

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Melissa Tharpe, Editor

May 2010 Edition

May is National Foster Care Month

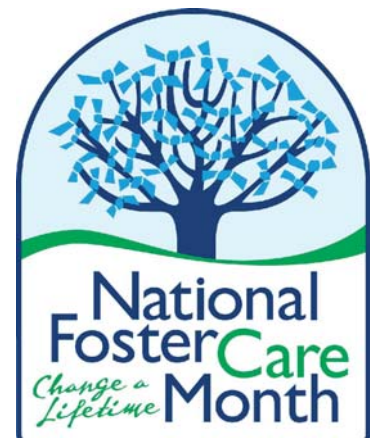
Every day, some 513,000 children and youth are living in foster care because their own parents are unable to take care of them. Foster parents provide a stable and secure home for these children until they can either return to their parents or establish a lifelong connection to a nurturing adult.

National Foster Care Month in May provides an opportunity for people nationwide to get involved as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or in other ways. It's also an opportunity to show our appreciation for the dedication of the foster families who care for these children and youth and for the social workers who support them.

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association persuaded then-Senator Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution to proclaim May as National Foster Care Month. President George H.W. Bush issued an annual proclamation during each year of his presidency, encouraging states, counties, and cities to do the same. The main focus of the early efforts was appreciation and recognition of the tremendous contributions of foster parents nationwide.

The Foster Care Month partnership now comprises fourteen national organizations and hundreds of local agencies. NOAS invites you to recognize May as National Foster Care Month and to join us in making this a time to celebrate those who make a difference in the lives of children in the foster care system.

For more information on how to get involved in National Foster Care Month activities, visit www.fostercaremonth.org.



Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions--Avaliable to Qualified Families

Families who adopt a child with special needs from foster care can claim a federal adoption tax credit without needing to incur or document expenses. The per-child tax credit is \$11,650 for adoptions finalized in 2008, and \$12,150 for those finalized in 2009, and families have six years to use the entire credit.

Are We Eligible for the Credit?

To qualify for the credit without documenting expenses, families must:

- have adopted a child with special needs from foster care and
- have a modified adjusted gross income of a certain level.

Then to be able to use the credit, families must also have federal tax liability.

What If I Finalized an Adoption before the Current Tax Year?

If you finalized an adoption in 2003 or a later year for which you have already filed your taxes, you can amend your return to take advantage of the federal adoption tax credit.

If you finalized an adoption before 2003 you probably won't amend your return because:

- you can only get credit for expenses you paid and can document for the adoption process, and it has been more than three years since you filed your original return and the instructions for form 1040X state: "Generally, for a credit or refund, Form 1040X must be filed within 3 years after the date you filed the original return..."

What If I Have Additional Questions?

If you receive an adoption subsidy (assistance) for your child and have questions on whether it is taxable income or if you can claim that child as a dependent (and receive the Child Tax Credit), read NACAC's fact sheet, Tax Issues Related to Adoption Assistance and Adoption, which can be found at: www.nacac.org/adoptionsubsidy/factsheets/taxes.html.

If you have additional questions on the Adoption Tax Credit or adoption subsidy, contact the North American Council on Adoptable Children at 651-644-3036 or adoption.assistance@nacac.org.

For more information about this tax credit, visit
<http://www.nacac.org/postadopt/taxcredit.html>

Mariah Needs A Home!

Mariah is a fourth grader who enjoys swimming, dolls, crafts, and pets--puppies, kittens, bunnies, and goats. She lives in a country foster home, where she has lots of animals to take care of, but she can still get to the local library with her foster dad. Recently, she picked out a movie, Shrek, to take home and watch. She uses imagination when she plays, and she has a good sense of humor. A funny new-style fairy tale character like the monster Shrek—who falls in love with a funny princess—is just her style.

Mariah would love a career working closely with animals someday. Right now her grades are in the low to mid-range in her specialized classes, but some untapped potential seems to be showing when she lets her guard down a bit—and relaxes with adults she can trust.

She enjoys kids her own age in school and church, where she attends with her foster family. She is in a group called Pioneer Girls, where she likes singing, crafts, and group activities. Back at home she sings along with Cyndi Lauper or Taylor Swift in a sweet singing voice.

In her foster home she plays outside with her foster dad. She goes shopping for supplies to make bead bracelets with her foster mom. She makes extras for gifts for her new friends at school.

Mariah plays with the family's lab, Maggie. Sometimes Mariah rewards the dog with a treat, but sometimes she'll "trick" the dog, hiding the biscuit, making her wait expectantly, but the big old gentle dog is very patient, calm and doesn't mind. Mariah goes outside, even on snowy days, to make sure the outside pets, some chickens, two goats, and her rabbit, are warm and well. She takes care of them, talks to them, and gives her favorite rabbit a special hug.



Another recipient of Mariah's hugs is her well-worn little boy doll—who she calls Peeby. She pretends that he is "two years old and just learning to walk." She smiles and adds, "He's my best bud." She lifts him up to the piano and "helps him" strike a key. She can always count on Peeby.

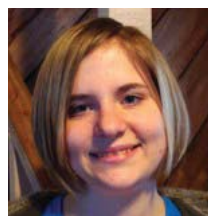
Mariah has had many adjustments and changes—with disappointment and loss in her young life that impact her behaviors. She is learning about happy homes and how to live in one. Could your family be right for her? Call today and find more about adopting Mariah.

For more information to adopt Mariah contact Kim Stewart at 1-800-686-6627, ext. 107.

See Mariah on



Look for these Faces of Adoption features!



See Kayla on



Want to see more children in action? Visit noas.com

Beau, John, and Destiny Need a Home!

Beau, John, and Destiny are an adorable sibling group—two lively, fun brothers and a little sister who love to sit down on a Sunday morning before church for breakfast together. They play together inside and out in their foster family home, playing Pokemon games, pretending to be performers on a stage. They love the outdoors, enjoying autumn leaves or chilly snow fun, or splashing in a sunny pool or sprinkler.

Beau is eight and is just finishing third grade, taking his place as the oldest brother seriously. He is helpful and kind with his younger siblings, but is also pretty silly and funny. He is an average student in school, taking “mainstream” classes, enjoying showing off his math or spelling skills but he likes recess most of all. Beau likes the Steelers, throwing a football around, and likes collecting Mighty Beanz (colorful little toy figures) as a reward. He also likes Matchbox cars, toy trucks, and all kinds of games. Beau loves lasagna and is easy to please at dinnertime as long as you go light on the veggies.

John is seven and is completing first grade. He likes soccer ball and football. He admires firefighters and carries around his hook and ladder fire truck with pride. John looks forward to cookie breaks after school. His favorite healthy meal? “M and M’s” come immediately to mind. Asked about a food choice to grow big and strong, “Chocolate,” would be John’s best idea, but his foster mom watches out for too much sugar. He does like vegetables, and may eat his big brother’s share. John draws pictures, jumps in the leaves, and just likes playing around with his big brother and little sister. John has some physical health issues and doesn’t stay focused for long, but he brings fun to a room. When John plays games the rules get bent a bit, but he enjoys trying.

Destiny is five, attending a special needs nursery school. She has a realistic baby doll that she cuddles, mothers, and carries all around with its little head on her little shoulder. She rocks it and sings, “Rockabye Baby,” to it, very sweetly.



Destiny snuggles up to look at a picture book with her foster mom and loves the extra attention. She wears ankle-style leg braces and a body brace because of a health issue, but seems well adjusted to it. When she tumbles on the floor in her foster home, this spunky little lady gets right up and keeps on playing like nothing happened at all. Destiny plays games, inside and out, and likes Play-Doh, crafts, playing house and dress-up. Although her physical, mental, and social development, like John’s, is significantly delayed and impacted by significant medical concerns, she still makes hopeful progress.

Beau, John, and Destiny are glad that they now have a happy foster family--good practice for a committed adoptive family. They all like to play dress up, to color and draw together, and just have fun. Beau thinks they should be adopted together because, “We’d have a lot of people to play with.” He’s pretty practical, but Beau just knows they belong all together.

Can you offer Beau, John, and Destiny a family to give them a helping hand every day? Do you have the much-needed energy, patience, kindness, and a great sense of humor to cheer them on? This group of three could be a lively addition to your happy, loving home.

Find out more about adopting Beau, John, and Destiny together. Contact Melanie Jones at 1-800-686-6627, ext. 125.

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.

Doug and Mary G. adopted Isaac on 4/15/2010

Congratulations!

NOAS Flower Sale begins May 5th 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 5 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? You 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 7. 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!



Got Training?

<p>The Third Annual NEOTRC Foster Parent Training Conference May 13-15, 2010 Summit County CS Education Center Building 264 S. Arlington St. Akron, OH 44306 To register, call: (330) 379-9094</p>	<p>Managing and Preventing Placement Disruptions Monday, May 17, 2010 5-8 pm Trainer: Mel Gravely Mahoning County CSB 222 W. Federal St. Youngstown, OH 44503 To register, call: (330) 941-8888</p>
<p>Running Away from Foster Care Wednesday, May 19, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: Kathleen Terry Trumbull County CSB 2282 Reeves Rd. N.E. Warren, OH 44483 To register, call: (330) 372-2010</p>	<p>Deadly Distortions: Understanding Eating Disorders in Teens Thursday, May 27, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: Ronna Johnson Columbiana One Stop 7860 Lincole Place Lisbon, OH 44432 To register, call: (330) 424-1471</p>
<p>Understanding Generation Y and the Influence of Hip-Hop Culture Thursday, June 3, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: Anthony President Columbiana One Stop 7860 Lincole Place Lisbon, OH 44432</p>	<p>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: The Forgotten Child Thursday, June 10, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: Cynthia Wallis Renkert Building 306 Market Ave N Canton, Ohio 44702 To register, call: (330) 451-8846</p>
<p>After Adoption: Understanding the Lifelong Journey Thursday, June 17, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: Ann Bagley Trumbull County CSB 2282 Reeves Rd. N.E. Warren, OH 44483 To register, call: (330) 372-2010</p>	<p>Wounded Children, Healing Homes: The Impact of Parenting Traumatized Children on the Foster or Adoptive Family Saturday, June 19, 2010 9 am-4 pm Trainer: Jane Schooler 466 S. Chestnut St. Ravenna, OH 44266 To register, call: (330) 296-2273</p>
<p>Sexual Abuse Trauma Tuesday, June 22, 2010 6-9 pm Trainer: David Zidar Summit County CS Education Center Building 264 S. Arlington St. Akron, OH 44306 To register, call: (330) 379-9094</p>	<p>Recognizing and Responding to a Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused Saturday, June 26, 2010 9 am-4 pm Emily Wetherill Geauga County DJFS 12480 Ravenwood Dr. Chardon, OH 44024 To register, call: (440) 285-9141</p>

For many more training classes, please visit the North East Ohio Regional Training Center's Foster Parent training calendar at:

<http://www.ocwtp.net/NEOTRC/Foster%20Parent%20Training.html>



*Parenting
in a Time of
Change:*

June 25 & 26, 2010

**Ohio Family Care Association
Training Event & Annual Conference**



*Finding a Harbor in the
Storm*

**Fort Rapids
Indoor Waterpark Resort
4560 Hilton Corporate Drive
Columbus, OH 43232
614-868-1380**

For an itinerary, registration or questions, please contact the Ohio Family Care Association directly at office@OFCAonline.org or 614-222-2712. Scholarships are available.

Conference Registration Deadline is **June 10, 2010!**