

Recent Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care Meetings—Aug. 25 and 30, 2011

Agencies and congregations met to network together to address the current needs of foster children in Michigan. And once again we heard several outstanding speakers.

At our August 25 Eastside Wayne County Faith Communities Coalition meeting, Trina Richardson shared her personal and professional love and enthusiasm for adoptive children. We met her son, Noah as well as her husband who serves at Evangel Ministries.

Trina has expanded her outreach to faith based communities through the Michigan Department of Human Services and invited all to the September 18 event from 3:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Greater Grace Temple at 23500 west Seven Mile Road, Detroit, MI. to recruit adoptive and foster parents. There is a goal now to recruit over 1300 foster and adoptive parents by next year. For more information please call 231-398-8497.



We also heard about a suggested over-all calendar for donation drives as well as saw maps of Oakland and Wayne counties that showed the locations of various service agencies, thanks to Matt And Jennifer Parker- Wrzeszcz.

On August 30 at the Mid-Oakland F.C.C. meeting, Lorraine Weber of “For the Seventh Generation” spoke. She



showed us how we can log on to the innovative web-based clearinghouse which matches foster children’s needs with services and goods that congregations can provide. Here is an example of a news items you can run in your congregation’s or organization’s announcements. Please sign up as well as pass this along:

Opportunities to Help Children in Foster Care

Do you know an orthodontist or an optician? There are several children in foster care who need braces or new glasses. Or, do you have a hobby or skill to share such as support in computer, music, art, dance and other life enhancing skills? Do what you love and teach a

foster child or youth to love what you do. Go to www.fortheseventhgeneration.org to learn more about “For the Seventh Generation,” an on-line clearinghouse that connects children in foster care desperately needed volunteer services from their community.

At that same meeting, Sheri Falvay, Director of Services to Children and Families at the Michigan Department of Community Health (falvay@michigan.gov) gave a power point presentation, “Understanding Trauma Affected Youth and Families.” She stressed that “*If we don’t look for or acknowledge trauma in the lives of children and adolescents, we end up chasing behaviors and limiting the possibilities for change.*” She described what trauma means, the types of trauma, the responses to trauma, and factors that impact trauma responses. She outlined essential elements of care-giving:

1. Recognize the impact trauma has had on the child’s behavior, development, and relationships.
2. Help the child to feel safe.
3. Help the child to understand and control overwhelming emotions.
4. Respect and support positive, stable, and enduring relationships in the life of the child.



In addition, Cheryl Geisa of Judson Center invited all to participate in the current "Feet on the Street" initiative which culminates at the Kinship and Adoption Festival on Saturday Sept. 24 from 11 a. -2 p.m. at Wayne County community College, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48219. Trina Richardson of the DHS encouraged all who are interested in learning more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent to attend the Sunday, September 18 gathering at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit.

Please note the following dates and locations of upcoming meetings of SOCC's Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care meetings:

Thursday, September 15, 2011 6:30PM Mid-Michigan Mott Regional Tech Center 1401 E. Court Street, Rm. 1403 Flint, MI 48503.

Thursday, October 6, 2011 6:30 PM Washtenaw St. Luke Lutheran Church 4205 Washtenaw Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (right next to the County Services complex) MYOI Youth Panel to speak

Monday, October 10, 2011 6:30 PM Western Wayne Faith Community Presbyterian Church 44400 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375 Exploring resources that focus on November as Adoption Awareness Month.

Thursday, November 3 6:30 PM Eastern Wayne Grosse Pointe Memorial Church 16 Lakeshore Drive Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 6:30 PM Mid Oakland Kirk in the Hills 1340 West Long Lake Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 Michigan Department of Human Service Director Maura Corrigan and others to speak about the urgent need for foster and adoptive parents and mentors for Michigan's children. Area agencies will have information booths for families to learn more about how to get involved. Reservations requested. To reserve a spot or to register your agency for a booth, please contact

Katie Page Sander, Director of the Save Our Children Coalition, soccproject@umd.umich.edu.

Hope to see you at one of these soon!

Kate Thoresen, Coordinator of Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care,

A community outreach branch of the Save Our Children Coalition, Katie Page Sander, director,

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