

## Married 50 years, and still on fostering honeymoon

John Humphreys married Sally Malone on March 14, 1953. Still in their late teens, neither had any idea that the future held more than 370 children for them. One year later, when Sally was pregnant with their first child, they had already helped out younger members of their family by providing them with a place to live. After the birth of their second child two years later, it had become second nature to have others with them as part of their family.

In 1971, John and Sally, of Loves Park, saw an advertisement about the need for foster parents. Their own family line-up at that time was: Steve at 16; Rodney, 14; Jo Anne, 13; and Tammy was 6. Still, foster parenting seemed the natural progression for them. A short time later, after meeting the legal and medical requirements (there was no classroom training required then) their first foster child moved into their home. A seven-year-old blond girl, 'Jane' seemed very quiet and shy. After moving Jane into the room she was to share with Tammy, all seemed quiet until the house was suddenly filled with the strains of "Hang on Sloopy" from Jane's record player. Sally fondly recalls that moment, knowing that Jane would fit right in!

Hanging on has been a personal theme for Sally. "Only by hanging in there, can you see the payoff," she advises.

Now, 32 years later, the Humphreys have helped care for 369 children, in addition to their four birth children. They have adopted two children and have guardianship of another. Their legacy includes seven children and 13 grandchildren. Rodney and his wife have adopted two children, and Tammy and her husband have been foster

parents for 13 years and have adopted a child. She has also been a Foster PRIDE trainer for nine years.

The Humphreys are proud of their children's continued involvement in helping other children and families in their churches and communities.

Through the years, their personal experience has also benefited other foster families. Sally worked for many years as a Master Foster Parent, mentoring and supporting foster parents when they had problems or concerns. She was also a member of the team that developed the PRIDE Training that all incoming foster parents must complete. She is a Master Trainer and enjoys helping others prepare for foster parenting. Sally also works as an adoption support specialist for DCFS.

The enormity of the family's contribution truly hit home when John and Sally recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The whole family sang in church that morning. Hundreds attended their open house, including some former foster children. Their children and grandchildren put on a fun skit to the old disco song, "We are Family," demonstrating that God and family have been the central theme in the Humphreys' lives for all these years.



*Sally and John Humphreys have cared for 369 children so far...*

## New contacts for Northern Region licensing and resources

**Gregg Fliehler** is now the new program manager responsible for the Northern Region Licensing/ Resources, Agency Performance Team (APT) and Adoption. He will be working with staff in field offices throughout the region. To the right is a list (according to field office) of the licensing workers for DCFS-supervised homes and the counties they cover. Some of these assignments are on an interim basis until vacancies can be filled.

Aurora and Elgin Field Office:	Lydia Dial, Kathleen Hesson and Colleen Woolwine	Kane & Kendall
DeKalb Field Office:	Sue Zarlenga	DeKalb & Ogle
Freeport Field Office:	*Joan LeBlanc	Stephenson and Jo Daviess
Glen Ellyn Field Office:	Mary Hofmann	DuPage
Joliet Field Office:	Doreen Rogers Kevin Williams	Grundy, part of Will Will
Kankakee Field Office:	Marla Abdallah and Donna Vandermark	Kankakee
Rockford Field Office:	Nester Estrada, Deb Schlosser and Jeanine Wang	Winnebago
Sterling Field Office:	Joan LeBlanc	Lee, Whiteside and Carroll
Waukegan, Round Lake Beach and Woodstock Field Offices	*Lydia Dial, *Kathleen Hesson, *Colleen Woolwine and Sue Zarlenga	Lake and McHenry

\* Indicates assignment on an interim basis

### Northern News

#### Regional Reporter

Diane Mitchell  
DCFS Reporter/Editor  
107 N. 3rd Street  
Rockford, IL 61107  
Phone: 815-967-3830  
Fax: 815-967-3737



Call with foster parent association news and schedules; local training; features on foster families and community members working for children; photos; and news articles and support all foster families can use.

### Agency supports pre-adoptive families

Adoption Advocacy International (AAI) is a local organization that supports pre-adoptive families. Current foster parents and those thinking about becoming a foster or adoptive parent may have questions or be confused about adopting a child. Adoption Advocacy International, located in Lisle, has a FREE mentoring program for pre-adoptive parents. Mentors can help with such services as:

- Working through school issues such as education rights for special needs children
- Assisting with forms and paperwork,
- Providing someone to talk about adoption,
- Assisting families in understanding their rights and responsibilities

For more information on Adoption Advocacy International, call Karen Kasterin, associate director at 630-960-6530.

## Learning doesn't have to stop in the summer for Northern Region students

Children acquire skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning never has to stop. Children who read throughout the summer *gain* skills, can start the new school year with a better understanding of language and the world around them, and discover the joy of reading. The more they *like* to read, the more they *will* read.



It's not hard to help your children keep their interest in reading and learning. Children learn through a variety of activities, and almost everything we do presents an opportunity to read. When you're eating breakfast, read the cereal box; if you're in a restaurant, read the menu. Read the newspaper with your children and discuss what's happening in the world.

If you have concerns regarding your child's progress in reading, contact the appropriate Education Advisor in the region.

**RHONDA BEST**  
Education Advisor  
DCFS  
107 N Third Street  
Rockford, IL 61107  
(815) 967-3750

**Counties Served:**  
Boone, Carroll, DeKalb,  
JoDaviess, Kane, Kankakee,  
Lee, Ogle, Stephenson,  
Whiteside, Winnebago

**MITCH KREMER**  
Education Advisor  
DCFS  
500 N Green Bay Road  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847) 249-7840

**Counties Served:**  
DuPage, Grundy, Kendall,  
Lake, McHenry, Will

You can make sure your children's summer vacation is enriching and entertaining by introducing them to new experiences, encouraging them to pursue their own interests – and combining reading and writing with their new adventures.

Throughout the summer, take advantage of local resources and everyday activities by reading with your children and helping them learn. For example:

- Check out the library. Take your children to the library regularly. See if your library has a summer club, story hours, or other reading events.
- Visit parks, zoos, and nature centers. Visit the library afterward to get books on favorite animals and field guides to help identify wildlife in your area.
- Go to museums, science centers, and historical sites. Many have extended summer hours, special exhibitions, and hands-on activities for children.
- Check out local arts. Summer events often include summer stock theater, puppet shows, out-door concerts, and craft fairs.
- Read up on your trip. If you are traveling, involve your children in the planning. Read about the trip together and highlight your route on a map.
- Encourage pen pals. If your children will be separated from good friends for the summer, suggest that they write to each other. If they have access to e-mail, have them write online.
- Share the fun of reading. Encourage your children to swap books with their friends. Host a book party and invite the guests to come dressed as their favorite character.

Adapted from: Reading Is Fundamental toll free: 1-877-rif-read or [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)

# Northern Region Training Calendar

## FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

**Module 1** - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children* (Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

**Module 2** - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 3** - *Addressing Developmental Issues Related to Sexuality* (One 3-hour session = 3 training hours)

**Module 4** - *Responding to the Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 5** - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 6** - *Working as a Professional Team Member* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 7** - *Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 8** - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 9** - *Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 10** - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families* (Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

### College of DuPage Area 630-942-2392

	Module
<b>AURORA - Comfort Suites City Ctr.</b> September 6 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	7
<b>CRYSTAL LAKE - Country Inn &amp; Suites</b> August 20 (Wed) & 6:30-9:30 p.m. August 23 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	2
<b>ELGIN - Crowne Plaza Hotel</b> September 23 (Tues) & 6:30-9:30 p.m. September 27 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	8
<b>GLEN ELLYN - College of DuPage</b> September 6 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. September 17 (Wed) & 6:30-9:30 p.m. September 20 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	6
<b>JOLIET - Country Inn &amp; Suites</b> September 22 (Mon) & 6:30-9:30 p.m. September 27 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	8
<b>KANKAKEE - Lees Inn</b> September 9 (Tues) & 6:30-9:30 p.m. September 13 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	5

### Other In-Service Trainings

**Transcultural Parenting Training**  
**WAUKEGAN - Ramada Inn Waukegan**  
August 20 (Wed) & 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
August 23 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Understanding Attachment Disorder**  
**GLEN ELLYN - College of DuPage**  
September 6 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### Rock Valley Area 815-921-2301, ext. 2305

	Module
<b>DEKALB - DCFS</b> September 8 & 15 (Mon) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	9

### Other In-Service Trainings

**Transcultural Parenting Training**  
**ROCKFORD - TBA**  
September 10, 17 & 24 (Wed) 6:00-9:00 p.m.

## Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

### College of DuPage Area 630-942-2392

<b>AURORA</b> August 30 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sept. 9 & 11 (Tues/Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	<b>Comfort Suites City Ctr.</b>
<b>GLEN ELLYN</b> August 16 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<b>College of DuPage</b>
<b>JOLIET/ROMEOVILLE</b> September 20 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<b>Country Inn</b>
<b>KANKAKEE/BOURBONNAIS</b> August 9 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<b>Lees Inn</b>
<b>WAUKEGAN</b> September 6 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<b>Ramada Inn</b>

### Rock Valley Area 815-921-2301, ext. 2305

<b>DEKALB</b> September 13 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	<b>DCFS</b>
<b>ROCKFORD</b> August 16 & 23 (Sat) 1:00-4:00 p.m.	<b>The Bell Building</b>
	<b>IETC</b>
Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	

**Pre-registration is required  
for all classes!**

**Call the number listed for your area.**