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NJ•ARCH Features:

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- Upcoming Events
- Speakers Bureau



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

www.cafsnj.org

National Foster Care Month 2015

GET TO KNOW THE MANY FACES OF FOSTER CARE

This month marks the 27th anniversary of National Foster Care Month! Each May, agencies around the country recognize the greater foster care community by raising awareness of U.S. foster care, encouraging those who have experienced the foster care system firsthand, and showing our support for the countless individuals, organizations and legislators working on behalf of the 400,000 children and youth in the U.S. foster care system. Nearly 102,000 of those young people are waiting to be adopted. CCAI encourages you to join us this month as we celebrate those who work to make a positive difference in the lives of foster children and youth in need of loving families.*

Foster care is very different today than it was even 10 years ago. Today, foster care includes single-parent foster families; families with caregivers or children who

identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ); multiracial families. It also includes grandparents and other extended relatives not historically considered for kinship care. Foster parents and relative/kinship caregivers are critical partners in child welfare and are increasingly seen as key players in the team working to achieve permanency for children and youth in care. As primary caretakers, foster parents and kinship caregivers play significant roles in working with parents and in carrying out the tasks in a child's permanency plan. Resources in this section offer information and materials that support caregivers' well-being and strengthen their efforts to work with families, keep chil-

dren connected to the services they need, and promote a sense of normalcy for youth while in foster care.**

So what can you do? Help spread the word on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and use the hashtag #FosterCareMonth. For sample Facebook posts and tweets visit www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/promote. Know someone who is a foster parent? Think about encouraging them by sending a thoughtful note or even a gift card! Know someone who is a foster child or youth? Let them know you care by sharing helpful resources such as educational opportunities and their rights as a foster youth. Many of these resources can be located at www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth. Also, connect them with organizations dedicated to helping foster children and youth, such as One Simple Wish at www.onesimplewish.org/. Learn how to be a foster parent. Change a child's life. Change yours. Consider becoming a foster parent.

* www.ccaainstitute.org/

** www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/communities



Do You Know?

NJ ARCH HAS
NUMEROUS
HANDBOOKS
AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE?

SOME INCLUDE:

- HOW TO ADOPT IN NJ
- KNOW THAT YOU ARE A FAMILY: A GUIDE TO ADOPTION SERVICES AND ISSUES
- A GUIDE TO SEARCH AND REUNION
- A BASIC GUIDE TO SPECIAL EDUCATION IN NJ
- A GUIDE TO PARENTS WHEN YOUR CHILD IS IN FOSTER CARE
- HELPING FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES DEAL WITH TRAUMA
- AND MANY MORE!

POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Is your high schooler applying to college or post-secondary school in the fall? Many parents want to know what kind of scholarship opportunities may be available. We have listed many of the most common scholarships below, but the best advice is to have you and your child speak to your child's guidance department about appropriate scholarships.

The first step in funding post-secondary education is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). By completing the FAFSA, youth may be eligible to receive grants, loans and

work study funds. For information and/or to complete the FAFSA, log onto <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. The deadline is June 1 for the fall semester. If you adopted or fostered through DCP&P, Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is offering free FAFSA training. (See article to the right.)

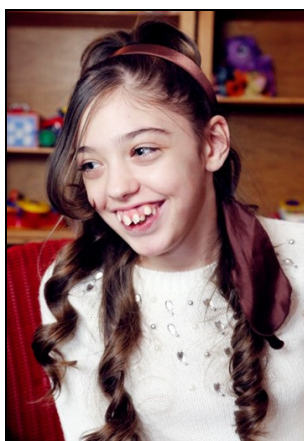
In addition, there are many Federal and New Jersey State Scholarships and Grants available. A list can be found on the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority at www.hesaa.org/Pages/default.aspx.

Other scholarship resources include:

- Guide to Financial Aid (FinAid) www.finaid.com
- Scholarships and More For African American Students www.blackstudents.com
- Foster Care to Success America's College Fund for Foster youth www.fc2success.org.

For a listing of other public and private scholarships, log onto: www.fafsonline.org/pdf/scholarship/post-secondary-education-funding-options.pdf or contact our NJ ARCH Warm line at 877-4ARCH (877-427-2465).

DCP&P WAITING CHILD



Susan
Born December 2001

She adorns her hair with pigtail braids just like Pipi Long Stocking! Susan is a fun, loving, and happy go lucky petite young lady. She is affection-

ately known as Susie. She loves having many different Dr. Seuss books read to her. As she is read to, she is very engaged, pointing at her favorite pictures and attempting to verbalize some of the words on each page. She likes to watch television, especially Dora the Explorer as well as YouTube videos. These also can be used to provide a soothing environment during doctor appointments, which can be stressful for her. Other activities include playing video games, electronic toys and early puzzles. She will move from activity to activity due to her short attention span. Suzie continues to acquire new skills, currently she

is learning how to put several words together to ask for her wants. Susie has full wrap around services in her educational setting for behavioral, physical, therapeutic and educational needs. She would do best with a family that has the time and dedication to put all their focus on her or a home with few children. An adoptive family would need to be willing to make a life-long commitment to raising Suzie, and be strong advocates to ensure the special needs for this happy little girl are always met. For information about Susan, please call 1-800-99-ADOPT.



Did you adopt a child or children from the Department of Children and Families (DCP&P)? Is your child or children about to venture into college or vocational school in September or during the next year? Consider attending one of the Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) for the "Funding your Future: The NJFC Scholars Program" Webinars.

This webinar includes information about the New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars Program, the Free Appli-

cation for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), reviews how financial aid works once youth are enrolled in higher education, the costs of post-secondary education and the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF).

For the most current webinar schedule, visit www.fafsonline.org or call 800- 222- 0047. For more information about FAFS Scholarship Programs, contact Millicent Barry at 800.222.0047 ext. 323 or email scholarhips@fafsonline.org.

Current Webinar

Schedule:

May 13: 5:00—6:30 pm.

May 26: 6:30—8:00 pm

June 11: 5:30—7:00 pm

June 29: 6:00—7:30 pm



SUMMER IS UPON US!

This is the time of year to finalize your child's summer camp plans. If you are considering summer camp for the first time or just think it's time for your child to have a new experience, consider checking out the Summer Camp listing on our NJ ARCH website. We have recently updated our list of heritage, adoption and other specialty camps. Log on to www.njarch.org and select "Resources" on the left side. Select the Alpha listing and choose "Camps." Don't see a camp that is a match for your

child? Check out "My Summer Camps" at:

www.mysummercamps.com.

Type in your zip code and the distance you are willing to travel from your home; a list of camps should appear. Another website which lists many NJ camps is from the NJ Kids Guide at:

www.kidsguidenj.com/camps/camps.html#top.

Live in the Newark Area? Check out the Summer Program Directory created by the Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ) at http://acnj.org/downloads/2014_04_25_newark_summerdirectory.pdf.

Still can't find a camp that meets your needs? Consider contacting the American Camping Association of NY and NJ at 212-391-5208 or log onto their website at www.aca-nynj.org. We also recommend checking out your local YMCA. Many have good summer camps and some may have possible discounts/camp scholarships.

Happy Camping!



DO 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
BASED ON THE 20 THINGS YOUR
ADOPTED CHILD WISH THEIR
ADOPTED PARENTS KNEW

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP,
PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL
DWFRIED@NJARCH.ORG

DID YOU KNOW?

Looking for more information on "Public Law 2014, Chapter 9?"



NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (NJ CARES) along with Concerned Persons for Adoption (CPFA) offers a film called *"A Simple Piece of Paper"* in which several Illinois adoptees who received their OBC's are interviewed.

Following the film, a presentation on the law will be shared with a Q&A.

Contact njcare.staff@gmail.com if you would like to host this film and discussion.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE "BIRTHRIGHT BILL"

Our last two issues featured highlights of the NJ Birthright Bill that became law on May 2014. Since we believe this is very important information, we wanted to repeat these key elements of this Bill now called: "Public Law, 2014, Chapter 9." This Law includes: 1 - People born and/or adopted in NJ who are least 18 years of age will be able to access a copy of their original birth certificates (OBC) after Jan. 1, 2017. 2 - Others may access the adopted person's OBC including: direct descendant or spouse of the adopted person/ adoptive parent or legal guardian / legal representative of the adopted person: an agency of the state or federal government for official purposes only. 3 - The registrar may file a new certificate of birth for a child born in a foreign country or under the laws of a country other than the U.S. who has been granted an immigrant visa or successor immigrant

visa by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. 4 - The birth parent of an adopted person may submit a document of contact preference to the State Registrar indicating: a) "I would like to be contacted directly" b) "I would prefer to be contacted only through an intermediary. I would like the following individual to act as an intermediary" or b) "I would prefer not to be contacted at this time. If I decide later I would like to be contacted, I will submit a revised document of contact preference." 5- A parent who files a document of contact preference must simultaneously submit a completed form providing updated family history information, which shall include medical, cultural, and social history information regarding the birth parent. A parent who requests no contact will be REQUESTED to update family history information every 10 years until the age of 40 and every five years thereafter 6 - A birth parent whose relinquished child's adoption

was finalized BEFORE August 1, 2015 may submit a request for redaction of their name and other identifying information of the birth parent to the Office of the Registrar before Dec. 31, 2016. This request may be rescinded by the birth parent at any time, and the Registrar shall provide the identifying information concerning the birth parent to the authorized requester. For persons born AFTER August 1, 2015, the birth parent's name and identifying information will remain on the OBC. For persons adopted after this date, the adoptee will receive a complete, un-redacted long form certificate of birth.

To read the law log onto:

www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/PL14/9_.PDF. When application forms for adoptees and contact preference/ name redaction request forms are ready, they will be posted at: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/faq.shtml#AD> which already contains some information about the new law.

WE ARE FAMILY

Adults can have a bigger influence on youths growing up in poor, violent neighborhoods than they may realize, according to a study presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting in San Diego. Researchers found that

males living in Philadelphia who identified supportive relationships with parents and other adult family members were significantly less likely to report that they were involved in violence or witnessed violence. To read

"We are Family: Adult Support Reduces Youth's Risk of Violence Exposure," log onto www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/293073.php?tw.



NATALIE'S LIBRARY CORNER

Hello Readers, welcome to Natalie's Library Corner. Our NJ ARCH Lending Library has some nice books 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 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

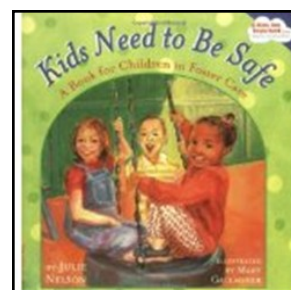
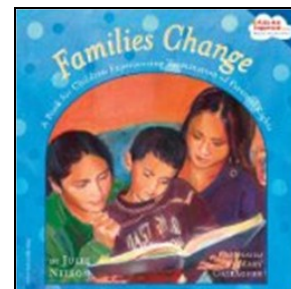
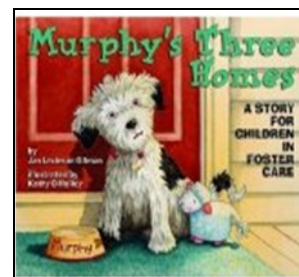
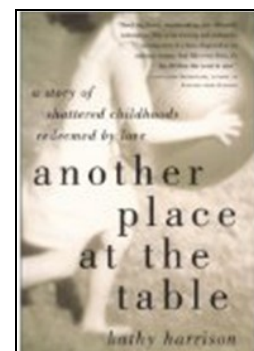
All kids need safe places to live, and safe places to play. For some kids, this means living with foster parents. Written especially for kids, this book can help children prepare for, understand, and accept foster care. The language and illustrations tell and show why some kids move to foster homes, 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

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resource
for those
touched
by adoption.*

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Looking for a conference or an activity that focuses on adoption or foster care? Check out the conferences below!

- June 25- 28: National Foster Parent Association (NFPA).

The NFPA's Annual Convention. "All Aboard: Setting Sail for Brighter Tomorrows!" Norfolk VA.

www.nfpaonline.org/convention2015.

- July 24-25: American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law Conference.

www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/conference2015.html.

- July 24-26: North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), 41st Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA.

www.nacac.org/conference/conference.html.

- September 9: 2015 Biennial Statewide Conference: "Kinship Care and Family Connections," Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick NJ.

www.cpe.rutgers.edu/njdcf2015/.

- November 15: 34th Annual Concerned Persons for Adoption "Let's Talk Adoption" Conference, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. Keynote: Debbie Riley, MS, CEO of Center for

Adoption Support and Education (CASE). www.cpfan.org.

- November 22: 35th Annual Adoptive Parents Committee Conference, St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY. Keynote: Pat O'Brian, Founder of "You Gotta Believe" for teens.

www.adoptiveparents.org.

Have an event to post? Log onto our website under "Events" and submit for a free listing on NJ ARCH!

