

# Illinois Families Now and Forever

Families by DCFS Foster Care, Adoption & Guardianship®

## State celebrates Foster Parent Appreciation Month

From  
the  
DCFS  
Director



May, Foster Parent Appreciation Month in Illinois, comes near the half-year point in my tenure as Director. When I look back on what has taken place so far and what we face, my respect and gratitude for our foster caregivers goes even deeper. I hope all of our families will take some time this month to reflect on the many good things that come from the hard job you perform.

Governor Quinn's proclamation for Foster Parent Appreciation Month stated that, "foster parent caregivers tirelessly tend to children's physical, emotional, material and educational needs, providing them the opportunity to move from the child welfare system to safe and successful lives."

Official acknowledgements are important, but they only go so far. Perhaps the most valuable reward would be the sentiments from someone who can sincerely speak to foster care in a very unique, personal way. This letter from Carissa gets to the heart of Foster Parent Appreciation Month. I pledge to take her experiences into account as we move DCFS forward.

— Richard H. Calica

Carissa Wesley, age 22, described in a letter how she felt when she and her sister were taken into DCFS care. The excerpts that follow speak to the girls' traumatic entry into the system, their placement in foster care with Jeff and Robin Simpson and Carissa's gratitude for a positive foster care experience.

### Initial shock

"My name is Carissa Wesley. On December 16, 2005 my world was flipped upside down. Sitting in Spanish class, my teacher gets a call from the office, letting her know to let me know to grab my things... Well, I get to the office and there sits my principal and a police officer... They go on to say that my biological mother was taken into custody... Anyway, they told me that if family couldn't take me, then we would be placed in foster care. The sad thing was that I had a place to go, but they couldn't separate siblings. So after a failed attempt, they had me ride in the police car to the junior high where my younger sister went to school.

### Welcoming family

When we left the office [the caseworker] took us to the family's home. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know where Odin was, and it was dark, plus we were out in the country. As we pulled in the driveway there was [sic] cars and lights and a lot of movement. Walking up to the front door, we were greeted by a house full of people. But, from the moment we walked through that door the Simpsons did nothing but make us feel like part of the family.

### Lifelong impact

Yes, I may be out on my own and no longer in care, but they are more of a family than my own has been. I keep in contact with the Simpsons. In fact, Jeff said that when the day comes for me to get married that he would give me away.

My point to all of this is that a good, loving, caring foster home can impact a child's life. Had they not cared the way they did for us then, I'm not sure I would be here writing this letter to you. I've had so many more chances in life, met new people, learned new things, advocated for other youth.

Had I not been placed in a good home the first time, I would have been in a group home waiting for the day I could age out.

You may not see things from our point of view, but I have seen good foster parents lose kids because the real parents "cleaned up," but that rips not only the kids up but the foster parents too. They get attached and it's as if they were losing their own kids. I guess what I'm asking is that you truly see what is going on and see what is best for not only the kids, but the foster parents as well."



# MOVIN' ON UP: SAVE THE DATES

## *News for youth as they transition to adulthood*

Older youth are about to embark on a busy season with DCFS. The end of spring brings several special events designed to educate and encourage teens and young adults who are involved with DCFS.

The Division of Service Intervention is celebrating academic accomplishments with a graduation celebration in each DCFS region. Those youth in care or

those formerly under DCFS care who earned a high school diploma or GED or completed a vocational program are invited to attend.

There will also be four Youth Summits that will provide teens skills to help them successfully achieve self-sufficiency.

Save the date for the events listed below. More information will be

sent directly to families with youth ages 14 to 21 who are still in care. Youth who are adopted or in guardianship can also take part in the events by calling one of the support staff below.

### **Cook/Northern regions**

Tony Lawlor, 312-401-5462

### **Central/Southern regions**

Leshonda Rogers, 217-789-2908

#### **Central Region**

*Graduation Celebration*  
June 8, 10a.m. - 3p.m.  
Executive Mansion  
Springfield

*Youth Summit*  
June 28, 8a.m. to 4p.m.  
Miller Park Pavilion  
Bloomington

#### **Cook Regions**

*Graduation Celebration*  
June 29, 12 to 4p.m.  
Location TBA

*Youth Summit*  
June 14, 8a.m. to 4p.m.  
IL Institute of Technology  
Chicago

#### **Southern Region**

*Graduation Celebration*  
June 22 (time TBA)  
Splash City  
Collinsville

*Youth Summit*  
June 21, 8a.m. to 4p.m.  
Kaskaskia College  
Centralia

#### **Northern Region**

*Graduation Celebration*  
June 18, 1 to 4p.m.  
Brunswick Zone  
Aurora

*Youth Summit*  
June 15, 8a.m. to 4p.m.  
Kishwaukee College  
Malta

## Caregiver families invited to State Fair August 10-19 in Springfield

DCFS continues the annual tradition of offering caregivers a special invitation to attend the Illinois State Fair.

Complete and return this page by June 22 and in July you will receive by mail:

- A pass that includes parking and admission for all passengers in the car for one \$3 fee.
- 1 refreshment ticket for each family member, worth \$3 in food or drink.
- One ride ticket for each family member that provides unlimited rides for \$15 (during designated hours ONLY on August 13-17)

### **MAIL OR FAX NO LATER THAN JUNE 22, 2012**

**DCFS Office of Communications**  
406 East Monroe Street, Station 65  
Springfield, IL 62701-1498  
Fax: 217-524-0014

*Tickets may not be requested by telephone. Nothing will be sent to you unless you return this coupon. This is the only invitation to the state fair. Please act NOW if you wish to attend.*

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ family members in our party.

Number of vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ (limit 2)

(If requesting more than 8 tickets, please print the name and phone number of your licensing or subsidy worker.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Home supervised by:  DCFS  private agency

Post Adoption/Guardianship:  yes  no

Name of Agency/DCFS Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Worker's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*We are a licensed foster family, relative caregiver, a guardianship family or have adopted a child through DCFS, and we would like to attend the 2012 Illinois State Fair. We understand that only our foster, adopted and guardianship children and family members who live in our home consistent with DCFS licensing regulations are eligible for these special offers.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Illinois Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Bulletin

The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council traveled to Effingham for the March meeting.

**Foster Parent Law:** The council concluded the evaluation process for the 2012 Foster Parent Law Implementation Plans. Several plans were nominated for special honors. Representatives from three foster care programs will join the June meeting to receive awards. Meanwhile, council members continued the on-site reviews at agencies to gauge the plans' impact on caregivers and staff.

**Television campaign:** The council had an opportunity to weigh in on the next installment of the public service commercials for the "Foster Kids Are Our

Kids" television campaign. Anne Klassman of Voices for Illinois Children said that the organization would consider recommendations the council made as it prepares for public roll out.

**Priority issues:** At the start of the year, Director Calica asked the council to look into ways to enhance the relationship between caregivers and the staff that support their efforts. The council formed a committee to address that need and will also develop a set of other critical issues.

**Elections:** Council members set the ballots for chair and vice chair. Results from the vote will be announced in June 8 meeting so terms can start in July.

*The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council was founded in conjunction with the Illinois Foster Parent Law. Membership consists of caregivers, agency representatives and other experts in child welfare, who are appointed by the DCFS Director. The mandated positions for caregivers are spread among the DCFS regions.*

*The council holds open meetings at least six times a year, and more as needed, in locations around the state.*

*The next meeting of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council will be on June 8 at 9 a.m. in Downers Grove.*

*Call the Office of Caregiver and Parent Support at 217-524-2422 for details.*



## *New phone line for post-adoption info calls*

Caregivers who have moved to permanency through adoption or guardianship can find answers to questions and information about services by calling a new phone line that serves the entire state.

The new phone line to the Call Center is 1(888) 96 ADOPT. This is the number to use with questions about the subsidy, to get approval for additional services and to provide updates to contact information or other changes.

The centralized system was first piloted in Cook County and many

**Post-Adoption & Guardianship  
toll-free phone line  
1-888-96-ADOPT  
(1-888-962-3678)**

benefits came to light early in the process. Calls can be directed to the right subsidy worker who can respond. Calls are also tracked to improve response time and to ensure that the matter is resolved.

"We are very pleased with the level of service and responsiveness that the new system provides our caregivers," said June Dorn, DCFS Statewide Adoption Administrator.

The direct line phone numbers for the subsidy workers are still in place. However, the new central number will come in handy if you do not know the exact individual who may be of help or if you have a general question about services after the adoption or guardianship.



*The DCFS Office of Caregiver and Parent Support and the DCFS Office of training presented the 2012 Caregiver Institutes. The theme was "I've Been Through Some Things," and focused on helping caregivers support children affected by trauma.*

*The six-hour sessions included panel discussion with youth, interactive presentations and time for networking. The four institutes served hundreds of families throughout the state.*

---

# Foster Parent Law defines caregivers' rights and responsibilities

Before 1995, the rights and responsibilities for the individuals providing foster care were not clearly defined. Without a clear job description, caregivers, agencies and DCFS had struggled in placing caregivers' rights and responsibilities within child welfare policy. It took a lengthy, coordinated effort from individual caregivers, foster care advocacy organizations, legislators, and child welfare personnel to bring about the Foster Parent Bill of Rights. That document provided the foundation for the Foster Parent Law, signed on June 3, 1995.

The Foster Parent Law clearly defines 15 rights and 17 responsibilities for all Illinois families who provide foster care to children in DCFS care. The statement of rights helps foster caregivers, agencies and DCFS regions know what role caregivers will play on the child welfare team and the consideration they should receive. The statement of responsibilities helps caregivers know what will be expected of them and gives a clear understanding of the general expectations they should have of the foster care agency or DCFS regional foster care program.

The Foster Parent Law also established the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council to advise DCFS about foster care issues. The council also has the responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Foster Parent Law.

Details and the full text of Foster Parent Law are included in the Foster Family Handbook. Caregivers can also request their foster care program's annual Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan to see how it upholds the Law. The DCFS Office of Caregiver and Parent Support at 217-524-2422 can provide further information.

## Caregivers have the right to:

1. Be treated with dignity, respect and consideration
2. Be provided pre-service and appropriate ongoing training to improve skills
3. Be informed on how to receive supportive services from the agency
4. Receive timely financial reimbursement commensurate with child's service plan
5. Be provided a clear, written understanding of the plan concerning the child's placement and how it will support his family relationship and cultural identity
6. Fair, timely and impartial investigations of licensing complaints
7. Receive additional information to assist in the care of a child while in placement
8. Receive specific information from DCFS and private agencies listed in Children and Family Services Act and the Child Care Act of 1969
9. Be notified of scheduled meetings and staffings in order to participate in case planning and decision-making
10. Be provided, before placement, with any information a caseworker has that is pertinent to the child's care and the permanency plan
11. Receive written notice of any change in a child's case plan or of plans to terminate the child's placement, along with the reasons for the change or termination
12. Timely notification of court hearings and right to intervene or request mandamus
13. Be considered as a placement option when a foster child who was formerly placed with the foster parents re-enters DCFS care
14. Access the existing appeals process with the assertion that the appeal will be free from acts of harassment and retaliation.
15. Be informed of the Foster Parent Hotline and the rights for foster parents when reporting misconduct by child welfare personnel

## Caregivers have the responsibility to:

1. Communicate and share information with the child welfare team
2. Respect the confidentiality of information about the child and his family
3. Advocate for children in the care of the foster parent
4. Treat the child and his or her family with dignity, respect and consideration
5. Recognize their individual and family strengths and limitations and to utilize appropriate supports as appropriate
6. Be aware of the benefits of relying on and affiliating with other foster parents and foster parent associations
7. Assess their ongoing training needs and take action to meet those needs
8. Strategize with agency representatives to avoid placement disruptions and support the child if disruption occurs
9. Recognize the impact of foster care on relationships and take steps to minimize stress as much as possible
10. Positively promote the benefits of foster parenting
11. Know the role, rights and responsibilities of foster parents, other professionals in the child welfare system, the child, and the child's own family
12. Know and fulfill their role as a mandated reporter and know policies regarding allegations that foster parents have committed abuse or neglect
13. Know the purpose of and to participate in Administrative Case Reviews, client service plans and court proceedings
14. Know the child welfare agency's appeal process
15. Maintain accurate records
16. Share information about the placement with subsequent caregivers/parents
17. Provide care that respects the child's cultural needs supports the relationship between the child and his or her own family

## Caregivers have their say in May for Appreciation Month

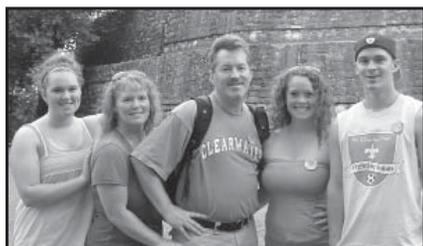
*In honor of Foster Parent Appreciation Month, we asked Northern Region caregivers: What aspect of foster care makes you feel appreciated for what you do?*



Fostering for me is a journey of sharing great love that is endless and has brought my life inevitable joy. It is a continued journey of giving a child choices, chances and a large sense of hope. Foster care is helping that child share in yesterday's memories, today's joy and tomorrow's dreams. It is the foundation of my being.

What I've appreciated the most with fostering is hearing one of my children say to me, "Thank you for helping me." She also said, "If I could have chosen a foster parent, I would have chosen you." When my Erica said those words to me, I knew I had made a difference in someone's life.

**-China Robinson**



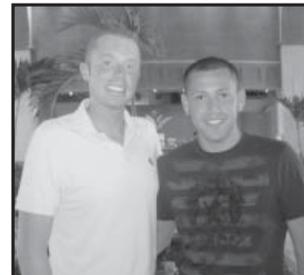
First, biological relatives of our foster children have recognized the care we are providing and have thanked us. Second, we feel appreciated by the

affirmation and actions of caseworkers, CASA, DCFS through their 'Illinois Families Now and Forever' newsletter, and community organizations that sponsor parties and events for foster families. Third, we consistently feel support and appreciation from friends, family and our church family. These people regularly ask how things are going, what challenges we are facing, and how they can help. Their genuine support helps us feel appreciated and as if we have an extended community to raise and nurture our children. Finally, watching the children demonstrate positive growth emotionally, academically and socially is a great source of encouragement.

**-Derin Fowler and family**

The best part of being a foster parent is the ability to work with children who truly need help for a certain period of time and to watch them grow and adapt to

new surroundings. Words cannot describe how rewarding it is to watch the children make progress in all aspects of their lives after suffering sometimes unfortunate situations. This also includes helping their birth parents understand their child's needs in order to be successful when they return home.



We became foster parents because we wanted to help not only the children, but also the families that they came from. I have watched the children I have worked with thus far make such tremendous progress with a little love and stability. We hope to continue helping people within the foster program because we know we have a lot of love to give to others.

**-Bryan Pottow & Fernando Valdivia**



We started looking into becoming foster parents when our biological daughter was four years old. From the start of the process to becoming foster parents DCFS was very helpful in returning our calls and helping us with paperwork to get us going. We knew we could count on social workers getting back to us if we had a question. Our first adoption was an interstate adoption. South Dakota and Illinois worked together with us to make the adoption happen. DCFS also had to work with my (Rose's) Native American tribe in South Dakota for this adoption. We ended up adopting a beautiful little boy.

We kept our license in case a child needed a home, and so it happened a little girl came to us. She was our foster child for five years until we adopted her just last year. Throughout those five years we dealt with social workers, therapists and everyone else involved. I always knew we had help when we needed it. They were always thanking us for our role as foster parents. They explained the legal process to us when it came time to adopt our foster child. We adopted one more little girl. So our family is complete. It has been a wonderful experience for us overall, but when we hit rough patches DCFS worked with us and pulled us through.

**-Greg and Rose Godfrey**

---

## Families can find support among caregivers in a nearby group

One of the responsibilities in the Foster Parent Law is to “Be aware of the benefits of relying on and affiliating with other foster parents and foster parent associations.” DCFCS, private agencies and community organizations sponsor many support groups and associations to assist foster and adoptive parents. The following list can help identify a group that may suit your family. This list will be updated annually. Please contact the Editor at [vanessa.james@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.james@illinois.gov) with any corrections or additions for next year

### **Adopted Kids World**

Contact: Deb Rosengren at 630-530-7917  
[Debbie@adoptedkidsworld.com](mailto:Debbie@adoptedkidsworld.com)  
Meets monthly. Call for schedule.  
Focuses on families who adopted children age five and older.

### **Adoptive Families Today**

[www.adoptivefamilies.today.org](http://www.adoptivefamilies.today.org)  
Serves families in Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry and Kane counties.

### **Adoptive Families Together**

Contact: Jocelyn McMahan at 815-969-8836, ext. 4115 or [jocelyn.mcmahan@lssi.org](mailto:jocelyn.mcmahan@lssi.org)  
Meets first Tuesday from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
321 W. State St., 5th Floor, Rockford  
Open to all types and stages of adoption  
Snacks provided.

### **Children’s Home + Aid Specialized Foster Parents Educational/Support Group**

Contact: Donna Kasper at 815-962-1043  
Meets third Tuesday from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Children’s Home + Aid Northern Region  
910 2nd Ave., Rockford

### **Children’s Home + Aid Support Group for Adoptive and Guardianship Parents**

Contact: Lynda Nguyen at 815-962-1043  
Meets second Tuesday of the month  
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  
Children’s Home + Aid Northern Region  
910 2nd Ave., Rockford  
Childcare is provided.

### **DeKalb Area Adoptive Families**

Contact: Diane DeMers at 815-756-3874  
Email: [Ballantine@aol.com](mailto:Ballantine@aol.com)  
246 Rolfe Rd., DeKalb  
Serves families in DeKalb and nearby counties.

### **DCFCS Regional Foster Parent Advisory Council**

Contact: Robyn Harvey at 815-793-5847  
Meetings rotate among locations throughout the region.  
Call for schedule or teleconference info.

### **Family Focus Foster Support Program**

Contact: Juana Ruiz at 630-844-2550 or [juana.ruiz@family-focus.org](mailto:juana.ruiz@family-focus.org)  
Meets third Monday of the month  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
1575 Reckinger Rd, Aurora  
Dinner and childcare provided.  
Open to foster families in DuPage and surrounding counties.

### **Fox Valley Adoption Group**

Contact: Maureen Van Scoit at 630-844-9385  
968 Wellington Circle, Aurora  
Serves families in DuPage, Kane, and Kendall counties.

### **Family Focus- Grandparents & Relatives Raising Grandchildren (GRRG)**

Meets third Tuesday of the month  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
1575 Reckinger Road, Aurora  
Contact: Juana Ruiz @ 630.844.2550, ext.239 or [juana.ruiz@family-focus.org](mailto:juana.ruiz@family-focus.org)  
Dinner and child care provided.

### **Illinois Mentor Support Group**

Contact: Sally Humphreys at 815-282-6153 x21  
Meets second Thursday of each month  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Illinois Mentor office  
6701 Clinton Road, Loves Park

### **Lutheran Social Services of IL Foster Parent Group**

Contact: Sharon Franklin at 815-284-7796 ext. 2108  
Meets fourth Monday of the month  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
1261 Illinois Route 38, Nachusa

### **Metropolitan Family Services Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Contact: Kelly Reid at 630-784-4839  
Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Pizza served to families and child care provided for with prior notice for ages 3 to 12

## Message from the DCFS Northern Region

**Debbie Palmer-Thomas**  
Regional Administrator



*I always look forward to this part of the year because I can take more time to really focus on how important caregivers are to what we do. When the challenges are so great and the responsibilities so intense, it can be easy to get weighed down.*

*Our children and families face very real and difficult circumstances that we can't ignore or minimize. However, your determination and dedication make it possible to remain hopeful. By your patience during the "meltdowns" and your perseverance to help complete the science fair projects, you bring light to the darkest times. That light shines brightly on most days. It may dim occasionally, but you don't let it go out.*

*I have to thank you for being a light. As you help children, you also spread your light to all of us who are here to support you. You inspire us as we together help our youngest and most vulnerable youth. You give us good reasons to work hard and to offer our services while treating you with dignity and respect, as you deserve. Our Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan gives pages of specifics on how we will do that. It is a plan that is active and guides us daily, not just during Foster Parent Appreciation Month.*

*Still May is important and I do hope you and your love ones will set aside some time this month to reflect on the special family you have created through foster care. All of the staff and administration of the Northern Region are looking forward to honoring your efforts and showing our appreciation.*

### Get all the news without the paper

Illinois Families Now and Forever is now available for digital download. Caregivers who prefer to enjoy the newsletter electronically can participate in a pilot program.

Households that opt for the online version of the newsletter will still have access to all the information contained in the mailed copy. However, the digital version will be more convenient, more timely and more eco-friendly.

DCFS is committed to providing families the information you need in a way that is efficient, preserves resources and safeguards future funding.

To sign up for the electronic newsletter, send an email to the Editor at [vanessa.james@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.james@illinois.gov).

## Northern Region Caregiver Training

DCFS Office of Training has scheduled sessions of in-service training modules and other courses in locations across the Northern region.

To get specific dates and locations, visit the on-line Virtual Training Center (VTC) anytime at [www.DCFStraining.org](http://www.DCFStraining.org) or call the DCFS Office of Training at 877-800-3393 during business hours. In addition to classroom courses, caregivers can also take advantage of videos, books and online training.

### MAY/JUNE

Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (15 Hours)      Waukegan

Module 1 (12 hours)      Naperville

**Caregivers that have completed licensing can take the in-service modules. These are scheduled throughout the region at different times. They are also available on CD so caregivers can learn at their convenience if they cannot come to an in-person session.**

Module 1 - Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children at Risk (12 hours)

Module 2 - Using Discipline to Protect, Nurture and Meet Developmental Needs (9 hours)

Module 4 - The Sexual Development of Children and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (9 hours)

Module 5 - Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families (9 hours)

Module 6 - Working as a Professional Team Member (9 hours)

Module 7 - Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity (6 hours)

Module 8 - Promoting Permanency Outcomes (9 hours)

Module 9 - Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family (6 hours)

Module 10 Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children and Families (15 hours)

Module 12 - Understanding & Promoting Pre-Teen and Teen Development (6 hours)



## Illinois Families Now and Forever

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Richard H. Calica, DCFS Director  
Published by: DCFS Office of  
Caregiver and Parent Support

Editor: Vanessa James  
Phone: 312-814-6824  
Fax: 312-814-4131  
E-mail: [vanessa.james@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.james@illinois.gov)

Sponsor: Debbie Palmer-Thomas,  
DCFS Northern Regional  
Administrator

### Regional Reporter

Colleen Woolwine  
595 South State St.  
Elgin, IL 60123  
Phone: 847-888-7635  
Fax: 630-844-8968  
[Colleen.Woolwine@illinois.gov](mailto:Colleen.Woolwine@illinois.gov)

Graphics: Jenny Florent  
Produced by: DCFS Print Shop

**Purpose:** To help busy families more effectively parent children currently or formerly in DCFS care. To bring them the best information from the most knowledgeable sources. To promote statewide teamwork in finding permanency for children.

**Address Changes:** Families must notify their licensing representative, who will notify DCFS. Agencies should change office addresses or request staff copies through the Editor.

*Illinois Families Now and Forever* is published six times a year, bi-monthly, and mailed to licensed foster parents, unlicensed relative caregivers, adoptive and guardianship families receiving subsidies. An electronic version is sent to all DCFS staff, and private agency staff.

Material may not be reprinted in whole, in part or in any form whatsoever without permission from the Editor or DCFS. Opinions expressed by experts writing articles are no substitute for professional answers or opinions about a family's or child's specific situation. Consult a competent professional for answers to your specific questions.

Department of Children and Family Services©

Illinois Families Now and Forever  
Vanessa James, Editor  
Department of Children & Family Services  
100 West Randolph - 6th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PRESRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SPRINGFIELD, IL  
PERMIT NO. 763

### Inside this issue:

- Page 1** Illinois Celebrates Foster Parent Appreciation Month
- Page 2** Movin' on Up: Upcoming Events
- Page 3** Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Bulletin
- Page 4** Your Foster Parent Law Rights and Responsibilities
- Pages 5-6** *NORTHERN NEWS*: Regional News
- Page 7** Northern Region Training Information

Current and back issues of *Illinois Families Now and Forever* are available online in English and Spanish at [www.state.il.us/dcf](http://www.state.il.us/dcf)