



## Georgia's Hope Quarterly Newsletter May, June and July 2018

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### A from the Asst. Director:

Hello Parents,  
Fostering can be a challenging job. It is extremely important that you only accept children that are geared towards your specific skill set. If additional training of any kind is needed to help ensure that the safety well-being and permanency needs of children placed in your home are met, please let us know. We want to supply each of you with the necessary tools to de-escalate any behavior and regain control of any situation. You all are doing a fantastic job caring for our children. Thanks for all you do! Show them that you care, show them that you truly want them to be there, in your home with you and your family, show them that they are wanted, show them that they are loved, simply by giving them a Big Hug.

*C. Thomas, MS, Asst. Director*

#### **Congratulations to our children!!!**

Destiny: Writing Award, Jeremiah: Math Award  
William: Language Arts Honors Award



### Chicken Nuggets...

#### **Tough Holidays and Special Occasions**

**Acknowledging Losses-** Encourage the child to share his or her feelings about those they have lost to reinforce that his or her emotions are perfectly normal.

**Past Holidays-** Gather specific information so that you can incorporate your child's previous positive memories into your current family's activities.

**Special Occasions** - You may wish to follow family traditions or change them. It may help to do things just a little differently.

**Negative Reactions to special occasions** - Understand and accept the child's feelings about the special occasion and about the people he or she has lost. Acknowledge those feelings, encourage the child to express them, and then move toward the special occasion with the intent of providing yet another opportunity for the child to heal

*Source: Institute for Attachment & Child Development  
9 May 2018, Connie Hornyak, Accessed 15 May 2018,  
<<http://www.instituteforattachment.org>>*

### May, June & July Important Dates:

- Sat, June 16 Foster Parent Meeting 10am Topic: Fire Safety (Make up Thurs 06/21)
- Check Disbursement: Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 11a-5pm
- Sat, July 28th Annual Picnic and Book Bag Giveaway:  
Location: Wheeler Park, 1350 Parker Road, Conyers, GA 30094; Time: 11am - 4pm

#### **Birthday Wishes**

Oasis (May 5), Amiyah (May 13), Autumn (May 30), William (June 2), Amariyon (June 27), Niya (July 14)

**Happy Birthday to each of you!!!!!!**



**Refer a friend to become a foster parent today!!!**  
Visit us on Facebook!



## Riddles

1. What's at the end of a rainbow?
2. What has feet on the inside but not on the outside?
3. What has hands but can't clap?
4. What superhero is terrible at their job because they always get lost and are late?

Answers: 1. W. 2. Shoes 3. Clock 4. Wander Woman

## Georgia Hope's Spotlight...

- Georgia Hope Welcomes Our Newest Parents - Candace Alexander Pires, Sherrie Sanders and Carolyn Colderwood.
- Georgia's Hope Welcomes Our Newest Staff- Resource Specialist: Mrs. Dawn Daffin
- Georgia Hope received a Letter of Recognition and Thanks from Georgia's LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CASEY CAGLE in Honor of National Foster Care Month!!!!

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

**\*EFFECTIVE AS OF 5-1-2018\***

- All foster parents will receive their per diem reimbursement check at each monthly foster parent training. Checks will be mailed out the following business day for foster parents not in attendance at Saturday's training. It is the responsibility of the foster parent to complete 25 hours of training annually, a minimum of 2 hours per month. Agency will ensure foster parents providing services to foster children in DFCS custody are paid timely per RBWO Minimum Standard 11.12.



## Emotional Investments



Why Did I Foster? *Written By: Janine Porter, MA, Entrepreneur, Mother, Foster Parent, Teacher*

Over the years so many people have asked me, why did I decide to foster and why so many children? I received comments like, "I couldn't do that", "What about your own children?", "What about your quality of life?"

My response has always been the same. I shrug my shoulders and say "why not? I have the means to provide for another child, why wouldn't I? Every child needs a home and every child needs a family and positive experiences".

Let's take a look at this a little closer. *Quality of life?* My Quality of life is my choice. It is my choice to not only raise my children but to raise the children of others the best I know how with love, unselfishness, and compassion. Raising children to know what life feels like having a responsible, loving parent in their lives. I enjoy the life I have created for myself and my family.

*What about your children?* You are exposing your children to "foster children". As a mother, I was careful of the children I decided to work with and raise in my home, with my family and we talked. My children were free to voice their opinions, respectfully about the children living in our home. My children whether birth, foster or adoptive, always had what they needed, never went hungry, felt loved and cared for in a structured environment just as much as any other child but most of all had a family and a home.

Let's clarify, a "foster child" is a child who just happens to be a child that is in the foster care system by no fault of their own. A child that has experienced trauma in some form or fashion and sometimes in ways we could never imagine or even want to imagine. Yes, some children have come into care because of their behavior and their parents can no longer handle them but think...how did they get that way... no structure, no discipline, everything the child did that was inappropriate while growing up that was dysfunctional and disrespectful, was their normal... and you blame the child?

*Well, it does not pay enough...*neither does the job you work in now but by choice or necessity, you still deal with it, daily with your boss or supervisor, your co-workers and the demands...come home tired, over worked and under paid. Foster care has never been an issue of money because I kept an income AND you cannot pay me what I am worth to care for a child.

For all of you who have chosen to foster for all the right reasons, you are giving family, you are giving love, you are giving hope, you are giving a child a chance...you are giving LIFE.

Whether you are the mushy, mushy loving type or the parent that runs a tight ship of tough love... that child will inevitably grow up and remember your home and you. It may not be until their 30 (smile), but they will grow up appreciating what you have done and the seeds you have sewn into their lives.

Let your experience with EVERY child be a memorable one, a positive one, leave a seed with every child that will grow and flourish into a flower. Now, in my 10+ years of fostering, every child in my home has not been my cup of tea but even when they had to leave, I left them with words that would encourage them not tear them down. Words where they can understand that it may have not been the best match with us but there are other parents that can work with them to give them what they need right now.

*Give the gift of family today!*