

# Illinois Families Now and Forever

Families by DCFS Foster Care, Adoption & Guardianship®

## Keep past connections strong during holiday season

**D**uring the hectic pace of the holiday season it can be difficult to keep track of everything that is happening with the children under my own roof. One needs a red turtleneck for the holiday pageant, but another needs black. But...do I actually buy the shirt, because he might not even get to perform since he had detention and missed rehearsal. Then to that mix I also try to extend our holiday plans to children who were in our family through foster care but have moved on. It can be a struggle to maintain those relationships. However, for the 14 years that my husband and I have been licensed for foster care, knowing that we have some lasting, positive bonds with kids (now adults) is the best holiday present we could receive.

We decided early on that family is family, no matter where you are living. In our house, we give the kids new pajamas on Christmas Eve. After two of our girls moved to independent living, I drove over with their packages. Teenagers taller than me still flipped for footed pajamas.

On the surface, this connected concept may seem to be a simple message to preach, but like most things with foster care, it can get “complicated.” If a child was once in your home and now isn’t, the

circumstances around leaving might dictate how much contact you can or should or even want to have. For example, two kids placed with us returned home after several years. We worked things out with their mom and now, 10 years later, we still occasionally meet for coffee. On the other side of the coin, there is one half of a sibling set whose phone calls I eagerly accept, but the other goes to voicemail until I am in the “right frame of mind.” Then there was the year that I ate Christmas dinner early so I could leave for a second dinner with a child at a treatment facility 90 miles away. It was complicated and more than a little awkward, but I am glad I made the effort.

A caseworker or counselor can help you navigate this territory so you can decide what will work for you and the children involved. You may decide to try to locate that one who crosses your mind every so often. Given enough time and placements, most caregivers will experience an “OTGA” or the One That Got Away. In my case, she decided against adoption, went to a group home and eventually moved to another state. Now she is 25 and, as of September, we are Facebook friends. It turns out she had been looking for me too. She sent a message saying how much she learned from her time at home with

### Tales from the Kitchen Table

by Vanessa James, Editor

us. She had come to appreciate it in a way she couldn’t at 15. No sane person goes into foster care looking for glory. Fortunately, just like labor pains, memories of teenage angst fade with time. I was just glad to hear that she had landed on her feet. Now that I have an address, there may even be a pair of pajamas in her future.

When a child moves out, whether it be a transition that is completely natural or intensely disruptive, it is going to be emotional. It is important to take the long view. The child who holds the record for our most volatile departure is now the most grounded and stable young adult out of the bunch. I would have missed all that if I had not kept the door open at least a crack. I started in foster care because of my husband’s belief that every child, but especially every adult, needs someplace to call home for the holidays. Hopefully you too can find a way to honor all the relationships you have created with children, whether or not they are still under your roof.



## From the DCFS Director

Erwin McEwen

The calendar is winding down, but the state fiscal year is only at the mid-point. I am pleased to report that we are making good progress that has been recognized locally and nationally. Illinois recently received two sizable federal grants. With one grant we will build off of the successes we have seen in our trauma-informed approach to meeting children's needs. We will engage highly-skilled caseworkers and well-trained caregivers in a project to move youth to permanency sooner. The second grant will provide funds to recruit more permanent families, especially for older youth.

As we continue to see the total number of youth in care decline to less than 15,000, we have an opportunity to think rather than react. We can examine and plan for the resources families truly need to be safe and to be made whole. Your contribution as caregivers is vital. You know that the children who remain in care are often those with the most needs. Still, you welcome them when they are ready to "step-down" from residential placements. You willingly share parenting duties as children prepare to reunite. Perhaps this holiday season you will host a student who needs a place to call home during the semester break.

Your gift of caring is one that you share throughout the year. I sincerely hope that 2011 finds your family healthy and happy.

## Kwanzaa tradition can build family bonds

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. The Kwanzaa celebration is a way to explore aspects of the African culture and build bonds within the family and the larger community. It is celebrated from December 26 through January 1 by an estimated 26 million people around the world. The tradition centers on the Kwanzaa symbols and the seven Nguzo Saba (principles) of Kwanzaa, which each get a day of devoted attention.

To celebrate Kwanzaa, the family chooses a central place in the home for the Kwanzaa Set, or the symbols of Kwanzaa. The set includes a table covering of African cloth, the mkeka (mat) and the kinara (candleholder).

The kinara holds seven candles to represent the seven days of Kwanzaa and the seven Kwanzaa principles:

- *Umoja* (unity)
- *Kujichagulia* (self-determination)
- *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics)
- *Kuumba* (creativity)



- *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility)
- *Nia* (purpose)
- *Imani* (faith)

Each night of Kwanzaa during the evening meal, the family members light one of the seven candles to commemorate the principle of the day. Everyone explains what the principle of that day means to them and how they practiced it during the day. Finally, everyone makes a commitment to practice and promote the particular principle throughout the year. Families can head into the new year, connected, focused and inspired.

For more information on the Kwanzaa holiday, visit [www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org](http://www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org)

## *Keep learning fun and creative over holidays*

These are just a few websites that offer free directions for crafts and activities, spanning a range of ages and interests.

### **KidsHolidayCrafts.com**

Find holiday and seasonal crafts, puzzles and other activities for younger kids.

### **amazingmoms.com**

Look at this website for craft projects and gifts that kids can make as presents.

### **[holidays.kaboose.com](http://holidays.kaboose.com)**

This website features recipes and directions for creating ornaments and gift projects.

### **[familycrafts.about.com](http://familycrafts.about.com)**

The site has crafts and templates for making your own gift tags and cards.

### **[familyeducation.com](http://familyeducation.com)**

In addition to the many educational resources, under the Holiday tab of printable files, there's a free booklet of Christmas Carols.



# Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Bulletin

## Illinois earns research grants

Deputy Director Shaun Lane brought good news to the Council's October meeting. Illinois was awarded a federal grant to reduce the number of youth in foster care long-term. Illinois was selected as one of only six state programs. Our state agency will receive \$10 million over five years to test how more intensive trauma-focused, therapeutic practices can reduce the time youth ages 9-12 spend in foster care before achieving permanency. The youth in the project will have cases managed by master's degree level caseworkers who will receive additional support. Caregivers will receive additional training.

Illinois has also been awarded a \$2 million federal grant to carry out the

Recruitment and Kin Connections project. The five-year project will target recruitment efforts to establish permanency for youth ages 14 and older in Cook County, as well as children entering into temporary custody in Cook and Champaign counties.

## Annual meeting with Director

The Council's leadership meets with the DCFS Director to determine priority issues in the coming year. This year the Council will focus on, among other things, increasing engagement with parents, youth and staff; addressing placement stability; and providing input to new DCFS initiatives. The Director asked that the Council consider ways to meet the unique needs of relative caregivers.

## Respite care

The Council also recently made recommendations to the Director concerning respite care, seeking to:

- Increase uniformity or consistency of respite provided by foster care agencies
- Increase resources for respite.

Lane reported that DFCS has already taken steps to address specific respite provisions in new contracts for specialized foster care programs. With traditional programs, respite provision is "embedded" in the overall rate agencies receive. More work is needed to determine how respite is delivered to those families. The council will continue to follow that issue.

*The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council was founded as part of 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 6 times a year, and more as needed, in locations around the state.*

## Statewide council welcomes newest members

Danny Tolliver is the new member to represent Cook South. He takes the place of Valerie Gill-Taylor, whose term expired. Tolliver introduced himself as a foster parent of 14 years. He began foster care when his half-brothers came into the system. He became fully licensed to care for unrelated children. He has since adopted three children. Through foster care and guardianship, he currently has six children at home.



Danny Tolliver

Lee Coffman will represent the Central Region. She and her husband have learned a lot in 21 years of foster care. She finds it very fulfilling. She especially enjoys the foster care conferences and makes a point to attend them. Right now there are five children at their Mattoon home, ranging in age from 18 months to 18 years old.



Lee Coffman

**The next meeting of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council will be on January 14, beginning at 9 a.m. in Aurora. Call the Office of Caregiver and Parent Support at 217-524-2422 for details.**

## Holiday season is the right time to host sibling visits



For children in foster care, regular visits with siblings can preserve connections when they have to be in separate homes. Visits can often soften the traumatic impact of separation and contribute to their long-term mental health. DCFS recognizes the power of sibling connections and will provide foster caregivers assistance and payment as they do their part in visits.

### Visitation requirements

DCFS rules require that sibling visits among youth in DCFS care occur at least two times a month for a minimum of two hours each for all siblings placed apart.

Exceptions to twice-monthly visits include:

- A court order requiring less frequent or no visitation
- Requests by the child for less frequent or no visitation (requires regular counseling)
- Risk of physical, emotional or mental harm from the visit. (requires documentation)

If siblings are in residential care or

are placed more than 150 miles apart, visits may be less frequent. However, visitation may not be reduced based on the unavailability of a visit supervisor or as a form of discipline.

These requirements only apply to youth in DCFS care. After adoption, visitation is still an important factor for the adoptive family to consider, but it is not mandated by DCFS. The adults have to determine what will work best for the children and families involved.

Besides adhering to the rules, visits between siblings can have benefits for the child and the caregiver. Some caregivers find that visits can influence behavior in a positive way. Knowing that there is a stable connection in a child's life builds trust and that can lessen the trauma of being separated from key family members.

### Reimbursement Available

Foster caregivers who help children have visits with their siblings in foster care can be reimbursed

for supervising the visits and providing transportation. A foster parent who hosts an overnight or weekend visit in their home can be reimbursed \$100 for supervising the visit. Supervising shorter visits is reimbursed at \$25 an hour for up to four hours. Reimbursement for supervising visits is capped at a maximum of \$100 per month. Driving a child to or from a visit is also eligible for reimbursement at the rate of \$0.50. per mile (as of January 1). The maximum reimbursement for travel each month is capped at \$50.

The child's caseworker can help foster parents complete the form (CFS 315) for reimbursement. They can fill it out together during a home visit or the caseworker can complete the computerized version and bring a copy for the caregiver to sign. Sometimes caregivers participate in visitation, but don't complete the paperwork to be paid. This reimbursement could be a way to set aside extra funds for movies, dinner or activities for the next visit, but the caregiver has the freedom to decide how to put it to use.

If a caregiver is unable or decides not to host sibling visits or transport a child to sibling visits, it is still important to provide positive support to the worker and the youth. Foster parents see the compounded trauma of children who are separated from their siblings. Respecting and encouraging on-going family relationships sends a powerful message to a child. Caregivers with questions about sibling visitation or the reimbursement process should contact the child's caseworker.

*This form is a reprint of a document originally developed at the request of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council.  
It is intended to ease the transition when adding a new child to the family.*

## Checklist for New Foster Care Placements

There are many details to keep track of when a new child is placed with a family. This chart can help foster parents keep track of the important tasks and information.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Case ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Caseworker: \_\_\_\_\_

Caseworker's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

	Done (if applicable)	Date Due/ Scheduled	Notes
<b>Initial Placement with DCFS</b>			
Receive 906 Placement/Payment Authorization Form			
Receive initial clothing voucher			
Receive initial infant equipment voucher			
Arrange/follow up on report of initial Comprehensive Health Screening			
<b>New Foster Home Placement Day One (upon Placement)</b>			
Receive 906 Placement/Payment Authorization Form			
Receive child's current Medical Card			
Receive supply of current medication(s)			
Receive Health Passport			
<b>Week One</b>			
Enroll in school (within 5 days)			
Note upcoming court dates (plan to attend if needed)			
Change primary care physician with Healthworks			
Receive last medical exam report			
Receive last eye exam report			
Receive last dental exam report			

Clip and add to your Foster Parent Handbook or files

	Done (if applicable)	Date Due/ Scheduled	Notes
<b>First Month</b>			
Complete medication log (turn in monthly)			
Schedule therapist appointments			
Schedule psychiatrist appointments (as needed)			
Obtain refills for medications			
Plan for sibling visits (host if needed)			
Plan for/host family visits			
Schedule home visit by caseworker			
<b>Within Three Months</b>			
Attend family meeting for youth undergoing Integrated Assessment (within 40 days)			
Attend quarterly staffing with agency/DCFS			
<b>Within Six Months</b>			
Attend ACR			
<b>First Year</b>			
Obtain new medical exam			
Obtain new dental exam			
Obtain new eye exam			
Attend ACR			



## Adoption Tax Credit could mean a refund for families at tax time

For tax year 2010, the Adoption Tax Credit is refundable for the first time. This means that even families who owe no income tax can get the credit as an increase to their tax refund. In fact, anyone who adopts a child should file a tax return for 2010 to claim the adoption tax credit – even if there is nothing else to report or claim on the tax return. The maximum credit is \$13,170. A family who adopted a child in a prior tax year and has a carryover adoption credit may get an additional refundable credit on their 2010 return.

For most adoptions, the credit is based on out-of-pocket expenses such as adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees and travel expenses. However, the credit amount for someone who adopts a special needs child is the entire \$13,170, regardless of the amount of adoption expenses, even those covered in the subsidy agreement. Caregivers should note that the amount of credit received is

reduced for taxpayers with income over \$182,520. A taxpayer claiming the credit cannot file electronically and is required to attach documents to the tax return to verify the adoption.

As caregivers prepare for tax season, they can consult a tax professional and or look to these free publications at the Web site for the Internal Revenue Service at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

- Pub. 17, Your Federal Income Tax
- Pub. 501, Exemptions, Standard Deduction and Filing Information Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses
- Topic 607, Adoption Credit

*This information was provided by the Center for Economic Progress, which offers free tax preparation services for families with income less than \$50,000. For more information, call 888-827-8511 or visit the Web site at [centerforeconomicprogress.org](http://centerforeconomicprogress.org).*



## Movin' on UP

*For youth transitioning to adulthood*

Young people have a lot to say about their time in care. More importantly they have a platform to talk about the issues and policies that affect their lives. DCFS sponsors regional youth advisory boards that meet each month. The boards foster positive decision-making and leadership skills as the young people learn from each other and from the adult advisors.

The youth boards meet in Cook County, Southern, Central and Northern regions. Elected officers from the regional boards serve on the Statewide Youth Advisory Board. That group travels across the state to discuss issues that have broad impact for youth in varying living situations.

In September, the statewide board met jointly with the adults on the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council. To get things started, both the groups joined in an icebreaker to get to know each other and find common ground. Then they discussed ways to involve more young people in the local advisory boards. Their brainstorm resulted in a proposal for Director McEwen to enlist the six DCFS regional administrators in efforts to increase attendance at every local board meeting. Both councils hope that caregivers will also encourage youth in their homes who are age 14 to 20 to join a local advisory board.

For more information on the Statewide Youth Advisory Board, contact Antwan Turpeau at 312-663-3574.

# Spotlight was on National Adoption Month in November

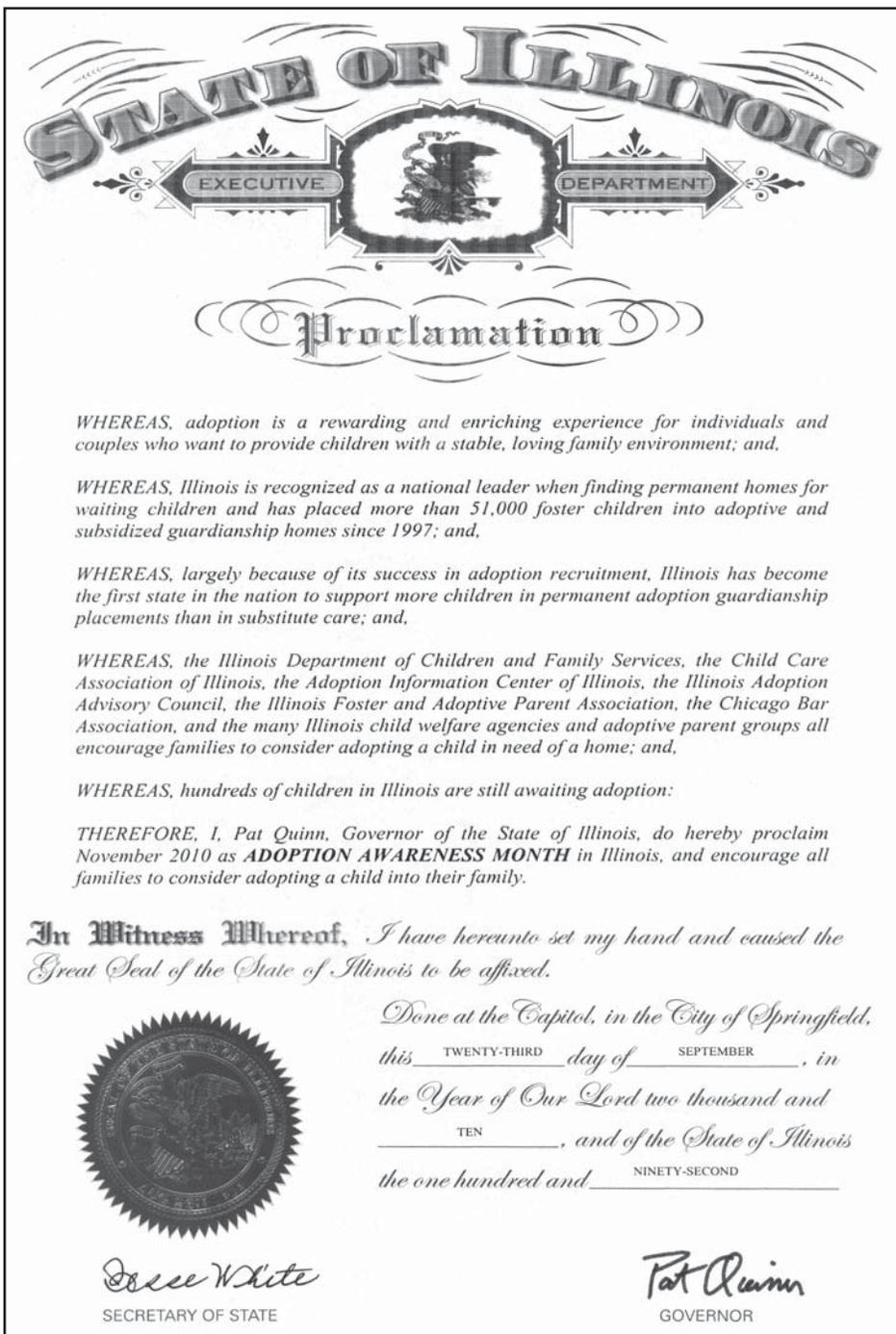
## Illinois Adoption Advisory Council Update

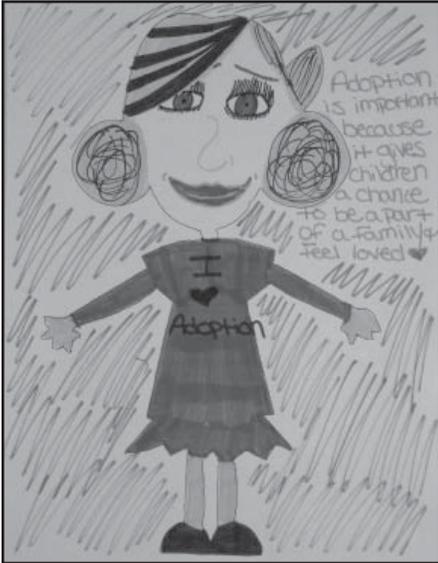


The Illinois Adoption Advisory Council met jointly with the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council on November 19. This annual tradition allows both councils to discuss child welfare policy that affects caregivers while doing foster care and after moving to adoption or guardianship. The councils met in Springfield at the Governor's Mansion. After the official meeting, council members moved to the State Library for a special Adoption Month Celebration event.

The Adoption Council arranged a full slate of activities to share with the adoptive community in Sangamon County. Children enjoyed a "reading rug" where adult volunteers read adoption-related storybooks. The council also provided a reading list that families could use at home. Staff from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois were on hand to lead families in a lifebook mini-workshop. Children were able to make an individualized lifebook page with a commemorative photo.

The memory of the festivities will be preserved in a CD that the council created to raise awareness of the far-reaching impact of adoption. Adoptive parents recorded first-person accounts of how adoption changed their families. They spoke of the importance of policies and programs that help their families thrive.





“Ten years ago I never would have imagined that we would be able to say that we have only 15,000 kids in care from 50,000. That is because of the work you have done in adoptions. It is a miracle,” said Director McEwen.

In addition to the activities at the State Library, communities across the state and the nation sponsored Adoption Day celebrations. National Adoption Day was designated on Saturday, November 20 this year. Courtrooms held special weekend sessions to finalize adoptions for families.

“The Adoption Council looks forward to this celebration each year. Adoptive families are special and deserve special recognition all year,” said James Jones co-chair of the Adoption Advisory Council.

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**The next meeting of the IL Adoption Advisory Council will be on Friday, February 4 at 10 a.m. in Bloomington. Call the Office of Caregiver and Parent Support at 217-524-2422 for details.**

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## *National Adoption Excellence Award for IL family*

The Welenc family of Chicago had an early present this fall when they received an Adoption Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. DCFS nominated Jerry and Adrienne Welenc in the category of Individual/Family Contribution.



**Jerry Welenc (center) with son Brian and daughter Susan went to Washington DC to receive the 2010 Adoption Excellence Award.**

“Both Jerry and Adrienne have done so much to make foster care and adoption better for their family and for families across Illinois,” said June Dorn, Statewide Post-Adoption and Guardianship Administrator.

The Welenc family includes eight by adoption or guardianship plus their two children by birth. In more than 40 years of foster care they have impacted nearly 100 children.

Along with raising a family, Jerry and Adrienne advocated for families in countless ways. She served as a Lead Foster Parent Support Specialist in the Cook Central region. He was a leader in the region’s foster parent advisory council. They both served on the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council. There they helped draft the “Foster Parent Bill of Rights,” the precursor to the Foster Parent Law. Jerry remembers being at a foster parent conference when then Governor Jim Edgar made the special announcement that he had signed the bill into law in June of 1995.

The Welences would often load up

their car to travel to Springfield, giving a voice to the needs of caregivers at countless legislative hearings. They fought for fair treatment of older caregivers and for increases in the foster parent board rate.

They also battled on the home front. They organized food drives and collections for clothing and school supplies. Adrienne worked directly with the foster and adoptive caregivers in Cook Central. She carried two pagers. One was for her role as a foster parent support specialist. The other was one that she paid for so adoptive families who had moved out of state could reach her with their questions. Even while fighting cancer, she still focused on others. Adrienne passed in July. She knew that DCFS had nominated her and Jerry, but she was not present for the news. Yet, the legacy of her work and commitment is evident in her own family and in the Illinois families who benefit now because of Adrienne and Jerry Welenc.

## Who do you call when...

**...A child in your home is having a psychiatric crisis that may require hospitalization?** Call the CARES line at 800-345-9049. However, if a child is a danger to himself or others, call 911 first. The CARES line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**...You want information on becoming a foster parent or on adoption?** The Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) can answer your questions and connect you to a licensing agency. The toll-free number is 800-572-2390. The AICI also maintains information about the children who are featured on the back page of the newsletter.

**...You have questions about your board check?** Call DCFS Central Payment Unit at 800-525-0499 if your check comes from DCFS. For other checks, contact your private agency.

**...You feel you aren't being treated fairly by DCFS or a private agency?** If you've tried to resolve the issue by going up the chain of command with the caseworker and supervisors, then call the Advocacy Office at 800-232-3798.

**...You have questions about your child's medical card?** Call 800-228-6533.

**...You need to report a child missing or have information about a youth who has run away?** To report information on missing youth call 866-503-0184. The toll-free number is available 24 hours a day every day of the week.

**...You are having a family crisis with your adopted child?** Contact the Adoption/Subsidized Guardianship Preservation Program that serves your area. Call Christine Feldman at 312-814-1565 for more information.

**...You have an idea for an article in the newsletter?** Each region has a regional reporter to help gather local news. The names and contact information are listed in the regional section of each edition. Or you can contact the Editor, Vanessa James, at 312-814-6824 or E-mail [vanessa.james@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.james@illinois.gov).

**...You are having a hard time getting services for your child at school?** Most private agencies have an Education Liaison and each DCFS region has Education Advisors who can help. Call your agency or nearest DCFS office to be connected to the right educational resource for your area.

**...You want to report suspected abuse or neglect?** Call the Hotline at 800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873). The toll-free number is available 24 hours a day every day of the week. All calls are confidential.

**...You want to find or register for foster care training?** For the most up-to-date and complete schedule information for classes offered in your area, visit the on-line Virtual Training Center anytime at [www.DCFstraining.org](http://www.DCFstraining.org) or call the DCFS Office of Training at 877-800-3393 during regular business hours.



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

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Department of Children and Family Services©

## A family for me: Call 1-800-572-2390 for more information



DeKari (C7828)

**DeMani & Dekari [C7827-28]** DeMani, age 12, is a polite young man who does his best to please others. He is warm and engaging; qualities that have won him many friends at school and in his neighborhood. He is also highly articulate, and is able to express himself clearly and appropriately. DeMani's nine-year-old brother, DeKari, is an energetic young man. He enjoys spending time with his brother and with other children his own age. DeKari can be shy at times, but he is also very polite and has made several friends.



DeMani (C7827)

The boys' foster parents say they are a joy to have in the home. They are generally cooperative and well-behaved. In their spare time, they enjoy riding bikes and playing outside.

Potential parents for DeMani and Dekari would be able to provide a loving, caring home for these boys, and strive to meet their emotional needs. You would be willing to work with educators and other professionals who will help them adjust to your home. DeMani and DeKari would like to live with a family that will love and care for them. The ideal family would also consist of two parents. Any children in the home should be older than DeMani and DeKari.



Denee (C7619)

**Denee [C7619]** Denee, 13, is a personable, easygoing young lady with a wide variety of interests. She enjoys playing the flute and participates in band. She also likes to read and is comfortable sharing what she learns with others. When the weather is nice, Denee likes spending time outside playing lacrosse and softball. She loves taking care of animals and spends a lot of time with her foster family's dog.

Denee's teacher says she is a hard worker who has made progress academically, especially in reading. Denee's worker says she has positive relationships with the other children in her foster home.

To be the family for Denee, parents should be confident and self-assured, and able to provide unconditional support for Denee. You would monitor her behavior closely, redirecting her when necessary. You could also help Denee maintain contact with her father and maternal grandmother. The ideal adoptive family would include older girls or women who could



Fijuan (7787)



Josen (C7760)

serve as role models. Denee says she would like to live with nice, caring people who would love her and adopt her. She would like to join a family that has pets and older siblings.

**Fijuan [C7767]** Fijuan, 10, is a polite and respectful child who has no trouble meeting people's expectations of him. Although he struggles to relate to children his own age, Fijuan does get along with adults and older children quite easily. One of his favorite activities is bowling. In fact, Fijuan is so taken with the sport that he becomes very excited when he learns he is going to a bowling alley and has a tendency to talk about the experience for hours afterward.

Fijuan's teachers say he is well-behaved and works hard to complete his tasks. His foster parent says he does well in the home, despite not being a "morning person." Everyone who meets Fijuan is struck by how polite he is.

The forever family for Fijuan would encourage him to focus on schoolwork and stress the importance of education in his life. You would also work with various professionals to ensure Fijuan's medical, educational, and emotional needs are met. Fijuan says he would like to live with a family that will let him ride his bike a lot. Other children in the home should be older than Fijuan.

**Josen [C7760]** Josen, 10, is an outgoing and energetic young man. He enjoys playing soccer, riding his bike, and spending time outdoors. Josen is also personable, polite, and easy to get along with. He enjoys playing with animals and always has a smile on his face. Josen's teachers say he is a very polite child. Josen's foster parent says he enjoys, and responds well to, structured activities.

The forever family for Josen would provide a loving, structured home environment for him. You should encourage him to acclimate to your home while showing patience and understanding throughout his transition. You would also make Josen's education a priority, working closely with teachers, counselors, and other professionals to make sure his needs are met. Josen should be the only child in his adoptive home.



Please call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois at 1-800-572-2390, or see the AICI Web site – [www.adoptinfo-il.org](http://www.adoptinfo-il.org) if you are interested in adopting one of these children or learning about other children waiting to be adopted.

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## SAVE THE DATE: 2011 Caregiver Institutes

March 5      Cook County Regions in Chicago  
March 19     Central Region in Springfield  
March 26     Southern Region in Mt.Vernon  
April 2       Northern Region in Joliet

Registration details will be in the next edition of IL Families Now and Forever.

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