trainings, and make child care arrangements accordingly.
- Since our organization has grown to include many more foster parents of different service levels, all classes will be open to any foster parent licensed by St. Aemilian-Lakeside/ Integrated Family Services regardless of their licensing certification level.
- Please read the training announcements carefully. Not all classes start and end at the same time.
- Thank you for being on time. We cannot admit anyone into class who arrives more than 15 minutes late. Please make sure you sign in when you arrive to receive training credit.
- Please sign up for classes by calling 463-1880, ext. 200, at least one week in advance; your message will confirm your registration. Or register online through the calendar at growhope.net.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAINING? Contact Mike Joranger, training specialist, at 414-604-5125.



For trainings listed in this section, foster and adoptive parents can access the new PDS Online system to register, arrange child care and view training transcripts. To access the system, you will need your eWisacwis ID number, which was sent in a separate letter in January. You also can call your licensing worker to obtain your ID number. To access PDS Online, go to <http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/pds-online/>

Foster and adoptive parents also can register by contacting the partnership:
 Registration: 414-964-7397
 faptreg@uwm.edu
 Web: www.mcwppd.uwm.edu
 East Lake Towers building, Suite 400
 4425 N. Port Washington Rd., Glendale, WI 53212

TRAINING REMINDERS: Unless otherwise noted, all trainings are held at the East Lake Towers location. No one is admitted to a session 15 minutes after start time. Lunch is provided for all-day Saturday classes. Non-essential classes may be cancelled due to low enrollment. Please register in advance. Free child care is available on a limited basis, through the Foster/Adoptive Parent Training Program, for foster/adoptive parents while they take classes. Birth and foster children of participants are eligible for child care. To arrange for child care, please register online as described above, or call 414-964-7397 at least one week before the class date. If you request child care and your plans change, please call to cancel.

Classes are repeated often, and different classes will be offered in coming months. If you have questions about any of the trainings offered by the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership for Professional Development, please call 414-964-7397 or visit them on the web at www.mcwppd.uwm.edu.

CORRECTION

The letter that went out to foster and adoptive families about the new Professional Development System (PDS) listed an incorrect telephone number for the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership for Professional Development. This is the organization that provides much of the training for foster and adoptive parents in Milwaukee. The correct number is **414-964-7397**. We apologize for any inconvenience.

TRAINING FOR LEVEL 1 AND 2 FOSTER, ADOPTIVE PARENTS

FOUNDATION TRAINING SESSIONS (Taken during the two-year Initial Licensing Period)

Thursday, May 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Impact of Trauma on Child Development** This class presents an overview of normal child development and examines the impact of abuse and neglect on development.

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-noon
 ➔ **The Effects of Fostering on the Family** The impact of foster care, adoption and kinship care on the family system will be examined. Information also will be presented on disclosure of important information to foster and adoptive families and protocols for handling challenges specific to foster care.

Tuesday, May 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **The Effects of Fostering on the Family** The impact of foster care, adoption and kinship care on the family system will be examined. Information also will be presented on disclosure of important information to foster and adoptive families and protocols for handling challenges specific to foster care.

Thursday, May 23, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Separation and Placement** This session addresses the effects of separation on the child within their cultural context. Participants also learn to identify stages in the grieving process as well as strategies to reduce the trauma to children who have experienced separations from significant others.

Tuesday, May 28, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Overview of the Children's Court System** The child welfare legal system can be overwhelming for foster and adoptive parents. Learn the basics of how the system works, key terms and players and tips for participating in court.

Thursday, May 30, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Guidance and Positive Discipline** Receive information on positive ways to manage behavior, including natural and logical consequences, contracting and rewards.

Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m.-noon
 ➔ **Overview of the Children's Court System** The child welfare legal system can be overwhelming for foster and adoptive parents. Learn the basics of how the system works, key terms and players and tips for participating in court.

Thursday, June 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **The Effects of Fostering on the Family** The impact of foster care, adoption and kinship care on the family system will be examined. Information also will be presented on disclosure of important information to foster and adoptive families and protocols for handling challenges specific to foster care.

Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m.-noon
 ➔ **Partners in Permanence** This class offers an introduction to the goals of child protective services and how this can help achieve protection and permanence for children and families.

Thursday, June 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Attachment** Parents and caregivers are introduced to how attachment is the foundation for guidance and positive discipline and how it is affected by separation from primary parents, siblings and others.

Saturday, June 29, 9 a.m.-noon
 ➔ **Cultural Dynamics in Placement** This workshop presents an overview of culture and the ways in which our values and codes of conduct are affected by culture. Participants will learn how to separate culture from race and identify the many and complex ingredients of cultural identity.

Saturday, June 29, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Maintaining Family Connectedness** Learn about the losses experienced by birth families, expected behaviors of grieving parents and ways to work effectively with birth families along a continuum of contact.

TRAINING FOR PRE-ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.-noon
 ➔ **Permanency Issues for Foster Children** Learn about the effects of long-term separation from the primary family, either through adoption or long-term foster care.

Saturday, May 18, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Permanency Issues for Foster Families** Learn about issues related to adoption often experienced by adoptive families.

Tuesday, June 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Permanency Issues for Foster Children** Learn about the effects of long-term separation from the primary family, either through adoption or long-term foster care.

Tuesday, June 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **Permanency Issues for Foster Families** Learn about issues related to adoption often experienced by adoptive families.

FORMAL SUPPORT FOR NEW FOSTER PARENTS (To be taken within 30 days of initial placement)

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-noon OR
 Thursday, June 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 ➔ **New Placement Check-In** Connect with other foster parents, have questions answered, and get advice from Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare workers and experienced foster parents.



READ THE NEWSLETTER, WIN A PRIZE

We're always looking for feedback on our newsletter, particularly from our foster parents. The first three licensed foster or adoptive parents who call training specialist Mike Joranger at 414-604-5125 to offer feedback on this issue of Foster and Adoptive Parent News will receive a \$25 gift card from Target. The prizes will be awarded to the first three calls or time-stamped voice mail messages, so call early! If you leave a message, please include your name, telephone number and the best time to reach you.