Foster Parent Grapevine

Stark County Job & Family Services, Children Services Division
Deborah Forkas, Executive Director, Stark County Job & Family Services
Robert Myers, Deputy Director, Stark County Children Services Division
Autumn 2019

SCJFS Mission
To partner with our customers, community and other service providers to protect children and vulnerable adults, stabilize and strengthen families, and encourage self sufficiency and personal responsibility.

To Report Abuse/Neglect
(330) 455-KIDS (5437)
(800) 233-KIDS (5437)
TDD (330) 438-8879

Foster Parenting & Adopting
(330) 451-8789

www.starkjfs.org

“Foster Parent Grapevine” is a publication of Stark County Job & Family Services 221 3rd St. S.E., Canton, OH 44702.

If you have questions or comments please contact Stephen Rowland at (330) 451-8882 or e-mail Stephen.Rowland@jfs.ohio.gov

Every.Child.Matters. Foster/Adopt TODAY
A message from the Deputy Director of Children Services

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer, was able to do something fun or relaxing (or both), and got to share those times with the people you love. As difficult as it is to say "goodbye" to summer, I am excited to talk about our upcoming events and celebrations. To start off, we have two months that have been nationally designated to recognize caregivers. September is Kinship Care Month and November is National Adoption Month. As in past years, we have been busy planning to show our appreciation on a local level.

- Sunday, October 20:  Fall Frolic at Maize Valley beginning at 12:00 noon
- Friday, November 1:  Heart Gallery (time/location to be announced)
- Friday, November 8:  Adoption Celebration for families/children finalized in the past year
- Saturday, November 9:  Canton Charge (basketball) event

Along with these events, we also have some informational and support meetings scheduled:

- Wednesday, November 13:  Informational event for families interested in fostering
- 3rd Thursday, each month:  The NEST, our foster parent resource group meets at Children Services
- 1st Tuesday, each month:  Post Adoption Support Group

Further information about all of these events is forthcoming. Should you have any questions about any of these, please feel free to contact your worker or Sharmalee Flott at 330-451-8246.

Finally, I want to let you all know that on November 5th, Stark County Children Services will have our levy on the ballot. Due to substantial cuts in federal funding, we will be asking for a replacement levy this year. While the millage will remain the same as it always has, the revenue will be based upon updated housing valuations and homeowners will see a slight annual increase of less than $14 per $100,000 of the value of their home. The levy generates about 48% of our operating funds and without it our ability to provide the many services we do now would be compromised.

Thank you,

Rob Myers
Events & Activities

The NEST - Foster Parent Resource Group
Every third Thursday each month
Doors Open at 6:00 PM - Meeting at 6:30 PM
Stark County Children Services
402 Second St. SE 44702

Post Adoption Support Group
Stark County Children Services
402 Second St. SE 44702

We have started a post adoption support group for adoptive parents. The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meetings provide an opportunity to make connections with other adoptive parents and to learn how to manage some of the issues that adoptive parents face.

Time for group discussion and questions and answers is included in every meeting. For more information please contact Rachel Weingart at (330) 451-8730.

Fall Frolic
October 20th Noon - 8:00 PM
Maize Valley
6193 Edison St NE, Hartville, OH 44632
Activities include wagon & train ride, pumpkin canon, corn maze, straw mountain, tire pile, pig races, and a petting zoo. Lunch will be provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & cookies).

Adoption Celebration
Friday, November 8th from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Stark County Children Services
402 Second St. SE 44702
More details to come!

Canton Charge Home Opener
Saturday, November 9th
Giveaways, 50/50, games and contests
More details to follow

Connect With Us
Please share our social media pages with family & friends. The more social media followers we have, the more people know of the important work we are doing throughout Stark County.

facebook.com/scjfs
@starkcountyjfs
@starkcountyjfs
pinterest.com/starkcountyjfs
starkcountyjfs
Tyler

Birthday: June, 2003

Tyler, 16 enjoys playing basketball, football and catch with friends. He also enjoys playing video games, watching Netflix, playing cards and participating in outdoor activities. Tyler describes himself as handsome and good at telling jokes. If Tyler could have a special ability, he says he would love to make everybody laugh.

Tyler is a Freshman who says Language Arts is his favorite subject because he learns so much. He also enjoys music class because he loves music. Tyler has two goals following graduation. The first is to pursue a career in cosmetology so that he can become a hair stylist. The second is to eventually become a foster parent so that he can help other children the way that he has been helped.

Tyler enjoys spending time with his foster parents and their family. Tyler says they make him happy.

Family, Tyler says, is made up of people who love you, and the perfect family would include people who are kind, funny, silly and like to play the Michael Jackson Dance game together. Tyler also pictures a family going swimming and fishing together. Tyler says that a family with “a zillion kids” and pets would be really fun!

We need your help! Spread the word and join the conversation, Every.Child.Matters. Like and Follow Every.Child.Matters. on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/YouCanStarkCounty/
This is an event for Stark County Children Services foster/adoptive and kinship families. Sponsored by Project KARE

Maize Valley

6193 Edison St., Hartville, OH 44632

Corn Mazes - Wagon & Train Rides - Pumpkin Cannon - Straw Mountain - Tire Pile - Pig Races - Petting Zoo

Maize Valley will open at 12:00 pm
Lunch will be provided 12:30 pm -1:30 pm
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies & Lemonade!

*Everyone will receive a wristband upon arrival*
**Wristbands must be picked up by 2:00 pm**
They are good until 8 pm.

Join us for some fall fun on Sunday, October 20th, 2019

Save The Date

Canton Charge Home Opener

Saturday, November 9th
More details to follow

High Five Tunnel
Giveaways
Games & Contests

Giveaways
*Courtside box up to 6 guests with food and beverage at a 2019/20 Charge home game
*2 Tickets to a Cavs game
Foster Parents Wanted

We hope you have enjoyed your summer and are settling into the back to school routine! As we gear up for all things pumpkin spice and holiday madness, our agency is busy planning new recruitment strategies. We know you, our foster families, are our best recruiters. The best way to understand the unknown of caring for foster children is to talk to someone who has experienced it. Here is a list of some ways you can get involved:

- Speak at Foster and Adoptive Information Events
- Talk with interested families and help answer their questions
- Participate in foster parent panels

We would love to hear about ideas or suggestions you may have for recruitment. If you are interested in helping or sharing information, please contact Jamie Horey at 330-451-8806.

Alisa Grass and Jamie Horey

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Stark County Post Adoption Group Presents

Movie & Dinner

Tuesday, October 1st
6pm–8pm
Doors open at 5:30 PM

LOCATION
Cornerstone
402 2nd St. SE Canton 44702

RSVP to Kourtney Hill
(330) 451-8199 or kourtney.hill@jfs.ohio.gov
Foster Parent Training
September Training

925-139  Trauma-Informed Discipline: What Caregivers Need to Know

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019  6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Facilitator: Pam Reid  
Location: Cornerstone Building   402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

The trauma experience for children who have survived maltreatment, deprivation, and witnessing family violence can bring about a number of challenging behaviors. The caregivers in these children’s lives must understand the dynamics of healing from trauma and how to use behaviors as an opportunity to learn how to help the healing process. This workshop deals with methods to use challenging behaviors as an assessment and engagement tool with children and teens. We will discuss strategies on how the process of engagement can lead to connections by which caregivers can help youth to gain control of overwhelming emotions and ultimately the challenging behaviors.  
This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Counselor and Social Work CEUs.

Competencies addressed:  
925-01-008, 925-02-007, 925-02-008, 925-03-001, 991-01-001, 991-01-002, 991-01-003, 991-01-004, 991-01-005

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants  
Training Credit: 3 HRS.

983-31  What’s Normal, What’s Not in Children’s Behavior

Date: Monday, September 9, 2019   6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Facilitator: Janice Williams  
Location: Cornerstone Building   402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

This workshop helps foster/adoptive parents to discern between “normal” and “abnormal” childhood behavior. Caregivers learn of the developmental and socio/emotional stages that children experience as a natural part of growing up. Utilizing large and small group activities, caregivers have fun as they define what’s normal and what isn’t, debunk common myths about behaviors, and learn how to respond to behaviors in appropriate and effective ways. Caregivers are given criteria to avoid overreaction to behaviors that are age and/or developmentally appropriate. Caregivers learn which behaviors should be immediately reported and which behaviors warrant professional intervention. Using vignettes, participants work in small groups to address concerning troublesome behaviors of children age 0-18.  
This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:  
983-01-010, 983-02-002, 985-01-004, 995-02-011

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants  
Training Credit: 3 HRS.
925-141  Crisis Intervention for Children and Adolescents

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019  6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Facilitator: Karla McDay  
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.  Canton, Ohio  44702

This three-hour training will assist foster parents in identifying and understanding acting-out behaviors, learning therapeutic approaches to dealing with children and adolescents who are in crisis, and employing techniques to prevent and manage negative behaviors and crisis situations.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.  

Caregiver competencies addressed:  
925-01-001, 925-01-004, 925-01-011, 925-02-001, 925-02-003

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov  
Limit: 35  
Training Credit:  3 HRS.

995-10  How Can a Superhero Help Me? Ways Superhero Play Can Help Abused and Neglected Children

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2019    9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Linda Davis  
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.  Canton, Ohio  44702

In this workshop, we will examine the theory of dramatic play and how superheroes have influenced the psychosocial development of children. We will discuss the pros and cons of superhero play, create methods that promote a safe environment for superhero play, and identify ways to use superhero play to build the self-esteem of abused and neglected children. Participants will also be provided with tools that will help children talk about traumatic events.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.  

Competencies addressed:  
923-03-001, 995-03-003, 995-03-005, 995-03-008

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov  
Limit: 35 Participants  
Training Credit:  6 HRS.
923-FF6-S  Recognizing and Responding to Children who have been Sexually Abused

Date: Saturday, September 28, 2019  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Facilitator: CeCe Norwood  
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.  Canton, Ohio  44702

This workshop is designed for foster caregivers and adoptive parents who are caring for children who have been sexually abused.  The workshop is offered with the understanding that many children in care, or who have been adopted, have not yet disclosed sexual abuse they have experienced.  This workshop examines the definition and dynamics of sexual abuse of children.  The training will examine the pervasive pathology existing within the sexually abusing home.  The workshop develops understanding of the characteristics of caregivers that can best adjust to the needs children who have been sexually abused.  Extensive parenting strategies, including strategies to prepare the home to receive children who have been sexually abused as well as strategies to enhance their ongoing care, will be presented.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.  
Competencies addressed:  
922-01-003, 923-02-005, 923-05-005, 923-05-010, 923-02-003, 923-04-001, 923-04-005, 923-05-008, 923-05-011, 923-02-004, 923-04-003, 923-04-007, 923-05-009, 925-01-006

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov  
Limit: 35 Participants  
Training Credit: 6 HRS.
This workshop is designed to help caregivers understand the dynamics of a variety of mental health problems that impact parents and children. Caregivers will learn about the various behaviors caused by mental illness and the treatment approaches that can help parents functioning. Caregivers will learn how children are impacted by their parent’s illness and how caregivers can assist children in understanding the nature of the illness and develop positive coping skills for dealing with the contact with or absence of the mentally ill parent.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.
924-1  Attachment, Separation, and Loss in Foster Care and Adoption

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019  6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: Brian Lowery
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

This class introduces foster parents to the concept of attachment and the biological bond. Separation will be addressed by reviewing the five stages of grief vis-à-vis a foster care placement. Strategies for helping insufficiently attached and grieving children are reviewed.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
924-01-002, 924-01-006, 924-03-001, 926-04-005, 924-01-003, 924-01-007, 924-03-006, 995-02-006, 924-01-005, 924-01-008, 925-01-002

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit:  3 HRS.

952-20  Give Me a Break through Respite

Date: Saturday October 19, 2019  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Kathleen Terry
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

This six-hour training provides caregivers with important information about when, how, and why to seek respite from caregiving responsibilities. This training discusses the different types of respite, and defines how therapeutic respite can preserve a foster or adoptive placement. Suggestions are made for the caregiving parent and the respite parent about handling a foster or adoptive child’s behaviors, including retribution.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
942-02-001, 945-02-002, 989-02-001, 989-02-002, 989-02-003, 989-02-004, 987-02-01, 991-01-002, 991-01-003, 991-01-005

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit:  6 HRS.
925-51  Almost Frazzle-Free Parenting

Date: Monday, October 21, 2019  6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Facilitator: John Ward
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

Are you desiring less drama... less trauma... less frazzled nerves? Whether you are a new foster parent or you've been around the block a few times, come and discover fun and practical skills that will help you take the “frazzle” out of parenting.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
925-02-001, 925-02-009, 925-03-003, 989-02-001, 925-02-003, 925-03-001, 925-03-005, 989-02-007, 925-02-008, 925-03-002, 925-03-010

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.

946-5  Pediatric HeartSaver First Aid - American Heart Association
(2-Year Certification)

Date:   Saturday, October 26, 2019   9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Ronna Johnson
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

This American Heart Association HeartSaver Pediatric First Aid course was developed on the basis of evidence-based guidelines. It is a modular course that includes essential information and training in the first aid skills recommended by OSHA; and it provides the skills to effectively assess and maintain life, from the critical minutes immediately following an emergency until the arrival of emergency medical services personnel. The course provides the learner with a comprehensive overview of first aid basics for children, as well as CPR and AED use for all ages. Its highly effective format (video-based, practice-while-watching instruction) enables students to experience case-based scenarios in a realistic setting. Instructors introduce a topic then show a video segment; students then practice the skill while watching the video. The instructor also presents cases for discussion.

This workshop is approved for OCWTP training hours only.

Upon successful completion of this course, participants receive a 2-year certification in CPR (Infant, Child and Adult), AED, and First Aid.

Competencies addressed:
946-01-004

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: ********  STRICT 9 PERSON ENROLLMENT LIMIT ********
Training Credit: 6 HRS.
November Training

925-131 Maximizing Honesty and Honest Behaviors in Foster Children

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2019  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Brian Lowery
Location: Cornerstone Building  402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

The goal of this class is to help resource parents maximize honesty and honest behaviors in their foster children. Considering dishonest behavior (lying, stealing, cheating) in a framework of moral development, this workshop will help caregivers shape honest behaviors and advance moral reasoning and problem-solving skills in children.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
925-01-008, 925-02-002, 925-02-009, 925-03-006

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35
Training Credit: 6 HRS.

923-FF6-S Recognizing and Responding to Children who have been Sexually Abused

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2019  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: CeCe Norwood
Location: Cornerstone Building 402 2nd Street S.E.    Canton, Ohio  44702

This workshop is designed for foster caregivers and adoptive parents who are caring for children who have been sexually abused. The workshop is offered with the understanding that many children in care, or who have been adopted, have not yet disclosed sexual abuse they have experienced. This workshop examines the definition and dynamics of sexual abuse of children. The training will examine the pervasive pathology existing within the sexually abusing home. The workshop develops understanding of the characteristics of caregivers that can best adjust to the needs children who have been sexually abused. Extensive parenting strategies, including strategies to prepare the home to receive children who have been sexually abused as well as strategies to enhance their ongoing care, will be presented.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
922-01-003, 923-02-005, 923-04-004, 923-05-005, 923-05-010, 923-02-003, 923-04-001, 923-04-005, 923-05-008, 923-05-011, 923-02-004, 923-04-003, 923-04-007, 923-05-009, 925-01-006

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 6 HRS.
Love and Logic is a model of raising and teaching children and teens that allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in their interactions with youth. Love allows youth to grow through their mistakes; while Logic allows youth to live with the consequences of their choices. The Love and Logic model is a way of working with youth that puts parents back in control, teaches youth to be responsible, and prepares young people to live in the real world, with its many choices and consequences. The Love and Logic approach helps children develop and grow in a healthy way, provides them with confidence and dignity, and teaches them how to become more responsible. The possibilities are limitless.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
925-02-002, 925-02-009, 925-03-001, 925-03-003, 925-03-005, 926-05-002, 926-05-006

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.

989-70 Compassion Fatigue and the Caregiver: Caring for Yourself so You Can Care for Others

This class will give participants an understanding of Compassion Fatigue (CF) and how foster caregivers experience and respond to CF. Participants will examine how the responses and emotions experienced from CF are related to the role of foster caregiving and how these emotions influence and drive behaviors. Participants will understand how their own trauma impacts CF and how their own trauma combines with CF to influence behaviors and reactions to children’s stories of trauma. Finally, participants will gain an understanding of some ways they can effectively care for themselves and manage their emotions and CF.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
922-01-006, 926-02-001, 926-02-002, 926-02-003, 989-02-004, 989-02-007

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.
928-FF8A-S    Engaging Primary Families

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019   9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Facilitator: Angie Irby
Location: Cornerstone Building   402 2nd Street S.E.   Canton, Ohio  44702

This training, specifically designed for licensed foster caregivers in the early years of their foster care
development, will address the importance of engaging primary families. Common barriers to strong
relationships with the primary family will be discussed. Participants will consider how a child might
be impacted if they lose their connections with their primary family. Strategies to support positive
relationships with primary families will be explored. This training is part of the Fundamentals of
Fostering series.

Competencies Addressed:
928-01-002, 928-01-004, 928-01-006, 925-02-003, 928-02-004, 928-02-005, 928-02-009

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.

983-PA20-S    Standing in the Gap: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Your Foster/
Adopted Child

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019   1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Facilitator: Angie Irby
Location: Cornerstone Building   402 2nd Street S.E.   Canton, Ohio  44702

This workshop focuses on strategies to enhance the adoptive parent’s ability to advocate effectively
for appropriate educational services for his/her children. The workshop also explores the parent’s
role in accessing other special services (e.g. mental health or post-adoption services) for his/her
children and adoption subsidies to assist with paying for those services.

This workshop is CSWMFT Board approved for Social Work and Counselor CEUs.

Competencies addressed:
983-02-002, 983-02-004, 994-04-008, 983-02-003, 994-04-001, 994-04-016

Register at (330) 451-8246 or sharmalee.flott@jfs.ohio.gov
Limit: 35 Participants
Training Credit: 3 HRS.