



COMMUNITY AND FAITH BASED INITIATIVE JULY 2009 UPDATE



As we head into our new grant with the Division for Children, Youth, and Families to recruit and retain foster and adoptive families for the children of New Hampshire we have made some changes in staffing in hopes of better serving all regions in New Hampshire.

Kelly Smith will continue to cover Concord. Phone: 491-9244, email: kellylynsmith@comcast.net

Beth Bascom will cover Berlin, Claremont, Conway, Keene, Laconia, Littleton, and Manchester
Please note her *new phone number* is: **398-5858**, email: blessings@metrocast.net

Cindy Thomas will cover Nashua, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Salem. Her phone number is: 988-8959, e-mail is: wingstolife@comcast.net

WELCOME CINDY THOMAS



Cindy Thomas comes to our team with a passion for children in care and a history of mobilizing volunteers to support those children and their foster families. Cindy and her husband Robert are adoptive parents of two children. They are active members of Bethany Church in Greenland, NH. Cindy joined the team this month and is looking forward to connecting with community and faith based groups to help build supports for the children in the four regions she covers.

SEVEN CAMPERSHIPS SUPPLIED

Thanks to the wonderful support of the “Helping Hands” members, seven children have been able to attend summer camp this year. Five caring adults added to the scholarship provided by Camp Adventurelore to send a sixteen year old boy who is struggling with his adoptive mother’s recent critical illness. His camp experience includes an eight day White Mountain adventure program, mountain biking, hiking the Appalachian Trail, camping, rock-climbing, white water canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. The goal is to increase the camper’s self-confidence, spontaneity, teamwork, and sense of humor. Another teen was hoping to attend Camp Foss, but thought her chances were slim when the scholarship from the camp only covered half of the fees. The balance was donated, thus allowing this young girl, who has had a very hard year, to have a positive summer experience. In addition to the above two camperships, five other children were able to attend either day or overnight camps, thus providing needed respite for their caregivers and opportunities for growth for the campers. Thanks so much for all the caring individuals and organizations who contributed to help these children.



BACK PACKS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL...CAN YOU HELP?

Stephanie Ballou from Century 21 Central Falls Realty located at 242 Central Ave. in Dover, NH will be collecting back packs for the children in foster care from 8/16 to 8/22. There will be a box at her office for all donations. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Thomas at 988-8959 or e-mail wingstolife@comcast.net.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.bethany.org/faithfullyonebyone

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

Keith Marsh CFBI Advisory Board, Chairperson, Tel: 738-7759, E-mail: keith@lifelinenh.net

Beth Bascom (Berlin, Claremont, Conway, Keene, Laconia, Littleton, and Manchester), Tel: 398-5858 E-mail: blessings@metrocast.net

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SAVE THE DATE

When: September 19th

What: Walk-a-thon

Where: Raymond, NH

What time: 8:30AM to 12:30PM (lunch provided for all walkers)

Why: to raise funds for the children who need foster or adoptive homes

Full details to follow in the August update! A fun time to be had for all!



UShareNH

If you are a community or faith leader desiring to know how your organization can make a greater impact in your community and across the state, UShareNH can help connect you to needs and volunteer opportunities. UShareNH is a web-based site created to connect the needs of the community with those who are able to meet the needs. To become part of the UShareNH network, register at UShareNH.org

NH WAITING CHILDREN

Sean, 18

Sean is a delightful young man in need of a permanent family. Some of his strengths include a sense of humor, offering a helpful hand, caring toward others and a leisure interest in sports (e.g. basketball). He also enjoys reading and playing board, card and video games. Currently, Sean reads Steven King books and Naruto comics.



Medically, Sean has severe scoliosis. He underwent surgery in spring 2008 to straighten his spine. Sean was discharged to a rehab center and then was placed in a group home. At present, he is still recovering from the above-mentioned surgery, but is gaining strength with each passing day. Sean has significant developmental delays and ADHD. He receives weekly individual and group therapy as well as a myriad of other services including medication consultation. Sean is currently taking several

medications to help him manage both physically and emotionally.

Sean is currently in the eleventh grade and is coded to receive specialized educational services. His IQ is in the low range so he needs assistance both academically and emotionally. Sean enjoys reading and math in school. He cleans the facility during the school day as part of his vocational program. Sean displays the ability to work well with his peers and follow directions from school staff. When in school Sean actively participates in after school programming to help him with boundary and independent living skills. As Sean transitions into adulthood he will need assisted living services and a public guardian to help him make important decisions and manage his finances and daily responsibilities.

Sean's maternal grandmother and former foster parents are visiting resources for him and will need to be included in his life. Sean expresses a desire to be adopted. According to him, he wants a "normal" home life. Any family should be able to be firm and consistent with Sean, as well as being able to match his sense of humor. Sean will need a team of committed adults in his life.

For more information about Sean, please contact **Jon Butler** at **444-6786, ext 340**.

Summer blessings to each of you,
Jan Lessard for the Community and Faith Based Team

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