

Programs to help “US” help “OUR” children, in Marion and Polk County



Reconnecting Children with Families is a program designed to reconnect youth who have been in foster care for several years with their biological family members. After conducting intensive relative searches, family members are then brought together to create a lifetime network for the child, and to also help the child learn more about their identity and their family’s history. For more information about the program or volunteering, please contact Tracey Strohmeyer at (503) 373-7566.



Royal Family Kids’ Camp is a five day (Monday – Friday) summer camp for children ages 7 – 11 who have been or are in the foster care system. This camp offers a unique opportunity for children to receive individual attention through a 2:1 camper to counselor ratio. Royal Family Kids’ Camp creates an environment where they can feel safe, have fun, and be unconditionally loved. It is a true summer camp experience, complete with games, sports, crafts, stories, skits and special activities every evening. For information about camps in the Marion-Polk Area, call Dale & Roberta Kinsey at (503) 399-0976, Christian Center of Salem, 1850 45th Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97305. For more information about camps in the Linn and Lane Counties call, Carolyn Burwell (541) 926-2291.



The Marion Polk Foster Parents Association is a non-profit agency that strives to make a difference in the lives of “our” children. We are able to provide our foster, adoptive, and relative families with free products at our give-a ways, we staff a Clothing Closet in the DHS office; and provide various other fun activities all year around. We are also able to offer *some* financial assistance to its paid members, on a first come first served basis, and as funds allow. Programs and activities include: camperships, sports fees or activities, musical lessons, graduation expenses, and instrument rentals. All requests are based on available funds. We also have a small “Birthday” gift program, where the MPFPA can give you an age appropriate gift for your foster, adoptive, or relative placement children. This service is for paid members only, and *only while supplies last*. For more information regarding the birthday gifts, please contact Estella Cervantes at Estella_Cervantes@yahoo.com. Graduation pictures are also provided by Estella at no charge for paid members only. To become a member of the MPFPA, or for more information about our services, please e-mail Lori Schiedler at lschiedler@yahoo.com, or Kimberly Moore at kimmoo2@comcast.net. The MPFPA can also be found on the web at www.marionpolkfpa.org.



The Clothing Closet is part of the Marion Polk Foster Parent Association, that is an all volunteer, non-profit, organization. We collect and distribute donations of clothing items to children in foster care. You can find the clothing closet at the DHS office, in the Wheatland room # 131. To find out what items are needed and how to make donations to the children in the Marion and Polk Counties, please contact Kimberly Moore, at E-mail kimmoo2@comcast.net, or Tracy Young at E-mail: trayou1@hotmail.com.

Double Digit Dream Scholarship



Attention all foster children in Marion & Polk counties who celebrate their 10th birthday between September 1, 2010 & September 1, 2011. The Salem community has teamed with the Marion Polk Foster Parent Association to celebrate your very first double digit birthday! The Double Digit Dream scholarship program allows you to celebrate your 10th birthday by attending the summer day camp of your choice at the Salem Family [YMCA's Camp Greider](#) – Completely FREE of charge! For more information – contact Angela at: 503-315-8292 or doubledigitdream@yahoo.com.

Foster Parent Night Out (FPNO) provides foster parents with one evening of respite for all of the children in their home. Volunteers receive training and undergo background checks prior to participating in an FPNO event. FPNO is generally a late afternoon and early evening program filled with a variety of activities, games and crafts. The goal is to have enough organizations and volunteers so that we can have one FPNO each month, in order to give foster parents a much needed break. To get information about the next FPNO, call Jennifer Foley, F.P. Retention Specialist, at (503) 378-4126, or your DHS Certifier.



Teen Reach Adventure Camp (T.R.A.C.) is a three day camp for teens, ages 12-15 who reside in the foster system. At T.R.A.C. every activity is geared to create a safe and fun environment for teenagers. All volunteers must undergo background checks and training. Camps are kept small, so the youth feel special. The camps are also gender separate.

(T.R.A.C. life) is a mentoring program for teens who participate in the T.R.A.C. T.R.A.C. life allows relationships that were started at camp to continue throughout the year in an effort to provide supportive guidance to youth. Mentoring relationships have been proven to change the direction of an “at risk” child's life.

To start a camp in your area call, Serena Howell (503) 625-1299, or E-mail: serena.howell@verizon.net. **To find a camp** in your area go to their Website: www.teenreachadventurecamp.org.



Camp to Belong (CTB) is a one week summer camp that reunites siblings separated in foster care or through adoption, for meaningful events and activities. **Contact Information:** Karyn Schimmels: (971) 219-4434, website: www.CTBnorthwest.org.



CASA for Children works to recruit, train and support citizen volunteers who serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA volunteers. CASA's are ordinary men and women from all walks of life who volunteer to advocate, in court and in the community, for children who have been abused and neglected, and are temporarily under the protection of Juvenile Court. Our purpose is to secure a safe and permanent family for each child we serve as quickly as possible. For more information please call (503) 988-5115 or visit our website at www.casahelpskids.org.



Citizen Review Board (CRB) consists of local volunteers throughout Oregon who are interested in the welfare of children in their community. They are trained and supported by professional staff of the Oregon Judicial Department to conduct case reviews of children and youth in "out of home: care. The CRB creates a system of checks and balances in which the community has both input and impact on how the Department of Human Services and Oregon Youth Authority serve the children, youth, and families of Oregon. For more information please call (503) 986-5861.



Compassionate Services Team (CST) This is a new service is available for foster families to join, and help others. The goal of **CST** is to serve each other providing help when there is a need. Like a death in the family, your children in the hospital, extreme illness, etc. The service can provide a few meals, an errand to the store, respite care with a fee, transport kids to appointments, or just lend a listening ear for venting. We have all had unexpected things in our life happen that sometimes we are not prepared for and need a helping hand. I hope to have many foster parents join our team. I don't expect for there to be a lot of occasions that the **CST** will be called in, but when there is a need lets be prepared to lend each other a helping hand. For more information please contact: **Tiffany Carter** at (503) 559-4057, or her E-mail Carterfamily124@aol.com, or **Estella Cervantes** at (503) 851-3597, or her E-mail estella_cervantes@yahoo.com.



Abby's Closet has a simple mission: to inspire confidence and respect in high school women by providing free formal gowns for prom and other memorable events. Please visit our website for more information and a list of the drop-off locations nearest to you. Please visit www.abbyscloset.org or at face book www.facebook.com/pages/Abbys-Closet. Questions email: promgowns@abbyscloset.org or call (503) 722-1524.



Oregon State Parks allows Foster parents; relative providers and adoptive parents camping for free. You will be referred to Oregon State Parks Reservation Northwest Information Center at 1-800-551-6949. Starting this month, January 2010 information will also be available on the Oregon State Parks and Recreation website. For more information please go to www.oregonstateparks.org, or by calling Janet Williams at (503) 945-5722, or E-mail janet.williams@state.or.us.



NACAC has partnered with H&R Block to help adoptive parents determine whether they are eligible to receive additional benefits. Families who have adopted from 2005 to 2009 may be able to benefit from the refundable credit because credits from those years can be carried forward until 2010. Please visit <http://www.nacac.org> to download the H&R Block coupon. You can download a flyer about the credit and the H&R Block coupon at <http://www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcreditflyer.pdf>.



Oregon is sponsoring two Foster Club All-Star positions this year. Youth will spend part of their summer headquartered in beautiful Seaside, Oregon. They will receive an intense 2-week training and then head out across Oregon and the United States assisting with Teen Conferences, conducting workshops, and may even go to Washington, D.C., and speak with congressmen. See attached flyer. This is a wonderful opportunity for a young person (must be between the ages of 18 - 24). Find the application at: <http://allstars.fosterclub.com/article/apply-be-all-star>. The Foster Club site also offers training for foster parents, <http://booster.fosterclub.com/article/foster-parent-online-training>.

Royal Family Night Out This is a service provided by the Jefferson Baptist church. Be sure to bring your children to enjoy the fun. Trained volunteers will care for them while you take some time for yourself. All child care providers have undergone criminal history background checks. For more information on the next event, please call (503) 375-6282 or (503) 769-3377.



All certified foster and relative providers are encouraged to hold a current card in CPR and First Aid. Individuals learn infant lifesaving skills, injury prevention, prevention of heart disease, and first aid skills. Students are assessed by each skill demonstrated. Successful completion of the course certifies the student in Infant, Child and Adult CPR and First Aid for two years. CPR classes are open to DHS providers only. This training is for DHS providers only, not staff or community partners or providers with other agencies. Thank you for your cooperation. For more information on the next class please contact **Erma Brundidge** at erma.s.brundidge@state.or.us.

Mission: Transition

Mission: Transition is an intensive case management program with a Wraparound approach designed for transitional age young adults 16-22 who have a mental health diagnosis. They should want to engage in this process and want to develop goals surrounding their housing, mental health services and needs, social connections, education, and vocational needs. The Mission: Transition staff are focused on getting clients involved in planning their life and building natural supports to ensure they can maintain the same level of functioning on their own once paid supports step out of their lives. To find out more call us at (503) 576-4571.

Statewide Foster Parent Lending Library

This library is Free for Oregon Foster, Relative, and Pre-Adoptive Parents. Do you need training credits? Want more information on a particular subject matter such as: Parenting, Child Development, Foster Issues, Adoption Issues, Child Functioning, or Child's needs. The library offers: easy internet access, Spanish materials, materials that can be mailed, return postage paid, and video or audio tapes. For more information and details, please click on <http://oregondhs.booksys.net/opac/oregondhs/index.html>. You will need to follow the instructions below.

- 📖 Look on left side of screen and click on **My Items**
- 📖 Put your **certification provider number** in the **Patron User Name/Barcode**
- 📖 Remember to **capitalize first letter** of your provider number
- 📖 Put your **certification provider number** in the **Pin** field
- 📖 Find what you would like to check out and wait for it to come in mail.

Helpful Websites:

- DHS Personnel, <http://dasapp.oregon.gov/empsrch/index.asp>
- DHS Foster and Adopt website, http://marionfosteroradopt.com/parent/what_is_foster_parenting.php
- Easter Seals programs and events for children with disabilities:
http://or.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ORDR_services , phone 503-370-8990.
- Marion County Parent Resource Guide: http://www.co.marion.or.us/NR/rdonlyres/193BCBF2-7146-4112-A29E-E5BEF2C8D561/17030/PRD_Dec_18_08.pdf
- For more information on Children with Disabilities and their rights, please go to:
<http://www.disabilityrightsoregon.org/results/DRO-Keep%20School%20Safe%20for%20Everyone%20Report.pdf>

General Information:

- Fishing licenses' are provided by DHS; please contact your Certifier.
- The Marion Polk Foster Parents Association has a monthly Board of Directors meeting. Please e-mail suggestions, concerns, or ideas to kimmoo2@comcast.net .
- To add, remove or update this resource list or our website, please E-mail the information to kimmoo2@comcast.net. Please include your contact number if I have questions.