

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
Melissa Tharpe, Editor

May 2008 Edition

Tweens and Teens Shine at NOAS Adoption Expo



Nearly 100 participants exchanged adoption information Saturday afternoon, March 29, and participated in their choice of six workshops and presentations. Some information was basic, some in depth—all about Ohio adoption, support and special kinds of care. Social workers gave child specific information to aid families ready to adopt. The Adoption Expo was hosted by Sarah Eisler, WKBN former anchorwoman and Faces of Adoption TV 27 reporter. WKBN has already featured fourteen NOAS kids through Ms. Eisler's feature stories. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ray Guarendi, not only a clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and radio host, but also the adoptive father of ten. Dr. Ray knows of what he speaks and tells it with extreme good humor. Eight NOAS adoptive families shared their wisdom on a parent panel.

NOAS kids were highlighted by their permanency planning specialists with videos, photo displays, kidsbooks, and handout cards. Eight county agencies also came with information for their own booths. The first Adoption Expo, Featuring 'Tweens and Teens Legally Free for Adoption, was a most successful event. Families have asked for another opportunity to learn more in the fall. Look for more information to come.



Zachary and Brandon Need a Family



Zachary, who just turned nine, and Brandon, seven, are pretty well adjusted and energetic brothers. They like to play and compete with toy race cars, video games, at kickball, and all kinds of outdoor fun. They are enjoying the same happy foster family right now, where they have a predictable, dependable schedule, and it suits them just fine. They like the backyard to play outside in all kinds of weather. In the winter they suit up in snow clothes to run around, and roll snow balls for snow forts. When it is warmer they ride bikes, roller skate, play “catch and fly,” and kickball. Sometimes they cooperate and share their toys. Sometimes they compete and the rivalry gets more intense, but they always agree –they belong together, in the same family for keeps.

Zach and Bran are both placed in the second grade right now, where they are getting some extra support through individualized school programs and evaluations. They do pretty well in the classroom and make lots of friends on the playground and riding the school bus.

They also really enjoy Cub Scout activities, whether making derby cars or entering a baking contest. Their foster family has a friendly old Labrador, and aquariums for a boa constrictor and a lazy lizard. They would love an adoptive family with lots of pets. They like attending church with their foster family.

Zachary, in the true-blue shirt, is the older brother. His foster mom says that at home he usually tends to be on the quiet side, favoring video games, Legos for building, and playing with Power Ranger figures or racing Hot Wheel cars. When Zach grows up, he would like to be, “a regular dad.”

Brandon, a year younger and wearing red, is a very sociable, high energy boy around the school and neighborhood. When he grows up, he might like to learn to fly a plane, and dreams of dependable family fun as well as some travel and adventure. He describes his older brother quickly, declaring, “He’s nice!”

The boys’ foster mom says, “The boys like being outside, being new places, and trying new things.” She adds they are good eaters, cooperative and helpful doing family chores for their allowance. The family goes biking or hiking together.

Zachary and Brandon are thriving in the friendly, active, dependable foster family where they are temporarily, but they need a loving adoptive family—so they can continue to grow and thrive, with the promise of permanence. They both hope for a similar kind of family – who is simply “Nice.” How would Zach and Brandon play out in your family? Would they put you on the right track for family fun?

To get information about adopting Zachary and Brandon together, contact Kim Stewart at 1-800-686-6627, ext.107.

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. The following families and children recently legalized their adoptions:

Ray and Stephanie A. adopted Sierra on 3/3/2008
Dale and Sonya S. adopted Jordan on 4/16/2008
Richard and Cathleen M. adopted Elizabeth on 4/16/2008

Congratulations!

All About Family Meet Julie and Allen Fredrickson

The Fredrickson family, headed by Allen and his wife Julie, now includes six children, ranging in age from twenty to eight. The oldest lives away on campus at a nearby college. There are three biological children, a daughter through adoption, and now they have added two foster daughters.

Allen and Julie, from Garrettsville, had their three biological children first, a boy and two girls, although they checked out adoption by attending education classes when their son was only four. They later saw a newspaper photo of a waiting eleven year old girl who later became their own daughter. They provide nurturing foster care for two sisters.

Julie says, "We have been doing foster care two years. I think it is a calling to our hearts. As soon as we had a house that was big enough, we started. Allen and I support each other. We talk every night in private about the kids' day, so we know what is going on, and we can be on the same page. We have learned to step outside a situation, and if a child is angry or feels aggressive, we can take a step back to look at it—to know—not to take it personally."

Allen is a self-employed remodeler, probably a good occupation for a foster parent, to help kids toward a new improved home life. Julie majored in accounting in college and later became a realtor. Now she applies her knowledge of math skills to her home schooling regimen, but instead of calling herself a "stay-at-home mom," she says, "I'm a field-trip mom!" Julie adds, "We're not home at school all the time. We go to the farm market to do the math on the price of pears. We take hikes and pick up leaves to study botany. We all love museums. We travel the state, visiting history and natural history museums. In our family there is a lot of learning, but also plenty of laughing and joking around."



Julie usually takes the family lead when someone needs a dress for a dance or a trip to a medical appointment. She says, "I am a member the NOAS Portage support group." (The group is facilitated by Cindy Wallis, Adoption Liaison, on the third Tuesday evening each month at Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna.) She continues, "The networking helps a lot. I recently found out about PASSS support for braces for children's teeth."

Kim Stewart, NOAS Director of Permanency Planning, says about Julie and Allen, "They do a great job and spend one-on-one time with each of the kids. Julie listens to kids and talks with them. The Fredericksons are flexible, and accepting of children for who they are."

Melanie Jones, Permanency Planning Specialist sums it up, "The Fredrickson family is very creative in their approach to parenting. Julie home schools. They spend hands-on time with the girls. One day Julie was teaching her teenage foster daughter to sew. The teen made a pair of pajama pants as a gift for her younger sister. When the little one saw her gift, she loved it so much that she got misty-eyed and so did we. It was a special moment for all of us. We appreciate parenting like that. It is truly something special."

See Kristan on



Look for these Faces of Adoption features!



See Cody on



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

NOAS Flower Sale begins May 6th 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 6 through May 26.

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 5. 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 National Foster Care Month

20 years and counting!



You know you are a foster parent when . . .

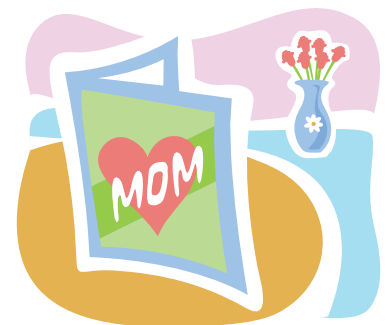
- *You open your garage door and passing cars stop, thinking all of the bikes, toys, and baby furniture means garage sale.
 - *You go to a Foster Care meeting and everyone drives vans or station wagons, except for the small cars that belong to the social workers.
 - *You get your exercise from walking 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.

May 11 is Mother's Day!

We pay tribute to the fantastic women who have opened their hearts and homes to our NOAS kids!

Mother

In her eyes
the look of loving,
In her smile
the warmth of caring.
In her hands
the touch of comfort,
In her heart
the gift of sharing.
- Author Unknown

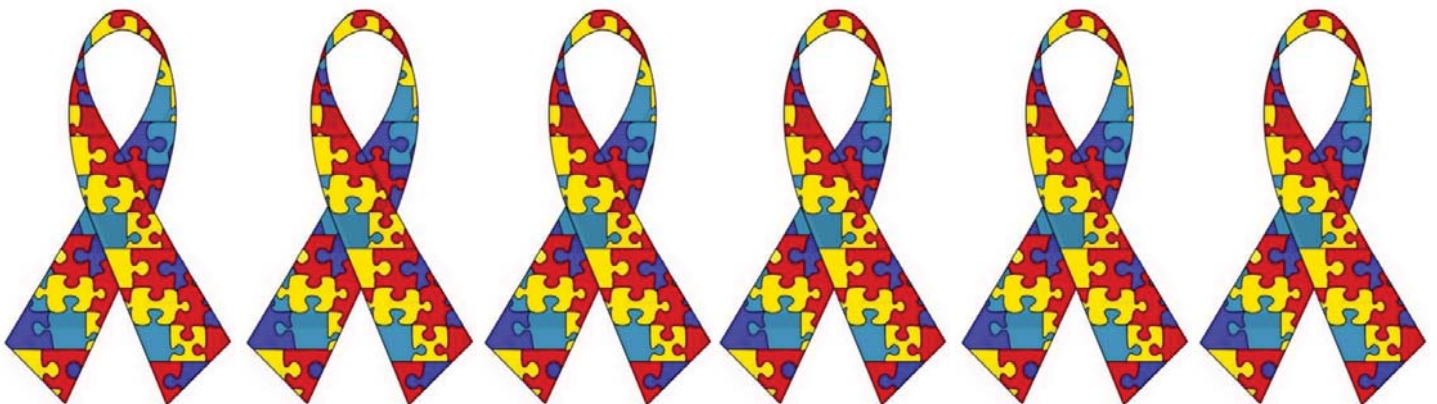


Tri-County Autism Society



The Tri-County Autism Society is a support and informational group for families with autistic members. This group strives to spread the word about autism as well as shares information to help enrich the lives of those who are affected. The society not only raises awareness and does fundraising activities, they also have fun and take various trips as a group throughout the year. This group serves the Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. They are also apart of the National and State Autism Societies. The Tri-County Autism Society meets monthly, every third Wednesday at the ITAM in Austintown.

For more information, call 330-720-2066 or visit www.triautism.com



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



Portage County 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 3rd Tuesday of every month at Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna from 6-7:30 pm. 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

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



Columbiana County 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 4th Thursday of each month at the Salem Public Library in Salem from 6-7:30 p.m. To register phone Cynthia Wallis at 1-800-686-6627 x 147



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More Training Opportunities

Self Esteem Issues for Adoptive/

Foster Children

Wanda Boerio

Saturday, May 17

9am-4pm

Ohio Youth Advocacy Program

Boardman office

1-800-449-4109

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Sexual Abuse

Cynthia Wallis

Saturday, May 17

9 am-4 pm

Wayne County CS

- To register for this training, please contact Gail S. at Northeast Ohio Adoption Services:
- 330-856-5582
- 1-800-686-6627 ext. 128
- Or email, gseekins@noas.com
- Please register THREE days prior to the event.

To register for this training, please contact North East Ohio Regional Training Center at (330) 379-1976.