



CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, AND STRENGTHENING FOSTER FAMILIES

BREMER, BUTLER, FRANKLIN, AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

Allison Area Foster Parents



**Foster/Adoptive Family
Valentine/Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, February 13, 2010
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Parkersburg United Methodist Church
502 Florence Street in Parkersburg**

**Bring the whole family and join us for:
Snacks
Crafts
Games and Activities
Door Prizes**



**Please RSVP the number attending
by February 10
877-467-4100 or 319-352-3600
magnall_ifapa@msn.com**



ODDS AND ENDS

*We are making progress on the implementation of our Certified Respite Program. We just completed the two days of training for our potential respite providers with 16 people attending the training. During February and early March the background studies of the applicants will be completed and DHS will review them for approval. At our March 16 meeting, we will have a training for parents on the importance of using respite as well as information on how our respite program will work. **Attendance at this training will be mandatory for any area foster or adoptive families who intend to use the certified respite providers.** If things proceed as planned, families will be able to begin scheduling in-home respite using the certified providers after March 16.*

For licensing or relicensing questions, contact Michelle Sloyer the DHS licensing worker assigned to our four counties. If you need to reach Michelle, you can call her at 319-292-2416 or email msloyer@dhs.state.ia.us.

The State of Iowa is facing another difficult budget year. That makes it vitally important that foster and adoptive families are taking the time to contact their state senators and representatives to inform them of how the recent budget cuts are impacting your family and your ability to properly care for the children in your home. A good opportunity to do that is at the IFAPA Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, February 16, from 7-9 a.m. You can find details of the event on the IFAPA website at www.ifapa.org. If you cannot attend the breakfast, please consider meeting with your legislators at one of the town hall events or listening posts they have scheduled in your area or call or email them with your concerns.

The activities of our group are funded in large part by generous grants and donations from the Waverly-Shell Rock United Way, the Bremer, Butler, and Grundy County Community Foundations, the Waverly Community Foundation, the Waverly Exchange Club, Sam's Club Foundation and the Fredsville Lutheran Church. We thank all of these organizations for their support.

*Learn from
yesterday, live for
today, hope for
tomorrow.*

We have scholarships available to help pay the registration fee for any of our members who want to attend the IFAPA Conference March 5-6. Contact us to let us know if you are interested in a scholarship or more information. Conference information and a registration form can be found on the IFAPA website at www.ifapa.org.

To help our members meet the new requirement of being certified in CPR and First Aid, we are planning a Spring Training Fling on Saturday, April 10, at the Vineyard Church in Waverly. There will be some cost involved for participants, but we are working to keep that as low as possible. In order to make sure we have enough trainers, we need those planning to attend to let us know they will be participating. We'll share more information at our February and March meetings and in our March newsletter.

Cedar Falls foster parent, Lisa Timmerman, is willing to provide respite care for other foster families in their own home. In interested in this option, contact Lisa at timmermanl@dikenh.k12.ia.us or 319-266-8689.

There were several toys and games left from the Christmas donations we received from the Denver High School students and the employees of CUNA Mutual. We would like to make them available to any foster children in our families who might be invited to a birthday party, etc. and need a gift to take along. We will have the "Gift Box" available at our regular meetings where you can help the children make an appropriate selection.

Upcoming Events

February 13, 2010: Family Valentine/Mardi Gras Party
2-4 p.m., Parkersburg United Methodist Church

February 16, 2010: IFAPA Legislative Breakfast
7-9 a.m., Legislative Dining Room
State Capitol in Des Moines

March 5-6: IFAPA Spring Conference
Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny
Scholarships Available

March 16, 2010: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Training on *Respite Care and Certified Respite Program*

April 10, 2010: Spring Training Fling in Waverly
9 a.m.-4 p.m. CPR/First Aid and Others

May 18, 2010: Regular Meeting in Waverly
Training on *Decat/Empowerment and CPPC*

Other Area Support Group Meetings

We are fortunate to have several excellent foster/adoptive support groups in this area. Families are welcome to attend whichever group best meets their needs and works best with their family schedule. Other October meetings in this area include:

Black Hawk County Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, February 9
7-9 p.m.—Social Hour at 6:30
Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W. 8th Street in Waterloo
Training on First Aid—RSVP Required—\$15/person
Call Dianna Seedorff for more information at 888-622-4521

Charles City Area Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, February 9
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center, 301 N. Water Ave., New Hampton
Training on Family Interaction
Call Josh Pedretti for more information at (563) 419-7057

Mason City Area Foster Parent Group

Tuesday, February 16
Doors open at 6:30; Speaker from 7-9 p.m.
DHS Liberty Room, 22 North Georgia Street in Mason City
Training on Family Interaction
Call Christie McGuire for more information at 800-720-9850 Code 62