

northern connections

Covering Bergen, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren 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.

Bergen County: Co-Chairs, Arlene Hoffmann and Tracey Bouzoumita

Date: January 19, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps; 93 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
Topic: Education & 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: Carolyn Hayer, Director of Parent and Professional Development
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Date: February 2012
Note: No meeting this month. Bergen FAFS' next meeting will be March 15, 2012 - details TBA.

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.

Hudson County: Chair, Vacant

Date: January 19, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Hudson West Local DYFS Office; Gateway Plaza; 1 Harmon Meadow Blvd.; 5th floor; Secaucus, NJ 07094
Note: Meeting only; no training scheduled.

Date: February 16, 2012 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
Location: Hudson West Local DYFS Office; Gateway Plaza; 1 Harmon Meadow Blvd.; 5th floor; Secaucus, NJ 07094
Topic: Education & 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

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 today.

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is published by Foster and Adoptive Family Services. Story ideas and comments may be sent to FAFS, 4301 Route 1 South, PO Box 518, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852 or e-mailed to: mawrachow@fafsonline.org.

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*Printed by Princetonian
Graphics*

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the NJ Dept. of Children & Families, Division of Youth and Family Services.

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

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Community Based Support

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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

Hunterdon and Warren Counties: *Hunterdon Chair, Vacant; Warren County Co-Chairs, Tammi Fennelly and Cathleen Fischer*

Date: January 23, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Warren Local DYFS Office; 415 East Washington Ave.; Washington, NJ 07882
Topic: Mental Health and Children
Description: Learn about the differences between children and adults' mental health, diagnoses, parental interventions, medications and more.
Speaker: Bill Stover, Assoc. Executive Dir., Family Guidance Center of Warren County
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: TBA

Date: February 27, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Warren Local DYFS Office; 415 East Washington Ave.; Washington, NJ 07882
Note: Additional meeting information was not available at press time. Please visit the new Announcements page of FAFS' website, www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

Morris County: *Chair, Michelle Cannaveno*

Date: January 18, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Morris West Local DYFS Office; 855 Rte.10; East Randolph, NJ 07869
Topic: Securing Technology for Children
Description: An overview of the effects of domestic violence on children and how resource parents can help them cope.
Speaker: Juli Harpell-Elam, JBWS' Community Outreach Coordinator
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Date: February 15, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Morris West Local DYFS Office; 855 Rte.10; East Randolph, NJ 07869
Note: Meeting only; no training scheduled.

Passaic County: *Chair, Catherine Fredericks*

Date: January 13, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Passaic Technical Institute; 45 Reinhardt Rd.; Wayne, NJ 07470
Topic: Education & 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: Carolyn Hayer, Director of Parent and Professional Development
Amount of In-Service Training Hours: 2

Date: February 10, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
Location: Passaic Technical Institute; 45 Reinhardt Rd.; Wayne, NJ 07470
Note: Meeting only; no training offered.

Sussex County: *Co-Chairs, Cheryl Novak and Lisa Santarpia-Hamler*

Date: January 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 for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

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 for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

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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
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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.