

# southern connections

Covering Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties

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

### Atlantic County: *Chair, Otressa Grayson*

**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](http://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](http://www.fafsonline.org/announcements.html) for updates, contact your VC Chair, or call the Hotline at 1.800.222.0047.

### Camden County: *Chair, Vacant*

**Date:** January 10, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Camden DYFS Local Office;  
4 Echelon Plaza; 201 Laurel Rd.;  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

**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

**Date:** February 14, 2012 **Time:** TBA

**Location:** Camden DYFS Local Office;  
4 Echelon Plaza; 201 Laurel Rd.;  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

**Note:** Meeting only; no training scheduled. Please come celebrate Valentine's Day with your fellow foster, adoptive and kinship parents as we talk about the challenges and joys of raising our children in a roundtable discussion.

### Cape May County: *Vacant*

**Date:** January 16, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Cape May Local DYFS Office;  
Courthouse Commons; Bldg. B.; 601 Rt. 9  
South; Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

**Note:** Meeting only; no training scheduled.

**Date:** February 20, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Cape May Local DYFS Office;  
Courthouse Commons; Bldg. B.; 601 Rt. 9  
South; Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

**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

**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.

**southern  
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.

## 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

**Cumberland County:** *Chair, Wendy Baptiste*

**Date:** January 19, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m..  
**Location:** YMCA of Vineland; 1159 East Landis Ave.; Vineland, NJ 08360  
**Note:** Meeting only; no training offered.

**Date:** February 16, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m..  
**Location:** YMCA of Vineland; 1159 East Landis Ave.; Vineland, NJ 08360  
**Note:** Meeting only; no training offered..

**Gloucester County:** *Co-Chairs, Cynthia Glover and Theresa Brown-Glover*

**Date:** January 23, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Mantua Methodist Church; 201 Mantua Blvd.; Mantua, NJ 08081  
**Note:** Meeting only; no training offered.

**Date:** February 27, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Mantua Methodist Church; 201 Mantua Blvd.; Mantua, NJ 08081  
**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

**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. 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.

**Salem County:** *Chair, Bonnie Stevens*

**Date:** January 10, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Quinton United Methodist Church; 50 Rte.49/Main St.; Quinton, NJ 08072  
**Topic:** What Is The Role of The Law Guardian?  
**Description:** Learn about what the Law Guardian does and how he/she can be of service in the court process.  
**Speaker:** Lisa Castinata, Law Guardian  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** 1

**Date:** February 14, 2012 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Quinton United Methodist Church; 50 Rte.49/Main St.; Quinton, NJ 08072  
**Topic:** Adoption Overview  
**Description:** Learn about adoption procedures.  
**Speaker:** Salem County DYFS Adoption Unit Supervisor  
**Amount of In-Service Training Hours:** TBA



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

#### 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

#### 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

#### FAFS Board of Directors

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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  
on all FAFS'  
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.