



DCFS
Connections
SPECIAL EDITION
Foster Care Month
Care * Commit * Connect*



DCFS Connections
Spring Special Edition #2 2014

Danielle House-Barlow- Editor

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

May is National Foster Care Month—a time to acknowledge the foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. Below are a few tips on how you can celebrate National Foster Care Month and help to ensure a bright future for children and youth in foster care:

- Enhance your work with children, youth, and families with resources about supporting permanence:
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/>
- Get inspired by real-life stories about children, youth, and families involved with child welfare. Share the narratives and videos with your friends, family, and coworkers:
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/reallifestories/>
- Spread the word through social media, widgets, and your email signature:
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/promote/>
- Access State-by-State foster care information, including State officials and agency websites. Visit the State Foster Care Contacts map: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/more/contacts/>



Bookmark the National Foster Care Month website today: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/>

For more information, contact Child Welfare Information Gateway via telephone at 1.800.394.3366 or email at info@childwelfare.gov.

“God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers”

SPECIAL EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS FROM ACROSS THE STATE



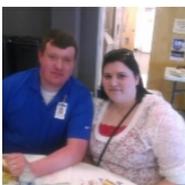
Area 9 Foster Parent Conference had a talent show and the foster parents were the contestants.



The Area 9 winner sang "Why haven't I heard from you" by Reba McEntire.



Child abuse awareness in Polk/Montgomery area. Senator Bell's wife Phyliss Bell spoke.



ENJOY A FEW MOTHERS DAY QOUTES



The sweetest sounds to mortals given
Are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven.
~William Goldsmith Brown

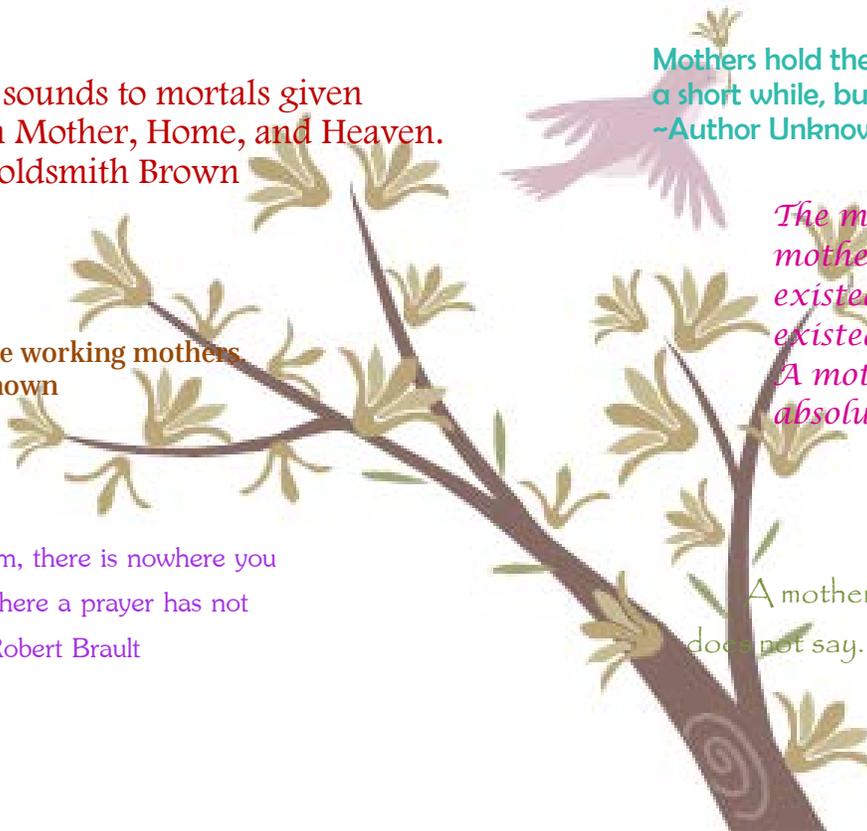
All mothers are working mothers
~Author Unknown

If you have a mom, there is nowhere you
are likely to go where a prayer has not
already been. ~Robert Brault

Mothers hold their children's hands for
a short while, but their hearts forever.
~Author Unknown

The moment a child is born, the
mother is also born. She never
existed before. The woman
existed, but the mother, never.
A mother is something
absolutely new. ~Rajneesh

A mother understands what a child
does not say. ~Author Unknown



THE RUGRATS VISITATION ROOM GETS A MAKE-OVER IN AREA 4

We received this email from Charlotte Jewell:

“Please see the new visitation room in Ouachita County. If you have ever visited in the county previously you would not believe the change. Sheena will need to provide you with the entire story of how the room was named but I will briefly try to explain.

You will notice that the theme of the room is “The Rugrat Room” from the cartoon series. Many years ago a foster child drew the pictures of the Rugrats on the wall while he was in the office because he was bored, with nothing to entertain himself with while waiting for placement. They encouraged him to draw so he drew on the walls. Thank goodness they were quite spectacular! The drawings on the wall have remained on the wall during all these years.

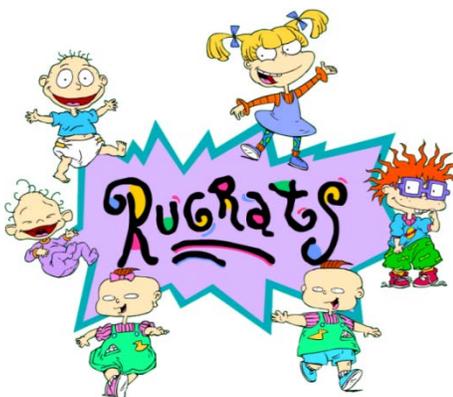
When planning for the remodeling of the room, Sheena wanted to make sure that they kept these photos so they took pictures of them, framed the artwork, and named the room after the drawings the foster child made. Judge Chandler came by yesterday and he recognized the photos because the same child drew him a similar picture, which he has framed in his office.

Thanks to the work of Sheena and the community our families have a wonderful place to have their visits and children have a playroom while in the office.”

Before the Transformation



Our new Visitation Room



FOSTER PARENT CONFERENCES HELD ACROSS THE STATE

MAY IS FOSTER CARE MONTH AND FOSTER PARENT CONFERENCES WERE HELD IN APRIL AND SOME ARE BEING HELD IN MAY. HERE IS A LIST OF AREAS AND THEIR CONFERENCE DATES.

Area 3	4/5/14 Garland County Office in Hot Springs from 10am-2pm. This is considered a mini-conference for Resource Homes in Garland, Polk, and Montgomery County
Area 4	4/12/14 Fish Creek Restaurant in Texarkana---8:30am "Razorback Ready"-Readying children for Reunification, Readying Youth for Transitional Living, Readying Children for Adoption
Area 5	4/5/14 Central Baptist Church in Conway from 9am-4:30pm
Area 6	5/17/14 St. Mark 5722 W. 12 th Street, Little Rock, AR 72204 from 8:00-3:00 p.m.
Area 9	4/12/14 Harding University Searcy from 9:30am-2:30pm
Area 10	4/26/14 St. Mark, 5722 W 12 th Street, Little Rock, AR 72204 from 8:00 – 3:00 pm

AREA 10 TO HOST SEVERAL FOSTER CARE MONTH EVENTS

ARKANSAS COUNTY: Passing out information /material on foster care to the local community residents @ the local Wal-Mart on May 22, 2014

ASHLEY COUNTY: Foster Care Recruitment Banner displayed at local church in Ashley County; During May 6, 2014 meeting discussion with OPLS Attorney, Area Director, Area Resource Supervisor, County Supervisors---Ashley, Chicot and per Drew County Supervisor, Veronica McGhee: Resource Worker or DHS staff are tentatively set to speak at Quarterly Meeting hosted by Judge Theresa French.

CHICOT COUNTY: May 6, 2014 meeting discussion with OPLS attorney, Supervisors and Area Director re: Dermott Crawfish Festival distribution of Recruitment materials via foster parent and family volunteers May 16th & 17th 2014.

DESHA COUNTY: Planning to pass out information/materials on foster care to the local community resident on May 28, 2014

DREW COUNTY: DREW: Set up an booth at Revival Center COGIC Church in Monticello, Drew County DHS Lobby, and Walmart Supercenter. The dates and times are being arranged at this time. May 6, 2014 meeting discussion with OPLS Attorney, Supervisors and Area Director re: Health Fair to be held per Community Stakeholders (Resource Worker provided recruitment materials). OPLS Attorney planning speaking engagement TBA for Drew County and surrounding areas.

MONROE COUNTY: Annual foster care picnic @ Caldwell park

LEE COUNTY: Passing out information/materials on Foster care to the local community residents

PHILLIPS COUNTY:

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY: Planning Annual foster care picnic at Caldwell park that includes St. Francis & Monroe. Foster Care Awareness Month, we are planning a Foster Parent/Foster Children Picnic on May 23, 2014 from 3:30 to 6:30pm at a local park. As a recruitment/awareness effort, We are just asking them to bring names and information of anyone interested and the foster parent bringing the most will receive a prize. Also, I am asking each of our staff members to take a flyer to church with them on Mother's Day Sunday with information about being a foster parent and announcing the Information Meeting that Tanya Williams will be having on Saturday, May 24, 2014.

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH T-SHIRTS!



Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services



Care ★ Commit ★ Connect ★

Front Design



Back Design

If you would like to order one please contact La'Kesha Moore-Allen Email: Lakesha.Moore@dhs.arkansas.gov or call 501-682-8537. La'kesha will be taking orders until 12:00 P.M. Tuesday, 5/13 and your money will be due in by 5/16.

Size and Price (price includes tax):

S – XL \$10.80
2X \$11.88
3X \$12.96
4X \$14.04
5X \$15.12

A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts. ~Washington Irving

Websites and Resources



www.stoparchildabuse.com
www.adoptarkansas.org
www.childwelfare.gov
www.midsouth.ualr.edu
www.fosterarkansas.org
www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly

www.nctsnet.org
www.fema.gov/kids
www.fosterclub.com
www.ppcwg.org/communications-overview.html
<http://drjohndegarmofostercare.weebly.com/index.html>

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Creamy Strawberry Crepes

"These delicate crepes are rolled up with a fluffy cream cheese filling and sliced strawberries. Make these as a dessert treat during strawberry season, or for a fancy weekend brunch."



INGREDIENTS:

3 eggs	3/4 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup milk	1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup water	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons butter, melted	1 cup heavy cream, whipped
3/4 cup all-purpose flour	4 cups sliced strawberries
1/2 teaspoon salt	
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened	

Prep Time: 30 Minutes
Cook Time: 30 Minutes

Ready In: 1 Hour
Servings: 6

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the eggs, milk, water, melted butter, flour, and salt in the pitcher of a blender; blend until smooth.
2. Heat a lightly oiled griddle or non-stick skillet over medium heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 4 tablespoons for each crepe. Tip and rotate pan to spread batter as thinly as possible. Flip over when the batter is set and the edges are beginning to brown. Cook until the other side begins to brown. Stack finished crepes on a plate, cover with a damp towel and set aside.
3. Blend the cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, lemon juice, and vanilla with an electric mixer until smooth. Gently fold in the whipped cream.
4. To serve, fill each crepe with 1/4 cup sliced strawberries and 1/3 cup of the cream cheese filling, roll up and top with a small dollop of the cream cheese filling and more sliced strawberries.