

**Essex County Foster & Adoptive  
Family Services**

**A Local Volunteer Committee of  
Foster and Adoptive Family  
Services**

June 2009  
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**Are You a FAFS Member?**

Sign up at  
[www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org)  
or call 1.800.222.0047  
It is only \$20/per year.  
Being a Member offers many  
perks throughout the year.



**Recognition Event  
IN YOUR COUNTY!**

*Everyone deserves a "thank you",  
especially busy resource families!*

The Division of Youth and Family Services will provide \$500 to each county Volunteer Committee or Affiliate that holds some type of Recognition Event for Resource Families in their county.

*"Thank you for all you do for the  
children in your care!"*

THE NEWARK GROUP IS PLANNING ON HOLDING THEIR RECOGNITION EVENT ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 7PM AT THE COMMUNITY HILLS CENTER, 85 IRVINE TURNER BLVD., NEWARK, NJ. THE EVENT IS OPEN TO RESOURCE PARENTS ONLY, THERE ARE NO RSVP'S NECESSARY, FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED. THERE WILL ALSO BE A SPEAKER, FROM NJ ARCH, MS. BARBARA RALL, SHE WILL PRESENT A WORKSHOP TO HELP FOSTER PARENTS DEAL WITH DIFFICULT BEHAVIORS. THIS SPEAKER WILL GIVE A 90 MIN PRESENTATION AND WILL GIVE THE RESOURCE PARENTS 1.5 HOURS OF CREDIT TOWARD THEIR LICENCE. PLEASE COME OUT ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 7PM TO CELEBRATE ALL YOUR HARD WORK IN HELPING THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS  
& EVENTS**

PLEASE SAVE THE  
DATE...

*A Child, A Heart, A Home – Walk for  
Children in Foster Care.*

Dust off your sneakers, round up your family and friends, and join me for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5k walk to benefit children in foster care and the families that serve them.

Sunday, September 27, 2009 –  
Registration starts at noon; the walk begins at 1:30pm at Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick, NJ

More information will be available soon at [www.fafsfoundation.org](http://www.fafsfoundation.org).

**This Month's  
Meetings**

**Suburban Essex Group**  
**June 17, 2009**  
**7 – 9 p.m., West Caldwell Civic Center**  
**1 Fairfield Ave., West Caldwell, NJ**  
This is our Last meeting of the year – We will meet again in September

**Newark Group**  
**June 23, 2009**  
**7 – 9 p. m., Community Hills**  
**85 Irvine Turner Blvd., Newark, NJ**

# SPOTLIGHT ON FOSTER CARE... "Forever Home"

In this issue we will share with you profiles of two teen age boys looking for that "Forever Home"...

## Miguel S.

Miguel is a wonderful teenage boy who would like a loving, committed forever family to call home. Miguel is 17 years old and is of Puerto Rican descent and has been in the foster care system since he was 13. He stands tall at around 5'8" with an olive complexion, brown eyes and brown hair.

Miguel currently attends High School and has become a welcome member of his school. Staff have nothing but positive things to say about Miguel. His current goal is to work with Computers after High School and has quite an interest in that field. He is also studying for his Driver's License and is eager to begin lessons.

Miguel has limited intellectual ability which at times hinders his social skills, especially with other teens. His biggest needs are with his peers and with conflict resolution. Miguel could benefit from gaining more self confidence by mastering a skill and receiving praise from an adult in his life whom genuinely cares about him.

He does best with consistency, structure and clear expectations and consequences. The best family for Miguel would be one

who can provide structure and be able to respect Miguel's need for distance when upset. Miguel will readily discuss what is bothering him once he has had some time. The family would also need to advocate for Miguel's special education and therapeutic needs.

Miguel has made great strides in learning what triggers his anger and how to better deal with it. His many years in treatment and residential homes have prepared him to be part of a committed, loving family.

If you would like to know more about Miguel and are interested in adopting him, please call...

1-800-999-ADOPT or his recruiter Dulce Pedro at 973-809-9039



## Percell

Percell is 17 years old and describes himself as funny, cute, holy and very dazzling. He is very personable, friendly, easy to talk to and charming. He is a tall, slender and handsome young man.

Percell likes to play basketball, sing and dance. He excels in anything musical and dances quite well. Percell would like to be a professional singer and work

in the music industry, with particular interest in music production. In addition, he enjoys playing video games with his friends and eating Chinese food.

A sensitive young man, Percell is able to express himself clearly and meaningfully. He enjoys school and favorite subjects are computers and science.

Percell really wants to be adopted; he is not interested in independent living. He wants to become a member of a permanent family.

Percell would like families to know that he is a kind young man. He loves GOD and he wants someone to care for him. He would like to travel and talk with his family. Percell feels he would bring a good experience to a family.

A loving and committed family will go a long way toward alleviating the anxiety that he understandably feels about his future. A loving family is what is important to Percell.

If you would like to know more about Percell and are interested in adopting him, please call...

1-800-999-ADOPT or contact Teen Recruitment Impact at 609-777-2076 and ask for Beth, Team Recruiter.



# LET'S TALK BASEBALL

## Volunteers Needed!!



Do you like to:

- Cook?
- Serve food?
- Serve food?
- Collect money from people?
- Volunteer to help a great organization that advocates for and supports foster, adoptive and kinship families?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we're looking for **you!**

Come help us raise funds to support foster, adoptive and kinship families and the children they serve.

The Foster and Adoptive Family Services Foundation is looking for volunteers to cook, serve food, work the cash registers and clean up at three Somerset Patriot ball-games. The stadium is located at the TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, N.J. The dates are Monday, June 1 and Wednesday, June 17. you can choose which date is best for you. Volunteers need to be at the ballpark by 5 p.m. and stay until the game ends (around 10 p.m.). We need a minimum of 25 volunteers for each night!

Please note: The management of the ballpark doesn't allow anyone under the age of 16 to be behind the concession counter.

So...If this sound like fun to you, give us a call and we'll discuss it further. If you can't volunteer but plan to be at the game that

night, we'll be over at the concession stands along the first base side, so come and visit us.

As the song goes, *"Take me out to the ballgame and I'll volunteer at the concession stand for the FAFS Foundation..."*

For more information, please call 609-977-4880



**Foster & Adoptive Family Services Night at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, N. J.**

Somerset Patriots

Vs.

Newark Bears


Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

At 5:05 PM

**Somerset Patriots – 1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, NJ**

THE FIRST 2000 FANS THROUGH THE GATE WILL RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT COURTESY OF FLEMINGTON DEPARTMENT STORE

More information will be available soon...[www.fafsfoundation.org](http://www.fafsfoundation.org)



**Resource Family Support Network**  
 These Resource Parents are available to other resource families who may need to talk. Barbara Womelsdorf (973) 618-1994 ? Stacey Cooper (973) 626-6183 and Tracey Brown (973) 313-0812

## Suburban Essex Recognition Event

THE SUBURBAN ESSEX GROUP HAS DECIDED TO HOST A "PARENT ONLY" EVENT TO GIVE IT'S RESOURCE PARENTS A MUCH NEEDED NIGHT OUT . WE ARE PLANNING AN EVENING OUT ON FRIDAY, JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2009. THE PLACE AND TIME WILL BE DETERMINED ONCE WE HAVE A FINAL HEADCOUNT ON ALL THAT WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. WE ARE ASKING THAT ANY PARENTS INTERESTED PLEASE SEND IN THEIR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER WITH A \$10 PER PERSON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (WHICH WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IF YOU ATTEND, IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND, THE \$10 WILL GO TOWARDS THE MEAL THAT WAS PURCHASED FOR YOU). **WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND \$10/PER PERSON DEPOSIT BY MONDAY JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 . PLEASE MAIL IT TO BARBARA WOMELSDORF, 18 HANFORD PLACE, CALDWELL, NJ 07006. (973)618-1994. PLEASE COME JOIN US AND LET'S CELEBRATE ALL THE HARD WORK YOU DO FOR THE KIDS IN CARE!!!**

## Sharing Resources

If any of you are in need of clothing or child care items (ie., highchairs, car seats & such), the Bloomfield DYFS office has been kind enough to store some items for us. Please contact Ketleen Israel at (973) 680-3587. A big thank you goes out to all our resource families who have so generously donated items, especially Margaret Reed, and Michele Quick who always seem to provide an endless amount of clothing. Please if you are in need, contact Ms. Israel.

Resource Family Advocate Michael Johnstone is a FAFS employee that is stationed out of the Newark DYFS office. His role is to work with resource parents and act as a liaison with DYFS. Please contact Mike with any questions or concerns at (800) 334-6930 x 2166 Tues-Fri., Mon (800) 222-0047.

A Note from VC Chairs Barbara Womelsdorf & Stacey Cooper  
We would like to thank all the Wonderful resource parents who Haved helped us this year to create A great support group. We would Also like to thank Tracey Brown who Did a great job writing & produc- Ing this Newsletter.

COME TO THE MEETINGS! WHEN THERE ARE SPEAKERS YOU RECEIVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING CREDIT WHICH IS APPLIED TO YOUR LICENSE.



- **Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** of the month – West Caldwell Civic Center (1 Fairfield Avenue., West Caldwell, NJ)
- **Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** of the month – Community Hills (85 Irvine Turner Blvd., Newark, NJ)

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS**



### FAFS MISSION STATEMENT CHANGE

We've changed the wording of our Mission Statement. We are not changing our mission in terms of what we do. What we are changing is how the mission statement reads. We made this change primarily for two reasons: We wanted to be more inclusive of kinship families and we wanted to clarify what we do for resource families in New Jersey. We also wanted the public to understand that resource families serve as the safety net for children in out-of-home placement. Our new Mission Statement reads: ***"Our mission is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment for children in foster care"***.