

# metro connections

Covering Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Union 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.fafsonline.org). In case of inclement weather, please call your local volunteer committee chairperson, visit [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org), or call FAFS at 1.800.222.0047 to see if the meeting/training is still being held.

### Essex County (Newark): Co-Chairs, Michael Moore and Henry Wright

**Date:** January 24, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Community Hills; 85 Irvine Turner Blvd.; 2nd floor; Newark, NJ 07103  
**Note:** Meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit [www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html) for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

**Date:** February 28, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Community Hills; 85 Irvine Turner Blvd.; 2nd floor; Newark, NJ 07103  
**Note:** Meeting only; no training scheduled.

**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. Call 1.800.222.0047. We have to hear from either you or the person you recruited in order to process the award, so call us and tell us who you recruited.

#### FAFS Partners with United Way

You can donate to FAFS by listing our name - *Foster and Adoptive Family Services* - or our United Way number - 715170 - on the donation form. If you employer participates in the United Way's annual campaign, when you give, please don't forget to list FAFS as your charity of choice!

### Suburban Essex: Chair, Vacant

**Date:** January 16, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** South Orange Public Library; 65 Scotland Road; South Orange, NJ 07079  
**Note:** Meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit [www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html) for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

**Date:** February 20, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** South Orange Public Library; 65 Scotland Road; South Orange, NJ 07079  
**Note:** Meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit [www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html) for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

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connections**

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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.



#### Contracted Services Provided by FAFS

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

Website: [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org)

#### Programs Funded by Private Donations

Independent Living  
and Academic Scholarships  
Backpack Program  
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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**

#### **Middlesex County: Chair, Mary Engelmeyer**

**Date:** January 19, 2012 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Middlesex West Local DYFS Office; 53 Knightsbridge Rd.; Piscataway, NJ 08854  
**Topic:** 15 Minute Child Break  
**Description:** The program provides information about the types of drugs to which children may be exposed, the warning signs that a child may be using drugs/alcohol, useful strategies for preventing drug/alcohol use by children and resources to help parents stay informed or to help children if it is determined they are using drugs/alcohol.  
**Speaker:** Jeanette Grimes, 15 Minute Child Break Parent Educator  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** TBA

**Date:** February 16, 2012 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Middlesex West Local DYFS Office; 53 Knightsbridge Rd.; Piscataway, NJ 08854  
**Topic:** Leaving Home is Hard to Do  
**Description:** This workshop will address the special issues of leaving home for older adolescent and young adult adopted persons and their parents.  
**Speaker:** New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House (NJ ARCH) Representative  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** 1.5

#### **Somerset County: Chair, Roberta Hester**

**Date:** January 12, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Franklin Township Library; 455 Demott Lane; Somerset, NJ 08873  
**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:** SPAN Representative  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** 2

**Date:** February 2012 **Time:** TBA  
**Note:** Meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit the new Announcements page of FAFS' website, [www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html) for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

#### **Union County: Chair, Vacant**

**Date:** January 26, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Plainfield Area YMCA, 518 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060  
**Topic:** The Adopted Child's Journey- Questions Along the Way  
**Description:** A look at school concerns, identity and loss issues that may arise with adopted children. Presenter will discuss each issue from the adoptee's point of view and discuss how foster and/or adoptive parents can help our children.  
**Speaker:** Dana Woods-Fried, NJ ARCH Asst. Director  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** 2

**Date:** February 23, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Plainfield Area YMCA, 518 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060  
**Topic:** Children's Mental Health and Wellness  
**Description:** Learn all about mental health problems in children. A discussion about the warning signs of mental illness in children, as well as wellness skills.  
**Speaker:** Emma Shelby, Assistant Director of Wellness and Recovery Services Mental Health Association in New Jersey  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** 2

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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](http://www.fafsonline.org/nominations.html)  
to nominate a  
deserving foster,  
adoptive or kinship  
parent.**

**Visit  
[www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html)  
for updates  
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events.**

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## ABOUT QU'RANAH

*by Liz Carr, Child Specific Recruiter*

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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.