

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>11 Years After 9-11</i>	1
<i>Bill Renames Four Divisions of DCF</i>	1
<i>Waiting Siblings</i>	2
<i>Ask Our Expert</i>	3
<i>Save the Adoption Tax Credit</i>	4
<i>National Adoption Month and Adoption Day</i>	4
<i>Natalie's Library Corner</i>	5
<i>Conferences and More</i>	6

NJ•ARCH Features:

- Chat Rooms
- Lending Library
- Warm Line
- Resource Directory
- Training Workshops
- Support Group Advocacy
- Upcoming Events
- Speakers Bureau



www.cafsnj.org



11 YEARS AFTER 9-11

The 11th anniversary of 9-11 is a day of mixed feelings. Many of us remember where we were on that dreadful day. We remember hearing and seeing the images now embedded in our minds. Some of us were in close proximity to the event. Some of us lost loved ones; some of us were too young to remember and some of our children were not even born.

This editor remembers that day very clearly. My first

thought, once it was determined not to be an accident, was of my children. Working about 45 minutes away from my home and family, I needed to return home. And fast. Interestingly enough, our kids were not dismissed from our day care and elementary school. Our particular schools made the decision to not share the tragic news with our children. They wanted us, as parents, to tell our children in our own way about this event and, for that, I am grateful.

As parents, our children are our highest priority; we want to protect and give them what they need. Most children just want to feel loved, wanted and secure.

After more than a decade of remembering the victims and families of 9-11, this is a good time to reflect on what is really important; our family, our health, our friends and our support systems.

Continued on page 2

BILL RENAMES FOUR DIVISIONS OF DCF

In July, Governor Christie signed S-2030, a bill that reorganized the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The purpose of the reorganization is to provide families with children with developmental disabilities a single point of entry to a full range of services. With the reorganization the following Divisions have been renamed:

- The Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) is now called the "Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)."
- The Division of Prevention and Community Partners is now the "Division of Family and Community Partnerships."
- The Division of Child Behavioral Health Services is

the "Children's System of Care."

- "The Division of Women" has been transferred to DCF from the Department of Community Affairs.

If you have questions, call the new toll-free information hotline at 1-855-INFO-DCF (1-855-463-6323) or log onto www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/notices/nonprofit/transition.html.

DID YOU KNOW?

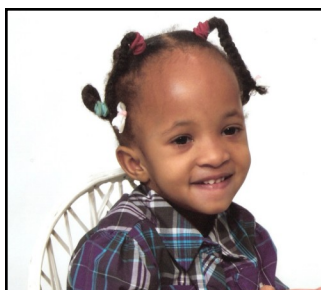
THE BELOW WEBSITES MAY
BE HELPFUL TO YOUR
ORGANIZATION OR FAMILY



WAITING SIBLINGS



Harold
DOB: December 2006



Kiara
DOB: April 2008

Harold is a happy, playful and affectionate little boy who will greet you with a smile. He loves cartoons and is great at entertaining himself. This bright, inquisitive, and determined child attends preschool and loves it! He is full of energy and has difficulty sitting and focusing on any one specific activity. His energy level also hinders his ability to join in a conversation. Harold's communication skills are emerging and he is currently learning to express

his wants and needs with two word phrases and the use of pictures. Harold does best when an activity is presented in a fun way and in a small group setting. Harold receives occupational, physical, and speech therapies at school which help support his developmental progress. Harold is gaining more control over his emotions, though at times when he is disappointed or does not want to change his activity, he may run around the room, throw himself down, cry or whine. He is not yet potty trained and needs minimal assistance dressing. Harold and his sister, Kiara, interact well with each other and their foster family. *They are hoping to be adopted together.* The ideal family would be able to advocate for his special developmental and medical needs while providing a consistent routine, as Harold has difficulty with transitions.

Kiara is an absolutely precious toddler. She loves music and often hums. Her favorite toys are ones that play music and light up. She is an affectionate young girl who likes to mimic her caregiver but is wary of strangers. Kiara is now walking and has just learned to come down the

steps. She continues to receive occupational and physical therapies to assist in her developmental progress. Kiara expresses her needs and desires in short, sweet phrases but does not engage in conversations. She just recently began attending preschool. She positively interacts with peers but primarily engages in independent play. If Kiara does not want to play or interact with someone, she may cry and seek the attention of her caregiver. Occasionally Kiara may display self-stimulating behaviors such as rocking or humming in order to soothe herself. Kiara's not yet potty trained and she is learning to drink from a sippy cup. She receives supplements to boost her caloric intake.

These adorable siblings would do best in a home where they are the only children, so they can receive abundant individual attention, structure, and support, but most of all unconditional love. Continued contact with their brother, Kadir is also very important. For more information, please call 1-800-99-ADOPT.

11 YEARS AFTER 9-11 (Continued from Page 1)

This time of the year, perhaps even more than any other time, give your child that extra hug; express your joy in the little accomplishments. Help your child feel extra secure during the school transition, as this can be a very difficult time. If you are struggling with an adoption-related question or issue, call NJ ARCH as your first point of support. We can guide you to the resources that may be helpful to you and your family. After all, what is more important than family?

ASK OUR EXPERT

Question: My nephews, 8 and 10 years old, were placed in my home due to their mother passing away. This is the first time I've parented boys and have recently noticed that my older nephew has been asking a lot of questions in reference to sexual development. He also has a history of acting out sexually with other children and is involved with the Juvenile Justice System. I want to make our home physically and emotionally safe for my nephews. What resources are available to address my older nephew's past behaviors and ensure that both of them remain safe?

I first want to commend you for taking on the role of parenting your two nephews and taking the first steps in addressing their needs. The good news is, you are not alone in this challenge. Parents/caregivers must educate their children in age-appropriate sexual development and address issues related to safe touch versus inappropriate touch. Although the thought of children acting out at such young ages may sound unreal, it is the reality that many families everywhere face on a day-to-day basis. There are an increasing number of children, who for many reasons, use sexualized behaviors to cope with stressors. On the other hand, some

children may be influenced by the social media, peers and/or accelerated sexual development. Whatever the case, they are still children.

Unfortunately, many young children are facing severe legal consequences for their sexually acted-out behaviors. This can be an extremely challenging time for families. The federal government's, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention is working to promote a change in juvenile justice, from adjudication to rehabilitation. The hope, is to shift the view of society from a legal perspective to a mental health perspective; encouraging treatment of these youth rather than containment and institutionalization.

As a new caregiver, it's wonderful that you are exploring ways in which you could make your home both a happy and healthy environment. Children's Aid and Family Services currently offers services to children with sexual behavior problems and their caregivers. If you are interested in this program, please contact me.

To learn more about children with sexual behavior problems and sexual development in children, please visit

the National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth website at www.NCSBY.org. Another good website is the Safer Society at www.saferociety.org.

I can also recommend the following resource books written by the experts in the field. They include: *Taking Action: Support for Families of Adolescents with Illegal Sexual Behavior* by Barbara L. Bonner, Ph.D. as well as *Taking Action; Support for Families of Children with Sexual Behavior Problems* by Jane E. Silovsky, Ph.D.

Thank you so much for your question and bringing awareness of this issue. I leave you with a quick thought: "If you ban somebody from the community, he has no friends, he feels bad about himself, and you reinforce the very problem that contributed to the sex abuse behavior in the first place." (Robert Freeman-Longo, 1992).

We at WISE Families hope you found this response helpful.

DO YOU KNOW?



OUR GUEST EXPERT
EMORY CABRERA, LSW

**WRAP-AROUND
INTENSIVE SERVICES
FOR FAMILIES
(WISE) CLINICIAN**

**CHILDREN'S AID AND
FAMILY SERVICES**

ECABRERA@CAFSNJ.ORG

*Have a question
that needs
expert advice?
E-mail or
contact the warmline.
We will be happy
to assist you!
Frequently asked
questions and responses
from the staff will be
published in future
newsletters.*



DID YOU KNOW?

NJ ARCH OFFERS FREE
TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR
ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUPS:

ADOPTION: A LIFE-LONG LOSS

TELLING YOUR CHILD
DIFFICULT HISTORY

TRANS-RACIAL
ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

BASICS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
IN NEW JERSEY

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE IN
THE SCHOOL

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE
SITUATIONS: WORKSHOP TO
HELP FOSTER PARENTS DEAL
WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS

FROM TERMINATION OF
PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) TO
ADOPTION: THE JOURNEY
TO PERMANENCY

THE ADOPTED CHILD'S
JOURNEY: QUESTIONS ALONG
THE WAY (NEW WORKSHOP)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP,
PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL
DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG
Or call 973-763-2041 Ext 207

SAVE THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

The Adoption Tax Credit helped thousands of American families offset the high cost of both domestic and international adoption. Since 2003, families who adopted children with special needs were eligible to claim the full tax credit regardless of their tax liability, creating a viable option for many parents who might otherwise not be able to adopt.

The Adoption Tax Credit is not a permanent part of the U.S. Tax code. If no action is taken in Congress this year, the adoption tax credit as we know it will end on December 31, 2012.



The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and other adoption organizations around the country have formed the **Adoption Tax Credit Working Group**, which is dedicated to saving the adoption tax credit. In addition to saving the tax credit the group is calling for the following components to be included in the new tax code:

- Being **Inclusive** for all who adopted (foster, domestic, international).

- To make it a **Permanent** part of the tax code.
- To make the adoption tax code **Refundable** to ensure families with moderate and lower incomes receive full benefit of the credit.
- To create a **Flat Tax Credit** for **special needs** adoptions, meaning they can claim the maximum credit without documenting expenses.

To find out more information on this bill, ***Making Adoption Affordable Act (HR 4373)***, go to www.adoptiontaxcredit.org and www.nacac.org.

NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH AND DAY

As fall goes into high gear, now is the time to start thinking about **National Adoption Awareness Month**.

While all adoption-related issues are important, the particular focus in November will be the adoption of children currently in foster care. We can promote awareness through planned events, campaigns, gatherings and celebrations, as well as simple everyday activities. These are all opportunities to educate ourselves and others about adoption. With a little advance planning, efforts can

work wonders. Even one family for one child is a success. For ideas about how to celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month, log onto:

<http://national-adoption-month.adoption.com/>



National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find

permanent, loving families. This annual, one-day event has made the dreams of thousands of children come true. Policymakers, practitioners and advocates work to finalize adoptions and create and celebrate adoptive families. This year, Adoption Day is **Saturday November 17th**. Courts throughout New Jersey will be finalizing adoptions all during that week.

Please join us in celebrating these children joining their forever families! For more information log onto:

www.nationaladoptionday.org/about

NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Hello Readers, welcome to Natalie's Library Corner. The NJ ARCH Lending Library has some new books that focus on foster care and keeping children safe. Here are just a few:

Another Place at the Table: A Story of Shattered Childhoods Redeemed by Love by Kathy Harrison

This book is an autobiographical sketch of the author's life and the work she has done to help other people's children. She writes in detail about the problems the children have when they enter her home.

"They have to go someplace, the children you read about in the paper: the injured ones with burns and broken arms, the frightened ones on the scene when their parents are arrested on drug charges, the glassy-eyed teenagers sleeping on park benches. Sometimes, someplace is a hospital or detention center or shelter. Sometimes, someplace is my house."

Teaching a Head Start program for at-risk four-year-olds, Kathy Harrison became increasingly concerned about one student, Angie, who had been abandoned by a mother who would never be able to care for her. "Could we take her in?" Harrison and her husband asked themselves, a question that quickly changed to "How could we not?" After Angie came Madeleine, and Gabrielle, and

Tyrone, all with horrifying pasts and needs as small and as large as a hot bath, clean sheets, and unconditional love.

Murphy's Three Homes: A Story for Children in Foster Care by Jan Levinson Gilman

Being a pup in foster care is awfully confusing. What does Murphy do when he's taken away from his family and placed in a new home, with new people, new pets, and new EVERYTHING?

As he moves from one house to another, Murphy begins to understand all his sad and angry feelings and finds ways to cope. Eventually, he discovers what it means to be a "good luck" dog as he jumps and barks his way into a comfortable spot in his new home.

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights by Julie Nelson

Over time, all families change. Sometimes, when families have big problems, they need to change so kids will be safe. A child's family might change from a birth family to a foster family or an adoptive family. That kind of change can be hard on kids. They may believe that the change is their fault. They may worry about their birth parents, and they may wonder if they can trust the new adults in their life.

With the support of caring adults, children who experience termination of parental rights can move from the pain of the past to the promise of the future.

Kids Need to be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care by Julie Nelson

All kids need safe places to live, and safe places to play. For some kids, this means living with foster parents.

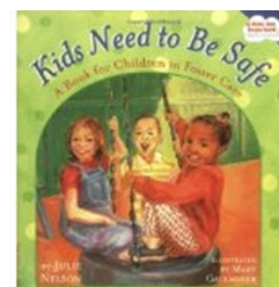
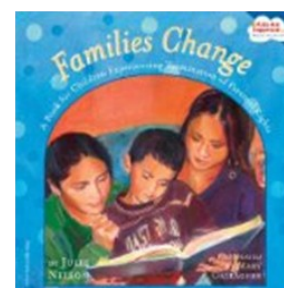
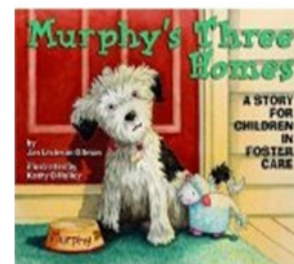
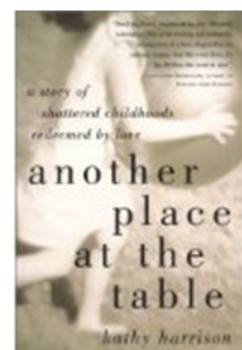
Written especially for kids, this book can help children prepare for, understand, and accept foster care. The language and illustrations tell and show why some kids move to foster homes, what foster parents do, and how kids might feel during their stay in foster care.

It is clearly stated in this book that the troubles in the lives of children are not their fault. Even when parents have problems, kids deserve to be safe. Foster parents can keep them safe.

The three children's books offered hope and support for children as well as adults. I would suggest that you read them to and with your children. Then look at the information and resources supplied for adults. Parents, foster parents, social workers, teachers and caregivers can all work in concert to keep kids safe.

DID YOU KNOW?

The NJ ARCH Lending Library has a variety of books to borrow



NEW JERSEY ADOPTION RESOURCE CLEARING HOUSE

76 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

VISIT US AT WWW.NJARCH.ORG

EDITOR:
DANA WOODS FRIED
973.763.2041

WARMLINE
877.4.ARCHNJ
OR
877.427.2465

FAX
973.378.9575

EMAIL
WARMLINE@NJARCH.ORG
LALINEACALUROSA@NJARCH.ORG

WWW.NJARCH.ORG
WWW.KINKONNECT.ORG



www.cafsnj.org



*The one-stop
resource
for those
touched
by adoption.*

DISCLAIMER

While New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ-ARCH) or Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc. makes every effort to present accurate and reliable information, neither NJ-ARCH or Children's Aid and Family Services, guarantee the completeness, efficacy or timeliness of such information. In addition, reference herein to any specific product, process, service, organization, or viewpoint does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by NJ-ARCH or Children's Aid and Family Services.

CONFERENCES AND MORE

October 18-20:

7th Bi-Annual Adoption Conference, *Best Interests of the Child? Race, Religion and Rescue Adoption*. Busch Campus, Rutgers St. Johns University, NYC.
<http://adoptioninitiative.org/wordpress/>.

October 24:

How to Adopt Domestically and Internationally, Jewish Child Care Association, Wall Street, Manhattan, NYC. Ametz Adoption Program; For information call (212) 558-9949 or register online at www.jccany.org/ametzntraining.

November 3:

31st Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ
www.cpfanjanj.org.

November 18:

32nd Annual Adoption, Adoptive Parents Committee, St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY.
www.adoptiveparents.org/information/.

November 6th, 13th, 27th:

Free Lunch and Learn Sessions: *How to Adopt a Child in the US; Adoption for Every Budget; The Truth about Open Adoption*. USA Adopt, NYC
www.usadopt.com.

VISIT OUR LIVE ON-LINE
CHATS LOG ONTO
WWW.NJARCH.ORG
AND SELECT "CHAT ROOM"

GENERAL :

TUESDAYS: 3:30 - 4:30 PM
THURS. 4:00 - 5:00 PM
2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY
1:00 - 2:00 PM

SPANISH:

1ST THURS. OF THE MONTH
4 - 5 PM

SEARCH AND REUNION:

2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH; 2PM-3PM

