

central connections

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Covering Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties

www.fafsonline.org

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH NEW RESOURCE PARENT TRAINING OFFERINGS

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS HELP FOSTER, ADOPTIVE AND KINSHIP PARENTS TAKE COURSES CONVENIENTLY

by Lynn Patmalnee, *Special Projects Coordinator*

2012 brings exciting news about FAFS training options for New Jersey licensed resource parents. Starting this month, FAFS will offer several new home correspondence courses and online training courses for resource parents to take, and coming this spring, FAFS will offer a new way to receive your required in-service training hours – webinars!

Resource parents opting to participate in FAFS' new eLive webinar workshops will enjoy informative and interactive experience with the same FAFS trainers they've come to know from their FAFS instructor-led county-based workshops (Lisa Johnson, Tony Keane and Beth Taylor). Webinars will be held in the mornings, afternoons and evenings, and the same training topic will be offered several times. This will make it easier for you to take the training you are most interested in at a time that best fits your busy schedule. All you need to participate is a computer, a telephone, and the desire to experience an exciting new way to meet the training requirements to maintain your resource family license. (To review resource parent in-service training requirements, please see page 3 in this issue of *Connections*.)

For those of you who prefer to meet your licensing requirements by taking home correspondence courses, or by utilizing FAFS' popular online training option, you will be pleased to know that FAFS has expanded our offerings in these areas to better serve your needs.

New home correspondence courses include: *Psychotropic Medications and Children in Care*, *Childhood Allergies*, *Hair Care for African-American and Bi-Racial Children and Adolescents*, *Issues in Kinship Care*, *Kids and Money*, *Oppositional Defiant Disorder*, *Understanding Trauma and Resilience*, *Welcome to Your New Home*, *Why Does My Child Say Up When I Say Down?*, and *Youth Employment*. To access FAFS home correspondence courses, simply call 1.800.222.0047 or visit www.fafsonline.org/free-foster-adoptive-kinship-parent-home-correspondence-courses-nj.html.

New online training classes include *Trans-racial/Trans-cultural Care (Part 2)* and *Beyond the Blues: Adolescent Depression and Suicide*. To

access FAFS' online training, visit www.fafsonline.org/free-foster-adoptive-kinship-parent-training-nj.html and click on the FAFS Train Online link. As always, FAFS training department strives to offer courses that are relevant to the foster, adoptive and kinship families we serve, under the leadership of Fran Gervasi, Director of Education and Human Resources.

"FAFS' new webinars are an exciting and convenient way for resource parents to partake in training!"

*-- Fran Gervasi,
Director of Education
and Human Resources*

"Many kids today have issues that children of previous generations never had," says Gervasi. "Training is a vehicle to help you, the resource parent, gain an understanding of these issues/problems, which will give you the tools that lead to a supportive parenting approach."

Even experienced resource parents can greatly benefit from FAFS trainings. "It doesn't matter how many children you have raised," explains Gervasi, "because each child brings his or her own challenges and rewards that are unique to that child."

Watch your mailboxes and email for the official date of the first eLive Webinar Workshop! For more information on FAFS trainings for licensed resource parents, call FAFS' Toll-Free Hotline: 1.800.222.0047.

Has a FAFS training course
helped you be
a better resource parent
to a child in your home?
Tell us how at
development@fafsonline.org

OUR

The mission of Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes for children in foster care.

MEETING INFORMATION: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012

IMPORTANT TRAINING NOTE

Please arrive promptly in order to receive the training hours. You must complete the entire training in order to receive proper credit. Pre-registration for these meetings/trainings is not required unless specified. If you have any questions, please contact FAFS at 1.800.222.0047. All meeting/training information is provided by each county and is accurate as of October 31, 2011. In the event that dates, times or locations change, FAFS will post them immediately on www.fafsonline.org. In case of inclement weather, please call your local volunteer committee chairperson, visit www.fafsonline.org, or call FAFS at 1.800.222.0047 to see if the meeting/training is still being held.

Burlington County: *Chair, Joyce Wakefield*

Date: January 9, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: United Methodist Church; 25 Brainerd Street; Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Topic: "Mother From Hell"
Description: Learn about the experiences author Ken Doyle went through as an abused child.
Speaker: Ken Doyle, author of [Mother From Hell](#)
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Date: February 13, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: United Methodist Church; 25 Brainerd Street; Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Topic: Education and Health Rights for Children with Specialized Needs in the Child Welfare System
Description: A brief overview of NJ's child welfare system and a description of the education and health rights of juveniles in the child welfare system.
Speaker: Michele Tyler, SPAN representative
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Mercer County: *Chair, Jayne Gordon*

Date: January 24, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Hamilton Township Library; 1 Justice Samuel Alito Way; Hamilton Township, NJ 08619
Note: Meeting only; no training scheduled.

Date: February 28, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: Hamilton Township Library; 1 Justice Samuel Alito Way; Hamilton Township, NJ 08619
Topic: Education and Health Rights for Children with Specialized Needs in the Child Welfare System
Description: A brief overview of NJ's child welfare system and a description of the education and health rights of juveniles in the child welfare system.
Speaker: Nicole Pratt, SPAN representative
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2



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FAFS Hours of Operation

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FAFS Toll-Free Hotline

1.800.222.0047

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Website: www.fafsonline.org

Contracted Services Provided by FAFS

Toll-Free Hotline
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Information Resources
Referral Services
Education/Training
Public Awareness/Recruitment
Scholarship Fund
Community Based Support

Programs Funded by Private Donations

Independent Living and Academic Scholarships
Backpack Program
Camp Scholarships
Fostering Wishes for Children
County Based Support
A Holiday Celebration for Every Child

MEETING INFORMATION: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012

REQUIRED RESOURCE FAMILY IN-SERVICE TRAINING HOURS

PRIMARY PROVIDER:

7 hours annually or 21 hours over a 3 year licensing cycle

SECONDARY PROVIDER:

5 hours annually or 15 hours over a 3 year licensing cycle

Monmouth County: Chair, Lorri Outcalt

Date: January 17, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: Grace Christian Church; 1961 Wayside Road; Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
Topic: Learning the Signs of FASD
Description: An overview of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
Speaker: Deena Cohen, BA, CADC, WTS, CTTs
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Date: February 2012 **Time:** TBA
Note: Meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit the Announcements page of FAFS website, <http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html> for updates or contact your VC Chair.

NJ Resource Family Honorarium: FAFS will award a \$200 honorarium to any licensed resource parent who recruits someone to become a licensed resource parent. An additional \$200 honorarium will be awarded if a newly licensed family takes a sibling group of three or more. Simply tell the person you have recruited to be sure to give us your name when he or she calls FAFS to complete an inquiry at 1.800.222.0047. We have to hear from either you or the person you recruited in order to process the award, so call today!

Ocean County: Chair, Shannon Williams

Date: January 19, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Ocean South Local DYFS Office, 1510 Hooper Avenue, Suite 210, Toms River, NJ 08753
Topic: New Licensing Policies For Resource Parents
Description: Learn the current policies and requirements for licensed resource parents.
Speaker: Scotti Gallant, OOL inspector
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 1

Date: February 16, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Ocean South Local DYFS Office, 1510 Hooper Avenue, Suite 210, Toms River, NJ 08753
Topic: Transracial Adoption and Foster Care: Parenting a Child of a Different Race
Description: An exploration of the various myths in all types of adoptions and a discussion of ways to address issues that may come up when either fostering or adopting a child of a different race.
Speaker: New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH) Representative
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 1.5

• **FAFS partners with United Way** -- You can donate to FAFS by either listing our name -*Foster and Adoptive Family Services* or our United Way number- 715170 on the donation form. United Way's annual workplace giving campaign is an effective way for you and your employer to help improve the community that you live, work and do business in. If your employer participates in the United Way's annual campaign, when you give, please don't forget to list FAFS as your charity of choice.

• **FAFS has partnered with One Simple Wish** -- One Simple Wish is a wish-granting organization in NJ that grants simple wishes to children in foster care and impoverished families. This partnership will help fulfill wishes for children in foster care that exceed the reach of FAFS' Fostering Wishes For Children program, which is limited to a \$75 annual wish. Through One Simple Wish, foster, adoptive and kinship families experiencing hardship may apply for a family wish and/or apply for wishes for some or all of the individual children in their family. Wishes can range from \$5 to \$500. To qualify you must be currently caring for a child in foster care and/or you must be experiencing a hardship such as a job loss, natural disaster or illness. Families experiencing hardship must provide an explanation of the hardship for those children not in foster care and/or a wish for the entire family to be considered. For more information please visit www.fafsonline.org/onesimplewish.html.

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UPCOMING

FAFS Annual Meeting:

Central & South:
February 4, 2012
Holiday Inn,
Cherry Hill, NJ

Northern, Metro &
Central:
March 3, 2012
The Marriott,
Bridgewater, NJ

Recognition Award Nomination Forms Available Now!

Visit
www.fafsonline.org/nominations.html
to nominate a
deserving foster,
adoptive or kinship
parent.

Visit
www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html
for updates
on all FAFS'
events.

Visit
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ABOUT QU'RANAH

by Liz Carr, *Child Specific Recruiter*



Qu'Ranah is a friendly and curious little girl who is often described as "sweet" and "cute". Qu'Ranah loves to hold hands and to have her face and arms stroked.

Qu'Ranah has an extensive medical history and she resides in a pediatric medical center. She uses a wheelchair and also has a feeding tube. Qu'Ranah attends school at the center. She especially enjoys music class.

Qu'Ranah is in touch with her extended family members. It is important that her forever family help maintain these relationships.

Qu'Ranah's forever family will need to support her through adulthood. She is eligible for a subsidized adoption.

An ideal parent for Qu'Ranah is someone with a medical background or an interest in learning how to provide for her medical care. Qu'Ranah's pediatric medical center is able to provide training on her medical needs.

If you are interested in adopting Qu'Ranah, please contact Liz Carr, Child Specific Recruiter, DYFS Office of Adoption Operations, at (609) 984-1003.