

Center for Children and Families

Quarterly Stipend Newsletter

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Hello Students!

This is the last issue of this academic years' newsletter. Hope everyone has had a great semester! We look forward to seeing you at the "End of Semester Celebration" on May 6 from 4pm-6pm.

Alumni News

A former stipend recipient and Victoria alumni, Kathy Kahlich, reported to us that she recently accepted a position for Risk Director for her region.

National Foster Care Month

According to Fostercaremonth.org, every year about 170,000 families care for over a half million children whose parents cannot take care of them.

Every jurisdiction in the county has experienced a shortage of foster homes, and estimates of the number of homes needed range into the millions. Most agencies are perpetually recruiting new foster parents at the same time that they seek to retain the ones they have.

The National Foster Care Month effort provides an opportunity for people all across the nation to show their appreciation for the dedication of our foster families and workers. It is also an opportunity to get more people involved, whether as foster parents, volunteers, employers or in other ways.

One activity that is taking place this month is the National Foster Parent Association Ribbon Campaign. The National Foster Parent Association is promoting a nationwide ribbon campaign to heighten public awareness of the need for foster parents and of the role of people who help make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth. To find out how to participate in this campaign, visit <http://nfpainc.org>.

During this month there are also a variety of activities that individuals can do to promote foster care. Some ideas suggested by Fostercaremonth.org include:

- Host a Foster Family Recognition/Awards Banquet.
- Plan a "Step Out for Kids Walk-a-Thon" to raise money to support and provide services for families and children.
- Invite all foster families to a "Zoo Day" or "Museum Day" with the support of the local zoo and children's museums.
- Post foster care information on billboards.

For more ideas, visit  <http://www.fostercaremonth.org> and click on "Traditional Toolkit". There you will find a multitude of resources.



Quotation

“ I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble. ”
- Helen Keller

Dates to Remember

May 3

Last Class Day

May 4-11

Final Exams

May 6

End of Semester Celebration

June 7

Summer I Classes Begin

July 8

Summer I Last Class Day

July 12

Summer II Classes Begin

August 12

Summer II Last Class Day



National Foster Care Month

MAY 2004

Children's Memorial Flag Initiative

April 23rd was the Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) Children's Memorial Flag Initiative. The public awareness campaign first began in 1998 and it now continues each year on the fourth Friday in April.



The campaign was established to direct attention to the tragedy of violent deaths of children as part of a national initiative to reduce child mortality. The Children's Memorial Flag honors each lost child and the continuing problem of violence against children.

The centerpiece of the flag is simple—a red flag depicting blue, paper-doll-like figures of children holding hands. In the center, the white chalk outline of a missing child symbolizes the thousands of children lost to violence.

According to CWLA's website, for the past four years, all 50 governors have united in an impressive bipartisan effort by flying the flag, issuing proclamations, or participating in ceremonies to memorialize children. National and local publicity has been terrific, and the Children's Memorial Flag has become an increasingly recognizable symbol of the need to improve our efforts to protect children. For more information on this yearly event visit

 <http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/memorialflag.htm>.

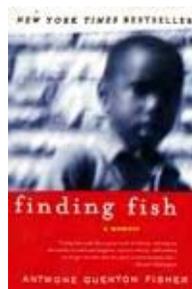
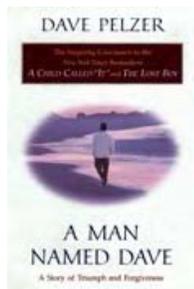
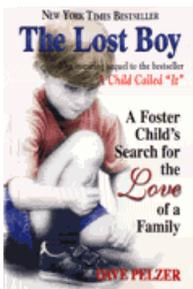
Did you know?

According to [Prevent Child Abuse Texas](#), the following happen every day in American:

- 4 children die from child abuse.
- 27 children die from poverty.
- 689 babies are born with inadequate prenatal care.
- 13,700 children are abused and neglected.

Resources

Angela Ausbrooks recommended the following books that you might enjoy reading:



The Lost Boy by David Pelzer



A Man Named Dave by David Pelzer



Finding Fish by Antwone Fisher



National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family Centered Practice

<http://www.cwresource.org>

For more links visit our website at: http://www.health.txstate.edu/ccf/ccf_links.html

If you have a link to a website that you would like to share with us, email Michele at mb19@txstate.edu.