

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Melissa Tharpe, Editor

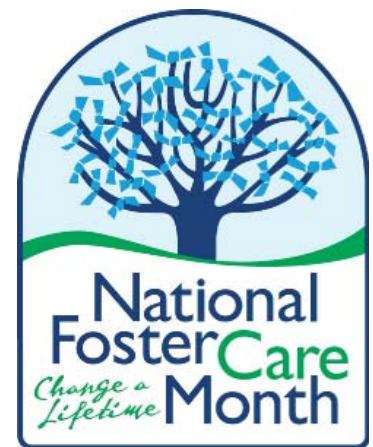
May 2009 Edition

Happy National Foster Care Month

You know you are a foster parent when . . .

- *You open your garage door and passing cars stop, thinking all of the bikes, toys, and baby furniture means garage sale.
- *You go to a Foster Care meeting and everyone drives vans or station wagons, except for the small cars that belong to the social workers.
- *You get your exercise from walking or carrying the kids to time-out.
- *The K-Mart checker asks which school you are from, and you reply, "We're a family."
- *You spend more time with your washer and dryer than you do with your spouse.
- *Your heart is bigger than your brain.
- *Santa Claus gives you a key to a store and leaves milk, cookies, and Alka Seltzer for you.
- *You watch your 2-week placement go from crib to junior high.
- *You regard your toilet snake as a family pet.
- *Your local grocer tells you that if you ever move, he would like advance notice because he will have to lay off three employees.
- *Your personal stash of children's clothing rivals that of the local Goodwill office.
- *The term "basically a good child with a few problems" doesn't mean the same thing coming from a caseworker as it does in the real world.
- *Saying goodnight resembles the end of the Waltons: "Night, John Boy . . . Night, MaryEllen . . . Goodnight, Lizbeth, etc."
- *Light switches, toilet handles, and door knobs last one year or less.
- *Your idea of a "social life" is talking to the checkers at the local Wal-Mart.

Reprinted from "Foster Focus," April 1997, published by the Olmsted County Foster Care Program.



Ode to Adoption for Mother's Day...

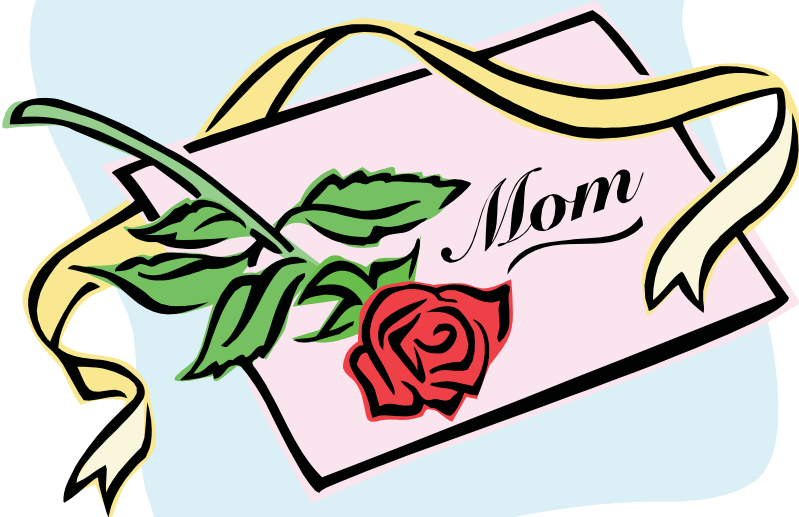
Mother's Day Card

He reads every card
At the drugstore display
He has his allowance
His baseball can wait

She's his brand new Mom
He's her Chosen Son
He'd been waiting awhile
Now that waiting is done

Some cards are cartoonish
But he picks a Rose
It tells his true story
Real Love is what grows

--Judy McCartney
For adoptive moms, 2009



Kayla Needs a Family

See Kayla in action at www.noas.com!



Kayla is fifteen. She is a personable and bright ninth grader who has excellent ideas about friendship, families and the future. She also has made a great start toward a meaningful career, by getting some of the best grades in her group home. She has a 3.7. She says, "Nobody can take me away from my schoolwork." She is a self starter with learning or studying. Kayla has a wide range of interests in the people, places, and things, seeing the big picture. She wonders what makes people tick and enjoys studying other cultures.

Kayla says she is intelligent, wanting to learn, and focused on her schoolwork. Kayla talks easily and in depth about school. Whether studying spiders and worms in science, algebra and geometry in math, or triangular trade in African American studies, she likes to learn. She is an avid reader of inspirational books and historical novels. She loves art, designing fancy lettering.

Two of her potential career interests are acting and pediatrics. She would love to find an adoptive family who would support her interest in plays, literature, movies, or drama. She says that

she also likes little kids, and wants to work with them. She hopes, someday, to become a good mom with a nice family of two or three kids. She is studying hard, getting top grades, and hopes to be college bound for a meaningful career.

Kayla has some thoughts about adoptive families. She is open to families of any size or number of parents. She likes pets, especially dogs. She likes family activities, indoors and out. She is willing to be helpful in the kitchen or throughout the house. She says parents who would "do little stuff and do big stuff with their kids" are her model, when she becomes a parent someday. She hopes for active, helpful adoptive parents. She pictures herself as a young adult, maybe living in a college dorm, but also still closely connected to her adoptive family and home.

Kayla talks about friendship. She says, "Making friends is easy. Keeping them is the hard part. Some pull away." She adds that "Some people go through rough times." Kayla talks about the tough days or angry incidents that everyone experiences. For her, being alone to regroup with some favorite music is a useful way to handle an emotional storm.

Kayla has a lot to offer an adoptive family. She will need their knowledge, support and understanding so that she can develop to be her best, emotionally and intellectually. She deserves the fun, security, and warmth that healthy family life can bring.

Do you wonder about adopting Kayla? Call Tim Williams at 1-800-686-6627, ext. 139 for more information.

Faces of Adoption is on TV!

See Matthew on



Visit noas.com to see more Faces of Adoption segments.

Meet Sherry L. Sharon--
Banker, Board of Trustees Member,
Progressive Dinner Committee Member



Meet Sherry L. Sharon, Vice President of Private Client Services at First Place Bank, who shares her twenty-three years of professional banking expertise with the NOAS Board of Trustees—where she has served since 2001. Sherry says she was “born and raised in Warren.” Sherry is a long time friend of the Lewis family, the family of origin of NOAS agency founder and special needs adoption advocate Barbara Lewis Roberts.

Along with Howland NOAS volunteers Amy Lewis and Kim Griffin, at the suggestion of Darlene Jones, Sherry recently helped co-chair an exciting new fundraiser, the First Annual Progressive Dinner. The event came together at sixteen homes of volunteer hosts and hostesses who generously donated and provided, either with their caterer or by their own culinary efforts, delectable gourmet food. The committee and hosts joined their guests at the Butler Art Institute of Howland after dinner for desserts, a steel drum band, a raffle, and time to socialize. Sherry adds, “The Butler is a unique setting, and a great com-

munity resource too good to forget. It turned out to be perfect for this event.”

Sherry also gives credit to Darlene Jones who volunteered at fundraisers in Pennsylvania, and thought the concept could be changed and customized to raise money to support adoption through NOAS. Sherry smiles, “We had a successful first time with 178 guests. It was a great turnout, great fun, with additional families already planning to volunteer for either appetizers or dinner in their homes next year. She says, “I love planning parties piece by piece and then seeing it all come together for a good cause. I like working with the board; I’ve met good people. She adds, “I’ve always loved doing the ‘Play it for the Kids’ golf outing, coming up June 1 at Trumbull Country Club.”

Sherry’s service on the Board has really been an eye opener for her. She was shocked and surprised to learn how long some children might have to wait in foster care because of circumstances beyond their own control. She is determined to help NOAS finally give school children in foster care the security of loving adoptive families in a permanent home.

Her motivation to help comes from the anchor of strong family values; she is one of six siblings. She and her husband Chuck, who works for Ohio Security Systems, like living in Howland in Trumbull County. They have a twenty-four year old daughter Nicole, a nurse in North Carolina.

Executive Director Cindy Deal appreciates Sherry’s commitment to the agency’s Board. Cindy says, “Sherry’s service is motivated by her care and concern for kids. I know she is a person NOAS can depend on. When she volunteers her talents, and says she will be there, she will be there. That’s commitment.”

Many thanks for being a person NOAS kids and families can really count on, Sherry!

--Judy McCartney

NOAS Flower Sale begins May 7th in time for Mother's Day Be Part of Something Special!

We hope to see you soon to celebrate sunny days at our annual spring flower sale. Volunteering is an exciting opportunity, either with friends or family or by yourself. If you can't volunteer this year, come shop for Mother's Day, Memorial Day, or to add a spot of natural beauty to your own yard or porch. We're open daily 10 until 6 from May 7 through May 25.

The parking lot of Hunter's Square, as usual, is the place. We can count on Gere and Janet Weller to hand pick colorful flats of annuals, your favorite perennial plants, bountiful hanging baskets, and the best geraniums for the sale. From our Warren office, turn east up the hill to 8700 E. Market St. just two blocks east of the Route 46 intersection.

Come be part of something special for spring – beautiful blooms, fresh air, and flowers!

The proceeds will help us develop urgently needed adoptive families for the children we serve.

To volunteer any morning or afternoon, or to place an advanced order, please call Michelle at (330) 856-5582, ext. 110.

Help Northeast Ohio Adoption Services Bloom

More money is spent on gardening than on any other hobby. If you've got one of those "green thumbs," you sure are lucky! If only some of the money spent on buying seeds, bulbs, soil, fertilizer, and gardening tools could make a difference for **Northeast Ohio Adoption Services**. But guess what? It can - buy your garden products and everyday items at iGive.com. Visit www.iGive.com/noas for your free membership (no costs or obligations) and shop at 680+ online stores including Gardeners Supply Company, Michigan Bulb, 1-800-Flowers, and FTD to name just a few! Without even knowing it, you'll be helping **Northeast Ohio Adoption Services** every time you shop. So, instead of waiting for money to grow on that new pear tree, just cultivate a little here and there by doing a little shopping, and up to 26% of every purchase you make will be donated directly to **Northeast Ohio Adoption Services**.

Golfers...Call Your Foursome and "Play it for the Kids!"

Carole Lewis is chairperson for the NOAS Fifteenth Annual "Play it for the Kids" Golf 18 Hole Shamble. The event includes lunch, golf, social time, door prizes, and dinner. It will be held on Monday, June 1. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. at Trumbull Country Club in Warren. Tickets again this year are \$150 per golfer or \$25 for a non-golfer's dinner. To learn all about corporate sponsorship opportunities or to plan a golfing foursome to play and benefit NOAS, call Michelle and get details at (330) 856-5582, ext. 110. This popular event accommodates only 120 golfers...so call today!



HAPPY ADOPTION DAY!

One of the happiest days of a child's life is the day he or she becomes a member of an adoptive family.

Robert T. adopted Douglas on 4/16/2009

Congratulations!

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN ADOPTION



Adoption Support Group

An Invitation to All Foster and Adoptive Families

What I can expect from the group:

- People who will listen and offer helpful advice
- People who will not judge
- A place to just listen to others
- Connection with others who have similar experiences
- A place to find out about resources and current information

Group meets the 1st Thursday of every month at NOAS Warren Office
5000 E. Market St. Suite 26 Warren, OH from 7-8:30 p.m.

To register, phone Cynthia Wallis at 1-800-686-6627 x 147



Northeast Ohio
Adoption Services

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
5000 E. Market Street
Warren, Ohio 44484

Phone: 1-800-686-6627 x147
Fax: 330-856-5586
E-mail: cwallis@noas.com



Guardian Angels Support Group
East Fairfield United Methodist Church
45675 St. Rte. 558
New Waterford, Ohio 44445

Six years ago, Kelly Harding formed a Christian faith based support group for families who are raising a special needs child. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the address listed above. She strongly feels that when a child with special needs enters the family, the family itself becomes a special needs family. Her support group is comprised of 50% foster and adoptive families from various agencies in the surrounding area. All family members are encouraged to attend the support group (childcare is provided) and the family outings that are planned. If you would like more information regarding this support group, please call Kelly at #330-482-4630. She will be happy to answer any of your questions. There is no registration required for attendance.

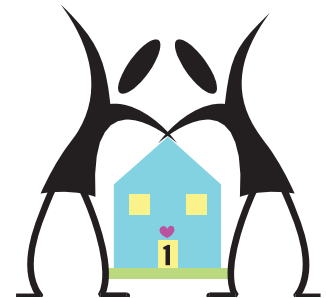
*Northeast Ohio Adoption Services and
the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program present*

“Becoming a Love and Logic Parent”

Rule #1 Adults take care of themselves by providing limits in a loving way., Rule #2 Childhood misbehavior is treated as an opportunity for gaining wisdom. If your home is child-centered, Love and Logic can change it to an adult-centered home in a loving way. Love and Logic parents know that the single most important part of a high self-image is a loving relationship with parents. They are also taught that Thurman, who developed the intelligence test, noted near the end of his life that self-image was probably much more important than intelligence per se in predicting success. This is not a course on what’s wrong with parents, but a course on things they can do to make their lives with children easier.

WHERE: National Youth Advocate Program
30 Northwest Ave., STE 120, Bldg A
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278
(330) 633-4187, ext. 100

WHEN: Saturday, May 30, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Trainer - Francesca Muscari, LSW

Francesca Muscari received the National Merit Award in 1990 from the Child Welfare League of America and was one of the Adoption Workers of the Year in 1996, awarded by the Ohio Department of Human Services. She is a certified instructor of “Becoming a Love and Logic Parent.” Her work experience includes 11 years at Columbiana County DJFS in Lisbon, Ohio and 13 years for Northeast Ohio Adoption Services in Warren, Ohio.



**Northeast Ohio
Adoption Services**

To register call:

**Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Gail, (330) 856-5582, ext. 128 or by email at
gseekins@noas.com**

Workshop is approved for 6 hours toward the
annual foster parent training requirement.

Sorry - there is no child care.

Certificates will be provided.

*Northeast Ohio Adoption Services and
the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program present*

Brothers and Sisters in Adoption: Helping Children Navigate Relationships When New Kids Join the Family

It is often a struggle to manage an adopted or foster child suffering from mental health issues AND meet the needs of the family's typically-developing children. If you are a parent concerned as to the impact of fostering or adopting on your developmentally healthy children, this workshop will be of help to you. Discussion includes the expectations of the children already present in the family prior to the family accepting the placement of a new child. The post-placement impact of bringing a child with a history of trauma into the family is then examined. The workshop concludes with strategies to help each family member forge strong relationships. The content of this learning activity is enhanced via the video, *Supporting Brothers and Sisters* in which 14 typically-developing brothers and sisters share their experiences of living with foster/adopted siblings.



Saturday, June 20, 2009

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services

5000 E. Market St., Suite 26, Warren
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Trainer – Arleta James, MS, PCC

Arleta James, MS, PCC, a former foster care and adoption social worker who is now a therapist with the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio and the author of Perspectives Press' newest book Brothers and Sisters in Adoption: Helping Children Navigate Relationships when New Kids Join the Family.



To register call:

**Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Gail, (330) 856-5582, ext. 128 or by email at
gseekins@noas.com**

This workshop is approved for 6 hours toward the annual foster parent training requirement.

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Seeking Participants

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Participation

Completion of a web-based survey

For more information, please Contact Dr. Scott Ryan at:

sryan@fsu.edu

1-850-644-9747

GAY & LESBIAN ADOPTIVE FAMILY PROJECT