
Foster/Adoptive Parent Newsletter

January/February, 2015



*Brought to you by the Orleans County Department
of Social Services,
Child & Family Services Unit*

Email Addresses

Don't forget, if you have an email address (or if you change the one we have), please send it to me so that, when events come up, I can send the information to those who have email. I will continue to contact those who don't have email by regular mail. You can email me at judy.schult@dfa.state.ny.us or call me at 589-3161 and let me know. Or, you can also call Julie Noreck at 589-3120 and let her know. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Children's Christmas Party

The annual Children's Christmas Party was a success. Santa was there and everyone was smiling and happy with their gifts, the food, and the entertainment. Julie Noreck did a great job of organizing the party.

Foster Parent Webpage

I have recently started a foster parent webpage. You can get to this page by going to:
<http://www.orleansny.com/Departments/ResidentServices/SocialServices/FosterParents.aspx>

There are links to trainings, current and recent Newsletters, mileage sheets

and pink slip forms. If you do not have access to a printer or do not have a

computer, please contact me when you need more mileage or pink slip forms. Take a look at the webpage and let me know what you think!

If you think of anything else you would like to see on the webpage, please let me know. I will be adding things as they come to me.

Trainings

There is a new list of *iLinc* trainings that came out for Winter and Spring. If you would like a copy of them, please contact me and I can get the list to you via email or regular mail. If anyone has any thoughts on trainings they would like to see offered, please contact me with your ideas and I will see what I can do to get them arranged. **If you don't have a computer at home, the libraries may have evening hours where you can use their computers. Also, if any of the trainings are during business hours, please contact me and we can set a time for you to come to the County Office Building and use a computer here to take the course.**

There is a **prerequisite** for attending any of the online trainings. This introduction to the *iLinc* virtual classroom should be completed by all new foster/

adoptive parent *iLinc* users before they register for and attend any other online trainings. The Introduction to *iLinc* session lasts approximately **one hour** and provides participants with an opportunity to make sure that their equipment is functioning properly before they start a training. The demonstration of the student palette and tools is designed to enable them to make the most of their online learning experience, as well as to provide them with the technical vocabulary that they will need in order to communicate with instructors and technical support staff.

Notes From Judy

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. It was not a white Christmas, and not very cold, but hopefully, everyone had a nice holiday anyway.

As always, we are looking for new foster parents. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent, please have them contact me. They can reach me by phone (589-3161) or email at judy.schult@dfa.state.ny.us

If any foster parent is interested in forming a Foster Parent Support Group and you need a place to meet during business hours, we can sign out one of the conference rooms at our building for you to meet in. Just contact me about signing a room out for you.

I am also wondering if any of our veteran foster parents would be interested in being a mentor to our new foster parents. I am looking at making a list of names and phone numbers that our new foster parents, or any of our foster parents, can call should they have a question on how to deal with a situation or get advice or support. If you are interested in being placed on the list, please contact me and I will add your name to the list. I plan on making the list available to our new foster parents during their orientation.

Don't Forget the Strong Museum Passes

I have not yet received the new Strong Museum passes. I have been contacting them and have been told that they will be sent out. When they come in, I will be sure to let you know and get the passes out to those who want them.

Jeannine's Corner

Effective January 1, 2015 all foster parents will notice a 2% raise in foster care rates. This 2% raise does not effect the \$1.00 training incentive.

Diaper allowance is raised from \$49.54/month to \$51.00/month. You will also notice an increase in clothing allowances.

Dates to Remember

- Jan. 1 - **New Year's Day – Offices Closed**
- Jan. 12 - Happy Birthday, Merri Mathes
- Jan. 19 - **Martin Luther King Day – Offices Closed**
- Jan. 19 - Happy Birthday, David

Kingdollar

- Feb. 2 - **Ground Hog Day**
- Feb. 3 - Happy Birthday, James Phillips
- Feb. 14 - **Valentine's Day**
- Feb. 15 - Happy Birthday, Gloria (Jean) Snyder
- Feb. 19 - **President's Day – Offices Closed**
- Feb. 19 - Happy Birthday, Lucy Burch
- Feb. 27 - Happy Birthday, Jessica Mitchell
- Feb. 27 - Happy Birthday, Sharon Wilson

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