

# Foster Parent Times

Quarterly Newsletter

## May is National Foster Care



Bethany Foster Care Staff would like to thank each of our families for your dedication to helping children in need and supporting Bethany's mission.

Our program would not be where we are without your support.

We continue to grow and have added 8 new foster families to our program.

We currently have 12 families in the process of becoming licensed. It is an exciting time and we continue to ask for your support and patience as our program grows.

Bethany Christian Services Therapeutic Foster Care Program will be featured on Fox 59's Morning Show, Thursday May 15th.



## Foster Family Support Group

Bethany Christian Services has recently begun holding monthly support groups. During these sessions, DCS policy changes, need for foster parent support, respite and placements have been discussed. Attending this group is a great way to meet other foster families in Bethany's program. This can be a time for encouragement from others who are experiencing or who have experienced situations similar to yours. Please join us for our next group on Monday May 12th. This will be after our TFC monthly in-service training. More details to come!

You may earn annual training hours by attending these support groups. Support groups are typically one to two hours.

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# WELCOME LANNA!

Please join Bethany Christian Services in welcoming Lanna Blanchard to our Therapeutic Foster Care Program. Lanna has been with Bethany for 8 years. She worked as an adoption specialist for 7 years and in our Intensive Family Preservation Program for 1 year.

Lanna brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our program.

She served on Bethany's Board of Directors before her work as an adoption specialist.

Lanna is married and has 5 children, all of whom were adopted internationally from Korea.

Lanna began working in our Therapeutic Foster Care program as foster care case manager on April 7, 2008. She has been a tremendous asset to our program.



## New policy: Traveling with Foster Children

Traveling within the state does **NOT** require court notification.

Foster families must contact their Bethany caseworker regarding plans to travel throughout the state. Bethany will then inform the DCS case manager, who may need to seek approval from biological family. If biological family disapproves, Bethany will find appropriate respite care if needed.

Traveling **out** of state **DOES** require court approval. Please contact your Bethany worker immediately when out of state travel plans are being made. Bethany will contact DCS to inform them of out of state travel plans, so court authorization can be approved in a timely manner. If parental rights are not terminated, the parents have legal ability to deny out of state travel.

In cases of emergency out of state travel, foster parents must contact the DCS case worker or supervisor. Voice mail message should be left for both the case worker and supervisor. If emergency occurs after hours or weekends, foster parents must call 1-800-800-5556 and request for the on-call supervisor to contact them. The on-call supervisor will then approve or deny. Always contact your Bethany case worker regarding travel as well.

**For emergency out  
of state travel  
occurring after  
hours or weekends,  
call 1-800-800-5556  
and request to  
speak with the  
on-call supervisor.**



## TFC Focus Group with Department of Child Services

The Department of Child Services has begun to hold focus groups with foster care agencies and would like foster parent participation. During these focus groups, DCS is hoping to obtain feedback from both foster care agencies and foster parents regarding policies and issues concerning foster families today.

At the last focus group, out of state travel and the need for continued support for foster parents was discussed.

The focus group is held at various locations.

The next group will meet on June 18th, 1:30pm at The Children's Bureau.

If you would like to participate in the TFC focus group with DCS, please contact Lisa Hudson at 568-1000 or lhudson@bethany.org to obtain further information.



# Summer Activities

## Curious George

### Let's Get Curious!

Now thru August 3rd at The Children's Museum.

The exhibit encourages young children's natural curiosity as they explore science, math and engineering through hands-on, interactive play. Visitors will recognize familiar characters, including The Man with the Yellow Hat™, and places featured in the classic stories and television series now on PBS Kids.



### The Children's Theatre Institute Summer Camp

There one week camp offers children an opportunity to explore all facets of creating and producing an original theatre production. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in the following areas; producing, playwrighting, acting, scenic design, costumey design and lighting. A reduced version of the full camp is available for children ages 5-8. Please visit [www.IndyCTI.org](http://www.IndyCTI.org) for more information .



### The Broadripple Art Fair– May 17th & 18th

Two fun-filled days to purchase original artwork, savor the sights, smells and tastes of spring, participate in hands-on activities and enjoy live music.

The Broad Ripple Art Fair, located at the Art Center's 12-acre ARTSPARK, is conveniently located at 67th Street and College Avenue in the Broad Ripple Village Cultural District along the White River, just strides off the Monon Trail.

### Indiana Festival at Connor Prairie– June 7th & 8th

Bring the whole family for two days of non-stop excitement!

Enjoy Multicultural Music and Dance, Art & Craft Marketplace (shop from more than 50 Indiana artists), Wine, Art & Food Stages, Kid's Games and Crafts, and Ethnic & Festival Food. Please visit [www.connerprairie.org/events/indiana\\_festival](http://www.connerprairie.org/events/indiana_festival) for further details.

### Chase 500 Festival Kid's Day & Rookie Run

Sunday, May 18th, Noon– 4pm

All kids ages 3-12 are invited to join this non competitive fun run where everybody is a winner. All participants will receive a goody bag, a runner's bib and finishers medal. Onsite registration begins at 11am. Pre-registration available at all Indianapolis Chase Bank locations. Visit [www.500festival.com/events](http://www.500festival.com/events) for more information.

### Kids Day on the Canal June 7th, 10am–4pm

Visit [www.buggsevents.com/event\\_calendar](http://www.buggsevents.com/event_calendar) for more details.

### Kroger Indy Jazz Fest– June 13th thru 15th at Military Park

Performers include- Buddy Guy; John Legend; Medeski, Scofield, Martin & Wood; Dave Koz; and many more. Visit [www.indyjazzfest.net](http://www.indyjazzfest.net) for more information.

### Local Family Friendly Attractions

- The Indianapolis Zoo
- Indiana State Museum
- Eiteljorg Museum
- Indianapolis Museum of Art
- White River State Park
- Indianapolis Art Center
- Indianapolis Indians at Victory Field
- The Children's Museum
- Asante Children's Theatre of Indianapolis
- Caribbean Cove Indoor Water Park
- Carter Toy Museum
- Climb Time Indy
- Conner Prairie
- Holcomb Observatory & Planetarium at Butler
- Madame Walker Theatre Center

### Italian Street Festival– June 13th & 14th.

The festival features over 25 Italian meats, pastas, salads & desserts. There is live

music, dancing and games for everyone.

Located on the corner of East & Stevens Streets in Indianapolis.

**Please visit [www.indy.org](http://www.indy.org) for more information on many activities held throughout the city this spring and summer.**

Foster Parenting...The toughest job you'll ever love!

## Bethany Christian Services

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We're on the Web!!  
[www.bethany.org/indiana](http://www.bethany.org/indiana)

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## Book Review by Patty Jewell



The Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog  
Authors; Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. and Maia Szalavitz

Over the years, child psychiatrist Bruce Perry has treated hundred of children impacted by horrific experiences. *The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog* is an eye opening account of his interactions with children who have experienced torture, severe neglect, orphanage care and physical and sexual abuse. Dr. Perry takes you through his work with seven cases, individual children as well as the children from the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, Texas. He eloquently and simply explains the effect of trauma on a child's developing brain. He lets the reader into his efforts to reach these children and allows us to see a skilled clinician at work. Dr. Perry makes it clear that caregivers are an integral part in a child's healing and shares how they can understand and help hurting children. This book demonstrates that even the most damaged children can heal when given the right circumstances, treatment and care. Every foster parent will want this in their library!