



COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED INITIATIVE UPDATE

April 11, 2007

COME CELEBRATE NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WITH US ON MAY 19TH IN LONDONDERRY

MAY 19TH will be here before we know it and that is the date that we will be celebrating National Foster Care Month with a special afternoon packed with fun activities for the whole family. The celebration will take place at **Londonderry Presbyterian Church from 1:00 to 4:00**. We are inviting foster families, families providing kinship care, people who are interested in becoming a foster and/or adoptive home, and those who would like to learn how they can help support the foster and adoptive families in New Hampshire. We will have food, gifts for the children, entertainment, and activities for everyone to enjoy. In order to plan food, gifts etc we ask that you let us know if you are coming and the ages of the children that you plan to bring, if any, so please RSVP to: Ann Abram at AAbram@dhhs.state.nh.us or call 271-4953 by May 15th. If your church or community group can join us in sponsoring this celebration; we do need volunteers to help with the activities as well as donations towards the event for the children and their families.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP LOCALLY

Manchester: The Manchester office of the Division for Children, Youth, and Families will be holding an appreciation event in June for their foster families and would like to give out prizes and gift certificates. They would appreciate donations to this event. If you can help, please e-mail Jennifer Richard at JRichard@dhhs.state.nh.us

Laconia: A teen in foster care would very much appreciate a membership to either the Laconia Athletic Club or Planet Fitness in Belmont. If you would like to help this young lady stay fit your may send a gift membership (no cash please) to: Vanessa L. Lofstedt, NH Division for Children, Youth, and Families 65 Beacon Street West Laconia, NH 03246.

Berlin: The Berlin office is still looking for a mountain bike for a fourteen year old boy in care. He is 6 feet tall and weights approximately 200 pounds. If you can help this young man get his wheels please e-mail Linda Pivin at LPivin@dhhs.state.nh.us

COMPUTER HELP NEEDED

We are looking for a computer genius to help us create a data base for the individuals, faith communities, and businesses in NH who have volunteered to help with the Community and Faith Based Initiative so we can quickly match the needs of the children and families with those who have offered their gifts and talents. It would be helpful if this information would be web based to enable the workers from the Division for Children, Youth, and Families to access the resource information quickly as needs arise. If you can help with this project, please e-mail me at JLessard@bethany.org

WENDY'S WONDERFUL KIDS

After receiving a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Bethany Christian Services has joined hands with other agencies throughout the country as part of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program. This program selects specific children in foster care and provides them with a recruiter who assists these children by working with the Department of Children, Youth and Families of New Hampshire. Scott St. Louis is our Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter and is assisting New Hampshire's DCYF district offices in Concord, Manchester, Keene and Laconia in finding adoptive homes for specific foster children from those regions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.bethany.org/faithfullyonebyone

Jan Lessard at Bethany Christian Services, Tel: 483-2886, E-mail: faithfullyonebyone@bethany.org

Ajilla Pospesil (Berlin, Conway, Littleton), Tel: 444-8900, E-mail: pospesil@together.net

Beth Bascom (Claremont, Keene, Laconia, Nashua, Portsmouth, Rochester, Salem), Tel: 401-8309 E-mail: [blessings@metrocast.net](mailto: blessings@metrocast.net)

Kelly Smith (Concord), Tel: 491-9244, E-mail: Kellylynsmith@comcast.net

Scott St. Louis, Wendy's Wonderful Kids (Manchester region) Tel: 401-8303, E-mail: sstlouis@bethany.org

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 **ASHTIAN**, age 10

Ashtian is a beautiful, energetic little girl who loves attention. She enjoys having her hair done and helping to pick out her own clothing. Ashtian enjoys music, movies, crafts, running, biking, swimming, and ice cream! She has a gorgeous smile and becomes playful and affectionate within a trusting relationship.



Ashtian is currently in the 5th grade and receives special education services. She is behind academically and struggles with ADHD requiring structure and support within her educational setting. Peer relationships have been difficult for Ashtian. She will need assistance in making and keeping meaningful relationships with children her own age. Ashtian would like those around her to be open and honest with her, she asks many questions and will doubt answers that she does not believe to be true. Anyone caring for Ashtian should expect to supervise her closely.

Ashtian has been in care for sometime and is eager to be matched with the “right” family. She will need an experienced parent. Attention and patience will be key and therefore it may be best for her to be the youngest child. Ashtian will need a parent that will be able to provide nurturance, guidance, and firm structure so that she may overcome past difficulties. Her family must be open to utilizing therapeutic assistance, medications, and be comfortable with maintaining sibling and other connections.

If you would like more information regarding **Ashtian**, please contact **Julie Ploof** at **603-271-6249**.

MEET OUR CFBI TEAM AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



CFBI team members from left to right are Scott St. Louis, Ajilla Pospesil and Beth Bascom. Seated is Kelly Smith.

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Scott St. Louis, Wendy's Wonderful Kids (Manchester region) Tel: 401-8303, E-mail: [sstlouis@bethany.org](mailto: sstlouis@bethany.org)



Advisory Board Members from left to right are Suzanne Harrison, Keith Marsh, Linnea Stevenson, Craig Everett, Ann Abram, Jennifer Adams, and Earl Dunbar.

Blessings,

Jan Lessard

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