



COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED INITIATIVE UPDATE

August 10, 2007

WAYS YOU HAVE MADE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE:

We first want to give thanks to each person who sponsored children and families to attend SoulFest the first weekend in August. The families that received tickets very much appreciated the opportunity to go and enjoy the event.

Kudos also to six women from the Littleton area who have asked to mentor a teenaged girl in foster care as a way to celebrate their own friendships. The women will be providing art lessons and other opportunities for the teen who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the activities.

The Altrusa Club of the Lakes Region is determined to make a difference in the lives of children by supporting foster and adoptive families by providing welcome packs and gift cards. They have also agreed to provide free printing of informational packets for the natural support networks of foster and adoptive families.

Members of the Newfound Life AG are embracing an empty nest couple who have chosen to adopt their teenage niece. They are helping with transportation, providing funding for school clothes and other general support. They commented, "We don't feel so alone".

When a family with a self-employed father was willing to take in a sibling group, but could not afford the cost of multiple physicals a doctor provided the physicals for no charge.

CLOTHING, FURNITURE, AND BACKPACK GIVE AWAY

On **Saturday, August 25th** a group from Londonderry Presbyterian Church will be driving a truck full of new and gently used clothing, furniture, and backpacks full of school supplies to Littleton and Laconia.

Foster and Adoptive Families are invited to come and pick up items for the whole family at the following times:

Saturday, August 25th from **9:00 to 12:00** at the White Mountain Christian Church, Reddington St. in **Littleton**.

Saturday, August 25th from **2:00 to 5:00** at the Good Sheppard Lutheran Church on Route 106 (Parade Road) in **Laconia**.

If a family picks out a furniture item such as a sofa, there will be a pick up truck available to deliver it, if needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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If you would like to help with this project, there is a need for more clothing for girls and for new back packs filled with school supplies. Please only donate new or slightly used clothing sorted according to sizes to make distribution easier. The team would also appreciate helpers on the 25th at both locations during the times listed above. If you would like to help, please e-mail jllessard@bethany.org

The Division Staff have also asked for help in the following areas:

Conway: There is a need for foster parents to meet for monthly support on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Child care for those times is also needed so the families can recharge together.

North Country: Bike needed for sixteen year old boy. Please e-mail LPivin@dhhs.state.nh.us

A young man would like to join a health club to focus on more positive use of his time. The cost per month for the young man and his father is \$40. If you would be able to provide this support, please e-mail Ajilla at pospesil@together.net

FAITHFULLY, ONE BY ONE – PROJECT MY T

When children enter foster care, they often arrive without essentials, such as adequate clothing, and with little they can call their own. When back-to-school time rolls around, foster/adoptive families can find it financially challenging providing school clothing and supplies.



PROJECT MY T is an easy and effective way for organizations to provide essential items for children in care. Funds are raised to purchase gift cards to local stores and distributed to foster, adoptive, or kinship families through the local DCYF (Division for Children, Youth & Families) District Office.

A kit, containing everything needed to run the project, except the actual display board, is sent to the coordinator, including flyers, posters and items for an interactive display. All you provide is the display board or a bulletin board.

The coordinator promotes the project and sets up the display on the poster board or bulletin board you provide. When the project is over, the display articles are returned for recycling and funds are sent to Bethany Christian Services, who uses them to purchase gift cards. The gift cards are distributed to families through the local DCYF District Office or directly to adoptive families.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE WAITING CHILD

There are a number of children in New Hampshire waiting for a forever home; we plan to highlight one child per month in hopes of locating homes for these precious individuals.



Meet **Kellie**, age 16

Kellie is young girl who loves the attention of everyone around her. She enjoys pop music and likes to listen to the radio or to CD's. She does well in school with a modified program, she received A's and B's this year. Kellie has average to excellent behavior in the classroom. She is currently in the 9th grade.

Kellie is hoping for a permanent family who will adopt her. She needs a family who will provide her with safety, security and nurturing supports.

Photograph by Louise Supple

For more information about **Kellie**, please contact **Diane Seamans at 603-524-4485, ext. 340.**

Summer blessings to each of you,
Jan Lessard

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