



Adoption • Foster Care • Birth Parent Services

Caring for Kids Chronicle

JANUARY 2017

Caring for Kids, Inc. was founded by former foster parents in 1995.

Caring for Kids provides:

Birth and adoptive parent supportive services

International and Domestic home studies

Pre and post placement training and supervision

Adoptive home Licensing

Foster care certification

Child focused recruitment

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Director's Notes

As Caring for Kids welcomes 2017, we take this opportunity to reflect on 2016 and set goals for this year. It is always a remarkable time to look at the year as a whole, since we are busy moving on a daily basis with little time to reflect! We are pleased to report that 2016 was filled with positive news and many children finding their forever families!

Through-out this newsletter you will read about the placements and happenings in all of the CFK departments, which is a reflection of our dedicated staff who work tirelessly on a daily basis because we all believe so strongly in the mission that **EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FOREVER FAMILY!**

It is also such a strong reflection of the amazing and wonderful adoptive and foster families we have the opportunity to work with as they welcome children into

their home and into their families! We are so excited for the children, but families continue to tell us that they are the ones that are truly blessed and enriched by the children. This is the same story from our infant placements through our older teen adoptions! It must be true because statistics show that the majority of families adopt more than once!

Caring for Kids was also surprised and honored this year to be the recipient of the 2016 Region 2 Agency of the Year presented by the National Association of Social Workers. We were guests at a catered dinner and presented with a beautiful plaque and certificate!

Caring for Kids continues to be amazed at the generosity of so many families, businesses and personal acquaintances! We have received many donations for our foster families, our foster children,

birth families and adoptive families. We could never service our population the way we do without these generous donations!

As we look backward we are filled with admiration of those that continue to give of their time through volunteering, their money through generous donations and their commitment to caring for and loving children that need the love and security of a temporary and/or forever family! As we look forward it is this same list that motivates us all to continue to do the work we do with passion and energy so that we can report even more children finding their forever families in 2017!

Fondly,
Pat and Jill

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Private Pulse

The Private Adoption Program had a great year with a total of 58 infants placed in 2016! Of those placements, 32 were baby boys and 26 were baby girls. We were fortunate to have a busy December which allowed many families to celebrate the holidays with the best gift ever! Congratulations to each family that grew this past year. We are honored to have been part of your journey.

The start to 2017 already has us full of activity and we are hopeful the year continues this way and we can serve even more families! Caring for Kids provides and values support services to both our adoptive and expectant families. In 2016 we changed our training schedule so that Private Infant families could have a

training dedicated to them and the Private Infant Program. This transition has gone well with positive feedback from adoptive families. This specified training has allowed us to provide additional support services to our infant adoptive families during this anxious time of the adoption journey.

Our post placement and support services for birth parents also continue to expand. We want to meet the needs of women and men as they work through their grief and loss after making such a loving decision. Our Pizza Meet Up support group has grown tremendously, and we encourage you to invite any person you know that has placed a child for adoption to these meet ups. We now have them in Akron 9 months out of

the year and in Columbus 4 months out of the year. Our retreat is also being expanded to three times per year! See the schedules posted in this newsletter for specific dates, times and locations.

We continue to work diligently with many hospitals, clinics, pregnancy centers, and other locations all over the state. Our presence online and on social media is also continuing to expand, which affords us the ability to reach more expectant parents and adoptive families. We are grateful to have been awarded a grant in 2016 by the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations that will aid us in our efforts to boost our online efforts.

Have you been presented with a potential match with prenatal drug exposure?

Did you decline due to the unknowns related to this exposure?

We invite you to join us for this **free** and informative event! Our morning will consist of a training on the impact of substance exposure during pregnancy. The afternoon is an opportunity to hear from those parenting children that were exposed during pregnancy, as well as medical professionals that work with exposed infants.

Space is limited and RSVP is required!

Please email RSVP by February 17th to Sarah@cfkadoption.org.



Prenatal Drug Exposure and its Impact

March 11, 2017

9am-Noon: China Krys Darrington

1-4pm: Panel of Families and Professionals

China Krys Darrington is a Recovery Coach, Peer Recovery Advocate, Birthparent, Public Speaker, Workshop and Curriculum Developer for Addiction, Substance Abuse, Birthparenting/Adoption, Human Trafficking & Lifelong Recovery. She covers difficult subjects; from addiction to hard drugs, surviving sex trafficking and coming out the other side. Finding hope and embracing a new recovering life.

Up to 6
CEUs for
Foster
Parents!

Public Post

2016 was a great year for the public adoption program and the placement of foster children into their forever homes with CFK families. All of the adoptions this year were children from Ohio, with the exception of two children; one from Tennessee and one from Washington. We had nine matches this year that included a total of fourteen children. Seven of the children were girls and seven were boys. We had a wide age range of children matched this year and the ages are as follows:

3 years old - one child
6 years old - one child
8 years old - four children
9 years old - one child
10 years old - one child
11 years old - four children
13 years old - one child
16 years old - one child

Of those children, three were African American, two were Hispanic and nine were Caucasian.

This year, as we look forward to matching more children with families, keep in mind these key points.

Check your email regularly and let us know if your email changes. This is a very important mode of communication! Most of the time we are able to forward information about an available child's history to you, including pictures, to give you time to read their history together as a couple to make a decision about whether you would like to be considered and move forward.

It's important that you get back

with us in an expedient manner, as sometimes there is a deadline for when your home study can be submitted.

Remember to call the office to update us if there are any changes to your home study. For example, if you have a change of address, get a new pet, a family member moved in or out, etc.

If you are searching, allow us to make contact with the child's worker. Agencies sometimes prefer worker-to-worker contact and our job is to help you navigate the match process.

Feel free to contact us at any time to ask questions. We know this is new territory for you and new questions will arise as time goes on.

Caring for Birthmothers

CARING FOR BIRTHMOTHERS 2017 PIZZA MEET UPS AKRON @ MR. G'S

1/13 - FRIDAY AT 2:30PM

2/17 - FRIDAY AT 2:30PM

3/20 - MONDAY AT 6PM

NO MEET UP IN APRIL (RETREAT)

5/19 - FRIDAY AT 2:30PM

NO MEET UP IN JUNE (RETREAT)

7/17 - MONDAY AT 6PM

8/18 - FRIDAY AT 2:30PM

9/18 - MONDAY AT 6PM

NO MEET UP IN OCTOBER (RETREAT)

11/17 - FRIDAY AT 2:30PM

CARING FOR BIRTHMOTHERS Columbus

Pizza Meet Ups

@Massey's Pizza

TIME: 6PM 261 Lincoln Circle
Gahanna, OH

DATES:

Feb 22nd

May 23rd

Aug 22nd

Nov 15th

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT LORI: 330-802-3415
OR THE CFK OFFICE

CARING FOR BIRTHMOTHERS

Retreat dates 2017

Spring April 21st thru 23rd
Summer June 23rd thru 25th
Fall October 6th thru 8th

RETREATS TAKE PLACE AT A BEAUTIFUL LODGE IN
OHIO, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN COMING OR
REGISTERING PLEASE CONTACT US!

Please join us April 7-8, 2017

EMPOWERED

To Connect
SIMULCAST



Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center

3486 S. Smith Road
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Registration starts at 9:00a.m. and the conference hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

\$15 General Admittance. CEUs are available. For more information on CEUs please visit the FAQ section on the link to register below.

Light refreshments included. Lunch is on your own.

For more information, call (330) 928-0044

Empowered to Connect:

Caring for Kids, Inc. is honored and excited to be hosting the two-day Empowered to Connect Conference live Simulcast, in collaboration with Show Hope Ministries and the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU.

The Empowered to Connect Conference is a fabulous resource for a parent of any child and is an ideal and proven parenting technique for children who have experienced trauma of any kind. Some examples of traumatized children who benefit from the Trust Based Relational model of parenting, which is presented during the conference, include foster and adopted children, children born after high risk or high stress pregnancies, and those who have spent time in the NICU or experienced childhood illnesses. It can also be beneficial for children who have experienced traumatic events such as divorce, exposure to violence, or those who have learning disabilities, insecurities, or emotional disturbances and more.

Agencies and individuals serving and supporting children who have experienced trauma, including social workers, therapists, counselors, nurses, church staff, Guardian Ad Litem/CASA's, judges, teachers and more are not only welcomed, but encouraged, to attend. Please join us in learning how the connecting, correcting and empowering principles could have a profound effect on the day to day lives of yourself and your child(ren) from hard places!

We hope you can join us!

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/CFK-ETC17>

Fostering Families

2016 was the Foster Care Department's biggest year in the history of the agency! With our ever growing number of foster families, we were able to place 62 new children this year! Of those 62 children, 26 were foster-to-adopt placements. The oldest child placed through the foster care department was 16 years old at the time of placement and our youngest five came straight from the hospital as newborns. (Please keep in mind though that most of our babies coming from the hospital had some type of medical special needs at the time of placement!)

Throughout the year, we had the pleasure of celebrating the adoption of 19 children by their forever families! Most of these children (15 of the 19) were adopted with their siblings. Of the four that were adopted as a single child, three had medical special needs and the fourth had behavioral health needs.

As you can probably tell from our statistics, there is a great need for families who can accept placement of sibling groups or single children with special needs! If you think your family could offer a safe, stable environment for three (or more!) children or if you are willing to learn

more about parenting a child with medical or behavioral health concerns, please let us know! The number of referrals we turn down daily is on the rise as more children pour into the child welfare system with the recent heroin epidemic adding to the multitude of reasons children already come in to care. We need your help to ensure these vulnerable children have a safe place to stay for as short or long as they need.

To know even one life has
breathed easier because
you have lived. This is to
have succeeded.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trust-Based Parenting



Caring for Kids would like to invite you to Trust-Based Parenting, a Saturday training on TBRI. All current and past Caring for Kids adoptive and foster parents along with families in the process of becoming foster and/or adoptive parents are welcome to attend. Current foster families can receive 8 hours of ongoing training hours if they obtain prior approval from their foster care case manager.

When: March 4, 2017 8:30am - 5:00pm

Where: CFK training room, 650 Graham Rd. Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

RSVP: Please call the CFK offices to RSVP 330-928-0044

Trust-Based Parenting will be offered 3 additional dates in 2017 including; July 29, September 30, and December 2.

What is TBRI - TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. While the intervention is based on years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research, the heartbeat of TBRI® is connection.

Who is TBRI for - TBRI® is designed for children from “hard places” such as abuse, neglect, and/or trauma. Because of their histories, it is often difficult for these children to trust the loving adults in their lives, which often results in perplexing behaviors. TBRI® offers practical tools for parents, caregivers, teachers, or anyone who works with children, to see the “whole child” in their care and help that child reach his highest potential.

Why use TBRI - Because of their histories, children from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. While a variety of parenting strategies may be successful in typical circumstances, children from hard places need caregiving that meets their unique needs and addresses the whole child.

***All new foster parents are required to attend this Trust-Based Parenting training within 12 months of being approved to foster.**

WWK

2016 was a great year for the WWK department. 16 youth from Cuyahoga County and 17 from Summit County were matched with a permanent family! In addition, 4 youth enjoyed their adoption finalization during 2016 and 4 other youth achieved permanency through legal custody to a relative. It is a thrill for us to celebrate with these youth. We are also very excited to report that one adult adoption has already occurred in early 2017! We are anticipating the adoption of several more youth in the next few months.

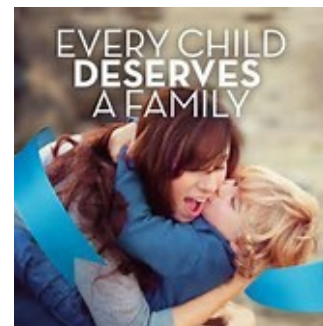
We continue to have a tremendous need for families who are willing to open their hearts and homes to our older children. There are youth of all ages currently waiting for their forever families. We would love to be able to report that many of them found permanency in 2017!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout 2016 WWK hosted a variety of special events to meet the unique needs of our youth. Some of our events were geared toward helping these children prepare for possible adoption, and other events are designed to provide opportunities for potential adoptive families to meet our children.

The WWK department has focused on targeted recruitment opportunities that are individualized to meet the specific needs of each child. We take into consideration the talents and special interests of each youth and try to develop an activity where their true personalities can shine while they meet a prospective adoptive family. We have held these outings at a variety of locations including a local farm, Fun-N-Stuff, a board

game café, the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame, pet stores, and other locations. In addition, the WWK department recently hosted “Youth Voices”. This program is a chance for our teens that are reluctant about adoption to hear from other youth who have either emancipated from foster care or who have successfully been adopted. In addition to watching a video that highlights a variety of teens, our youth who attend this program have a chance to hear from a local teen who shares their personal story. This event is helpful in opening up discussion about the fears that our teens may have regarding adoption.



Stories from the Frontline

WWK Recruiter: Lydia

Lydia worked with a young woman who had been adopted at a very young age but circumstances unfortunately found her in the permanent custody of a local child welfare agency when she was a teen. This young lady was angry about all that she had been through but eventually

opened up to the idea of having another adoptive family. When she was 17 years old, this young woman met prospective adoptive parents at a targeted recruitment event. They began visiting and it was soon clear that this was her family. All of the involved professionals worked hard to ensure that this youth's adoption could occur before she turned 18. The

adoption finalization celebration took place in December, and this young woman turned 18 one month later. We are thrilled for this youth and her family, and are reminded to never give up on working toward permanency for each one of the children we serve!

Featured Children

Waiting for their forever family!



Rylee

Rylee loves to laugh and clap. She enjoys playing with balls and play phones. Rylee also loves to see her reflection in the mirror. She is able to crawl from one place to the other in search of her favorite toy or to interact with others. She is able to sit up and play with her toys. Her favorite movie is Frozen and she loves listening to the songs. Rylee enjoys being around other children, going for walks outside, and having books read to her.

Rylee is in need of a family that can attend to her medical needs and developmental delays and that will show her unconditional love and support as she grows.

For more information about Rylee please contact her caseworker Kristin at Kristin@cfkadopt.org or 330-928-0044



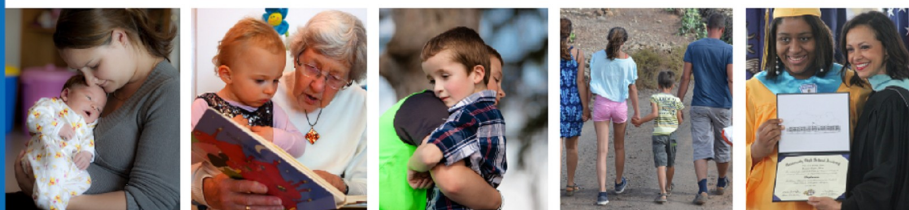
Emily
15 years old

Emily loves animals and spends time volunteering at a local cat shelter. She has lots of energy, loves staying busy and working with her hands. Emily is a skilled artist and uses art as a way to express herself and stretch her creative imagination. She also enjoys singing and dancing.

For more information about Emily please contact her caseworker Denise at Denise@cfkadopt.org or 330-928-0044



WE NEVER OUTGROW THE NEED FOR FAMILY



Open your heart, open your home

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call: (330) 928-0044 Visit: www.cfkadopt.org