

Family Connections

Volume 15, Issue 1 | 2016

Scholarships Available for Attachment Conference

A child's journey through foster care can sever attachments again and again. When relationships are not stable, children often learn that they cannot trust others. According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, "Children who do not have healthy attachments have been shown to be more vulnerable to stress. They have trouble controlling and expressing emotions, and may react violently or inappropriately to situations."

Parenting a child with attachment challenges can be very difficult. The knowledge and skills needed to support a child with Reactive Attachment Disorder can be hard to find.

Fortunately for Missouri families, the ATTACH conference is coming to St. Louis and 80 scholarships will be available to foster/adoptive families.

ATTACH (www.attach.org) is an international coalition of professionals and families dedicated to helping those with attachment difficulties. They offer an annual conference, and this year, the conference will be held from Thursday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 25th at the St. Louis Union Station Hilton, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103.

The State of Missouri and the Missouri Adoption Resource Centers are offering 80 scholarships for foster/adoptive families who are parenting children experiencing attachment challenges. The scholarship will cover the cost of the 3-day registration fee, as well as lodging for three nights for one person. The scholarship does not cover additional travel expenses, parking, or any food not provided as part of the conference.

For consideration of this scholarship, recipients must:

- Agree to attend all three days of the conference
- Stay at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel (if you live outside of the St. Louis region)
- Complete the application included in this newsletter

Scholarships are granted on a rolling basis. As there are 80 scholarships available, early submission is recommended and increases your chances of acceptance.

There are a total of 47 workshops offered at the conference, divided into tracks for:

- Parents
- Child Welfare/Social Service
- Sensorimotor/OT
- Education
- Introductory Professional
- Intermediate/Advanced Professional



Conference Schedule	
Thursday, September 22nd	
6:00pm	Parent Night (food, fun, relaxation and entertainment!)
Friday, September 23rd	
7:30am	Registration
8:30-10:15	Keynote: Sheila Frick, OTR/L, "TRE from a Developmental Sensory-Motor Perspective"
10:30-Noon	Workshop Period 1
1:00-2:30	Workshop Period 2
2:45-4:15	Workshop Period 3
4:30-5:00	Debriefing Session for Parents
5:30-7:30	Reception (networking, appetizers and cash bar)
Saturday, September 24th	
7:00 am	Open Yoga Class
8:30-10:30	Keynote: Daniel Hill, PhD: "Relational trauma and the Clinical Realm of the Hyper- and Hypo-arousal"
10:45-12:15	Workshop Period 4
12:15-1:30	Lunch on your own
1:30-3:00	Workshop Period 5
3:15-4:45	Workshop Period 6
5:00-5:30	Debriefing Session for Parents
Sunday, September 25th	
7:00 am	Open Yoga Class
8:30-10:00	Workshop Period 7
10:15-11:45	Workshop Period 8
12:00-2:00	Closing Panel and Luncheon

The complete conference program can be found at www.attach.org.

In the meantime, if you are a parent supporting a child with Reactive Attachment Disorder, you may find answers to many of your questions in a book written by ATTACH, *Hope for Healing: A Parent's Guide to Trauma and Attachment*. It is available on www.attach.org for \$27.00.



Full Scholarship Application Form

28th Annual ATTACH Conference

St. Louis, Missouri | September 22-25, 2016



The State of Missouri and Missouri Adoption Resource Centers are offering 80 scholarships designed to assist foster/adoptive families who are parenting children experiencing attachment challenges. The scholarship will cover the cost of a 3-day registration fee as well as lodging for three nights for one person. The scholarship does not cover additional travel expenses, parking, or any food not provided as part of the conference.

For consideration of this scholarship, recipients must:

- Agree to stay all three days of the conference
- Stay at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel (if you live outside of the St. Louis region)
- Register online for the conference

Scholarships are granted on a rolling basis. As there are 80 scholarships available, early submission is recommended and increases your chances of acceptance.

To apply, fill out the information below and send it to your nearest Adoption Resource Center:

CMFCAA

809 Swifts Hwy, Jefferson City MO 65101
ccfosteradopt@gmail.com
fax: 573-616-1202

Foster Adopt Connect Springfield

509 S. Cavalier, Springfield, MO 65802
heathers@fosteradopt.org
fax: 816-350-0085

Foster Adopt Connect KC

18600 E 37th Terrace, Independence, MO 64057
heathers@fosteradopt.org
fax: 816-350-0085

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

1750 S. Brentwood Blvd., # 210, S. Louis, MO 63144
shamelehill@foster-adopt.org
fax: 314-241-0715

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please Check All That Apply: ☐ Foster Parent ☐ Adoptive Parent ☐ Kinship Parent ☐ Guardianship Parent

Reason For Applying: (Continue Onto An Additional Page As Needed)

Policy Updates



Required Reading Resource for in-Service Training Credit

CD15-61: The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a new resource, Supporting Youth in Foster Care in Making Healthy Choices. This guide is a resource that is to be read by resource parents in addition to the currently required, Making Healthy Choices: Guide to Psychotropic Medications for Youth in Foster Care. This required reading for the first year of resource home licensure was introduced with other required trainings as a result of the workgroup created in response to recommendations from the Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Resource Homes Task Force Memo CD14-24. There will continue to be a one hour in-service training credit for reading the two documents.

Introduction to Human Trafficking and Revised Missing Person Report Procedure (CD15-64):

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide key information regarding human trafficking as it pertains to child welfare. The federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 requires states to develop policies and procedures to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children who are at risk of becoming a sex trafficking victim or who is a sex trafficking victim.

When a child is determined to be missing from their placement:

- The case manager must notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) within twenty-four (24) hours. This can be completed by calling 1-800-THE-LOST or by completing an online report to NCMEC. The website for online reporting is: <https://cmfc.missingkids.org/reportit>. Staff will be required to complete an online account prior to submitting a report.

When a child returns or is recovered from a runaway episode:

- The case manager should notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) of the child's return.
- Once a child is located, the case manager must talk to the child to determine the factors that led to the child's absence and their experiences while they were gone.
- Questions to ask include, but are not limited to:
 - What made you leave your placement?
 - Where did you go when you left?

- How did you take care of yourself while you were gone?
- Did you have money? How did you get money?
- How did you eat?
- Where did you sleep?
- Who helped you while you were gone?
- Did you have to do anything in exchange for their help?
- Did anyone hurt you?
- Did you do anything that made you uncomfortable?
- Are you worried about anything that happened to you while you were away?

If the child provides information indicating they were abused or involved in trafficking, the following must occur:

- The case manager must immediately contact the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU) to make a report of child abuse and neglect. The case manager should inform the hotline of any suspicion of involvement in human trafficking.
- The case manager should ensure that law enforcement is notified of the concern.
- A referral to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) should be made for a forensic interview to further explore the child's experiences in care if there is an indication the child was abused or trafficked.
- The case manager must contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or make an online tip report at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/report-trafficking.
- Arrange for a medical examination of the child within twenty-four (24) hours of the child's return.

Protecting Foster Youth From Secondhand Smoke Exposure

(CD15-75): The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a new approach to promote good health for foster youth. If there are smokers in the resource home, the plan to protect foster youth from secondhand smoke exposure is to be included in the Home Assessment. Missouri law tasks the Children's Division with placing youth in the division's care and custody, in homes that safeguard and promote their present and continuing good health and in homes that will not commit any act or engage in any conduct that would be injurious to the child's health.

A new training to educate resource providers about exposure to secondhand smoke is now required. The PowerPoint presentation, Protecting Foster Youth from Secondhand Smoke Exposure is self-taught and is located on the Children's Division's Foster Parent Information Internet page. All new resource applicants for providing foster care services must complete the training prior to licensure or approval. Currently licensed and approved resource

providers may complete the training and receive a one hour in-service training credit using code V113, Secondhand Smoke Exposure.

The Notification of Hazards (CD-101) has been revised to include a checkbox to indicate which household members are smokers. Currently licensed and approved resource providers who smoke or have any individual living in the home who smokes will need to complete the CD-101 at time of renewal.

Child Abuse/Neglect Definitions (CD15-76): The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce additions to child abuse/neglect definitions as defined in the Missouri Code of Regulations 13 CSR 35-31.010. The legal definitions must be utilized by staff when making a determination whether abuse or neglect has occurred. These definitions became law on November 30, 2015 and can be viewed at <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/2015/cd15-076.pdf>.

Changes to Children's Treatment Services (CTS) (CD16-01): The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce changes to Children's Treatment Services (CTS) contracts. Several changes to the CTS contract have been made including: combining therapeutic and supplemental service contracts, the addition of services, the removal of some services, and setting fixed rates. All services will now be paid through FACES Financials under the client who is authorized for the service. Numerous changes have been made to individual services in an effort to move toward more effective treatment services grounded in evidence-based practices. This memorandum also introduces the Children's Treatment Services Catalog.

Safe Sleeping Environments for Young Children (CD16-03): The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff of safe sleeping guidelines in response to a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) request and critical event recommendations. The goal of this memo is to assist staff in understanding their role and responsibility in providing preventive education about safe sleep practices to families and individuals caring for children under the age of two.

Despite research and statistics about the importance of safe sleep, the number of babies who die in adult beds and other unsafe sleep environments is on the rise. According to the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Missouri has experienced a 46% increase over the last two years in the number of infant deaths due to unsafe sleeping practices.

Conclusion Summaries; Revisions to the CA/N Disposition Form Letter (CS-21) and Family Assessment Disposition Notification Letter (CS-21a); Changes to the Administrative Review Process (CD16-05): When writing a preponderance of the evidence (POE) investigative conclusion summary, staff must

include the category of abuse or neglect, list the elements of the corresponding category, and provide a succinct summary of the evidence proving each element of either abuse or neglect. Other information should not be placed in the conclusion summary of investigations. Information regarding prior *(continued on page 4)* history, protective capacities, cultural diversity, etc. should not be used to make a determination on an investigation and should be placed in the narrative. The investigative conclusion summary should only include factual information based on the evidence.

For any report that is substantiated by a POE, staff shall mail the CS-21 to the alleged perpetrator by certified mail. If the certified letter is returned as undeliverable, staff must re-send the CS-21 to the alleged perpetrator through regular mail. Circuits may choose to send letters certified and through regular mail simultaneously. If both letters are returned as undeliverable, staff should take other efforts to ensure the CS-21 is provided to the alleged perpetrator including, but not limited to: Investigating whether the alleged perpetrator has moved and mailing the CS-21 to the new address; Making a home visit and delivering the letter in person.

If an alleged perpetrator discovers they have been placed on the Central Registry and reports they were never notified of the finding, staff should examine the case record to determine if proper notice was provided. Delayed notification and right to the appeal process may be provided on a case-by-case basis when the record indicates proper notice was not provided. If the investigation is over six (6) months old, a referral to the Division of Legal Services (DLS) should be made to determine how to proceed. If a delayed notification is provided, the alleged perpetrator's name must be removed from the registry until the new appeal process is exhausted.

Alleged perpetrators may now email requests for administrative reviews to: DSS.CD.ADMINREVIEW@DSS.MO.GOV

**Stay current on all Children's Division policy
by visiting www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos**

FosterAdopt Connect New Location

FosterAdopt Connect is proud to announce its newest location to serve families in the Northwest region. The newest office is run by volunteers and is located at 211 East Third in Downtown Cameron, MO. The location is proud to offer the following services:

- Supervised visitation for families in a living room-style atmosphere.
- Advocacy for foster/adoptive families.
- Training/support groups both in the location and via social media. Interested parties should message the page to request to be added at www.facebook.com/groupsnorthwestmissourifosterparents/

- A fully stocked 1,200 sq. ft. clothes closet complete with clothing, supplies, and equipment for children in foster and adoptive care.
- A partnership program with area counselors to provide therapeutic services in the Cameron office for children and youth.

Those interested in volunteering, learning more, or using any of the above services should contact Executive Director Derek Williams either by phone at 816-649-5007 or by email at derekw@fosteradopt.org.

Are you a foster or adoptive parent? We need your help!

Graduate student researchers of the Institute of Family Diversity and Communication at the University of Missouri, Alyssa Bish and Maria Butauski, want to learn about how foster and adoptive families share information within and outside of the family, as well as how foster and adoptive parents talk to children about their birth parents.

Participation is anonymous and voluntary, and should only take about 20-30 minutes of your time! Follow this link for more information or if you would like to participate:

goo.gl/rdOAMc

Your time is greatly appreciated. Please share with anyone who meets our participation criteria: 1) 18 years or older and 2) have had a child in your care via foster or adoption.

Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Northeast Region

Suzie Forbis | 573-881-7339
srforbis@gmail.com
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kander04@aol.com

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Rep 2 Vacant

Southwest Region

Rep 1 & 2 Vacant

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Linda Hosman | 816-699-3960
lindahosman@yahoo.com
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Rep 1 & 2 Vacant

St. Louis County

Kelly Floyd | 314-598-1334
Kelly.floyd@edwardjones.com
Michelle Martin | 314-607-3029
ammempowerment@yahoo.com

Foster Care Associations

Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association

Lori Ross | 816-686-0463
rross600@aol.com

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

Nickie Steinhoff | 800.FOSTER.3
nickiesteinhoff@foster-adopt.org

Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association(CMFAA)

DeAnna Alonso | 573-298-0258
deanna@ccfosteradopt.com

Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association Southern Region

Leon Fisher | 417-866-3672 | leon@mfcaa.org

Office of the Child Advocate

Kelly Schultz | 866-457-2302
kelly.schultz@oca.mo.gov

Join the Board of Directors

The Children's Division supports foster parents through the on-going work of the State Foster Care and Adoption Advisory Board. The board consists of two parent representatives from each area of the state as well as participation from the foster care associations, and Office of the Child Advocate. Parent representatives are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

Individuals interested in applying for a Board position may obtain an application at boards.mo.gov. The State Statute that created the Board and outlines the duties may be found by visiting www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/stathtml/21000006171.html.

To review meeting notes visit dss.mo.gov/cd/fostercare/foster-care-adoption-board/



Map of Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board Regions

Board of Directors Update



These are exciting times in Jefferson City, Missouri for the Missouri State Foster and Adoption Board and the Children's Division.

In our meeting on June 7, 2016, Board members came together to represent their regions, make inquiries for resource parents and share valuable perspectives regarding policies both proposed and not yet not developed by Children's Division. The focus is slowly shifting to really address the "best interest of the children."

The Board provided insight to Children's Division to help formulate best practices in delivering training on the Five Domains of Well Being to resource parents. Look for upcoming information and news regarding Reasonable and Prudent Parenting in Missouri. This will be an interesting and new approach to fostering. A number of foster care myths will be dispelled and children will have the opportunities to participate in activities all children in a family do on a regular basis.

Tate Williams from the Care Portal shared information about vision, mission, growth and current status of the service. To learn

more about the Care Portal, a global on-line tool to help hurting families, follow the link: <https://goproject.org/care-portal/>.

Currently there are Board vacancies that need to be filled in the following regions, 2 in the SW Region, 2 in St. Louis City, 1 in Kansas City, 1 in the North West Region, and 1 in the South East Region. You may apply on-line at <https://boards.mo.gov/UserPages/Home.aspx>. Your voice is important and we look forward to new members to help keep our children in care a priority.

Remember to periodically check the Children's Division website for both current and old memorandums at <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/memos/>. This resource will be helpful in your journey as a resource parent.

The next Board meeting will be on September 6, 2016 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm in the Governor's Office Building in Jefferson City, MO. Board meetings are open. Please contact, Michelle Martin, Board Chair, at 314-607-3029 or by email, ammempowerment@yahoo.com, if you would like to attend a meeting. Board meeting minutes are available at <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/fostercare/fostercare-adoption-board/>.

We are looking forward to a productive 2016 working together for our children, resource parents and communities.

- Michelle A. Martin, Missouri State Foster Care & Adoption Board Representative for St. Louis County

Pioneer Study **Caregiver PrIoritizing Outcomes, Needs, ExpEctations and Recovery**

What is the Caregiver PIONEER Study?

The study hopes to give adults the facts they need to make the best health care choices for their child.

Who can join the study?

Parent or Primary Caregiver of a child who:

- is age 21 or younger
- has a developmental disability
- has an emotional or behavior problem

How will this help families like you?

You will help other families make the best health care choices for their child.

What you will be asked to do if you join the study?

Complete an online survey that will take 40-50 minutes.

Our promise to you:

- We will always respect your privacy.
- We will never use your or your child's name in anything we

collect or in any papers or flyers we share.

- We will provide you with feedback from the study
- You will get a \$50 gift card for being in this study

Please email the PIONEER Team to learn if you are eligible for the study: pioneer_program@rx.umaryland.edu

Questions?

Please contact the Project Coordinator:

Wendy Camelo Castillo

Phone: 410-706-4369 | Fax: 410-706-5394

Email: pioneer_program@rx.umaryland.edu

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

220 Arch St, Baltimore, MD 21201

PI: Susan dosReis, Ph.D.; sdosreis@rx.umaryland.edu; 410-706-

0807 | This research study is funded by a contract from the

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (ME-1306-01511)

Central Missouri Adoption Resource Center



CMFCAA is growing!

Extreme Recruitment® and 30 Days to Family® is moving to Central Missouri. The Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association (CMFCAA) will be welcoming the Extreme Recruitment® and 30 Days to Family® programs starting this fall. The opportunity to create forever families in the central Missouri area has been a long time goal of CMFCAA. CMFCAA looks forward to watching joy, permanency, and family take place with these amazing programs.

CMFCAA is hosting the annual Transitions Life Skills retreat in partnership with Foster Club on July 30, 2016. The retreat is a day long life skills and advocacy training for older foster and adopted youth ages 14-21. Each year, youth are able to improve their skills in areas such as budgeting, health, housing, community, higher

education, self-advocacy, etc. This year Foster Club alumni and staff will be working with youth to help craft creative ways to tell their story in a powerful and impactful way. As always, CMFCAA will end the day with a chance to relax and have fun with a pool party! The retreat is held at Windermere Baptist Camp in Roach, Missouri. Youth in foster care, adopted from foster care, in residential treatment and in kinship/relative care are eligible to participate. Staff and parents are encouraged to come and stay, if possible! If not, go spend the day shopping or reconnect with a friend. You can register for the retreat on our website at <http://ccfosteradopt.com/transitions-retreat/> or call Laurel Crockett, Program Coordinator at (573)298-0258.

CMFCAA will be partnering with Project Bond in September! Learn more here: <http://ccfosteradopt.com/the-project-bond/>

On November 3, 2016, CMFCAA will host the eighth annual Forget Me Not Gala. The annual Gala is an opportunity for the community to support foster and adoptive families through financial resources, advocacy, and volunteering. For more information about sponsoring or attending this event, you may visit the CMFCAA website at www.ccfosteradopt.com.

Southern Missouri Adoption Resource Center



Foster Adopt Connect (formerly Midwest Foster Care & Adoption Association) provides resources, training, and support to strengthen foster, adoptive, and biological families. We believe in community collaboration to connect families to multiple layers of support. We serve families by providing a variety of support groups, training opportunities, advocacy, and by making connections to community resources. The circle of support also includes meeting practical needs such as food and clothing through our Sammy's Window program.

We have launched Extreme Recruitment® and 30 Days to Family®, created by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (the Eastern ARC), which provides intensive family finding and recruitment efforts to children in Southwest Missouri.

Extreme Recruitment® (ER) matches a detective and recruiter team with a child who is at risk of aging out of foster care without a connection to a safe, loving forever family. This program utilizes all forms of recruitment simultaneously and results in finding forever families for more than 70% of children served, and safe and appropriate family re-connections for more than 85% of children served.

30 Days to Family® is engaged at the beginning of a child's experience in child welfare. It utilizes the same kinds of successful family finding as ER starting the day the child is brought into foster care. Often times the child's family tree is expanded to more than 100 members within days. Children in this program are placed with safe and appropriate relatives or kin within the first thirty days of their time in foster care, sparing them the trauma of disconnection long term.

It is because of these innovative programs and much more that we look forward to a bright future ahead. To learn more visit www.fosteradopt.org or call 417.866.3672.

Western Missouri Adoption Resource Center



MFCAA's Behavioral Interventionist (BI) Program is an innovative new service designed to keep children who have behavioral or mental health challenges stable in their current home, and limit the need for placing these children in residential treatment facilities.

The BI program began in 2012 as a collaboration between MFCAA's President, Lori Ross, and Lifeworks, Inc. – a regional leader in behavioral treatment and therapy for foster youth. Lori, who has been a foster parent to hundreds of children, and adoptive moth-

er of 23, observed the limited impact and astronomical costs of in-patient residential treatment while seeking treatment for several of her special needs children. As a result of these observations, Lori decided to create a program specifically designed to be conducive to the needs of foster/adoptive parents, and provide significant, sustainable behavioral outcomes for foster/adoptive children in their home setting.

Essentially, the program serves families who have exhausted every other resource, and are on the path that eventually leads to placement and adoption disruption – a horrible situation that leaves psychological scars on both children and parents. By reducing disruption, we impact the child's educational, interpersonal and psychological development, greatly increasing the chances that they successfully transition to adulthood and have otherwise happy lives.

For more information about the Behavioral Intervention program contact Liz at 816.659.9352 or email Liz@mfcaa.org. For more information on supports offered by Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association call (816)350-0215 or visit our website, www.mfcaa.org.

Eastern Missouri Adoption Resource Center



One support provided by the Eastern Adoption Resource Center is Educational Advocacy. Advocates work one-on-one with foster and adoptive parents to ensure the educational rights of youth impacted by the foster care system are upheld. Although advocacy focuses on the individual child, we do see that system change can occur through those efforts. An exciting "win" that came at

the beginning of this year relates to clarification of the Individuals with Disabilities.

A common practice our advocates experienced was the lack of protection during "long term suspension," or manifestation meetings, for students that did not have a formal IEP or 504 Plan in place. This left a lot of students that were in the process of obtaining an evaluation unprotected. Through clarification requests by our Educational Advocates, DESE updated a clearer statement to read, "If the district had knowledge that the child might be a child with a disability PRIOR TO the disciplinary action, then IDEA provides protections for that child and the district must follow the same disciplinary process and timelines as is follows for an identified child including conducting a manifestation determination if appropriate. The full update can be viewed at <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/Myth%20of%20the%20Month%20-%20Discipline%201-2016.pdf>

For more information on the services and supports offered through the Eastern Missouri Adoption Resource Center, visit our website at www.foster-adopt.org or call 800.367.8373.

Meet Chris



The purpose of the information provided below is to briefly introduce you to Christopher whom our agency is recruiting for an adoptive placement.

Christopher is a five year old African American boy with dark hair and dark eyes. He is large for his age. He loves listening to loud music, toys with sound and crying babies.

Christopher suffered a severe brain injury during birth and has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Microcephaly and seizure disorder so he is in need of a family that can provide him with constant supervision. Christopher is also blind. Christopher is legally free for adoption.

For more detailed information about Christopher please contact Carlotta Warmack at 573-290-5609 or Carlotta.Warmack@dss.mo.gov.

Meet Damon



Damon is a sweet and loving nine-year old boy who loves books and reading. Those who know Damon describe him as an incredibly sociable and charismatic child, noting that everyone who meets Damon falls in love with him. Damon enjoys watching CNN and the News; he especially likes to be informed about the weath-

er. He is really beginning to come out of his shell enjoys the company of adults. He has a very good memory and reports loving school. He has a great appetite and loves peanut butter and jelly and mashed potatoes. Damon has expressed a desire to be adopted and wants to be a part of a family. Damon thrives with one on one attention and would benefit from a loving, consistent, and active family.

For more information about Damon, please call:
Amanda Denning, Extreme Recruiter
Foster Adoptive Care Coalition
amandadenning@foster-adopt.org
314.367.8373

Meet Damien



Damien is a bright 12-year old with a great sense of humor--he loves to make people laugh! He is a very pleasant, charming and talkative boy although he is quiet with people he doesn't know very well. He has been described by a previous foster parent as smart, insightful and caring. In his free time, Damien loves to play

games, Monopoly is his absolute favorite! He loves all sports and plays them competitively. Damien performs at his grade level academically and does receive some supportive services. Damien is seeking an adoptive family that is highly committed and has a desire to maintain a structure home while still meeting his emotional needs.

If you are interested in learning more about Damien, contact:
Amanda Denning, Extreme Recruiter
1750 S Brentwood Blvd St. Louis, MO 63144
amandadenning@foster-adopt.org
314.367.8373

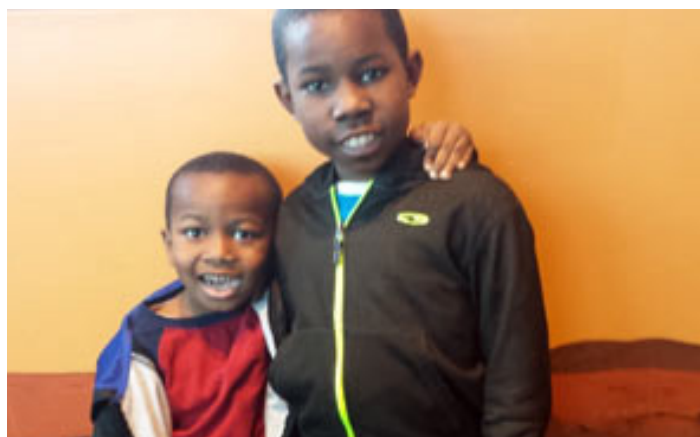
Meet Larry



Larry is a 16 year old young man who loves to play basketball and listen to music! Larry is able to establish bonds with people in his life and has a playful demeanor that comes out with them.

Larry loves checking out the latest shoes and fashions, especially anything with a name brand. Larry is a fit, athletic, and physically healthy young man. Larry's favorite foods to eat are chicken and pizza! Larry is a funny guy; he says he doesn't like vegetables, yet his favorite pizza has veggie toppings. He wants to graduate high school, go to college, and is considering a career in the music profession. Larry plans to get a job in January 2016 and is excited about making money. Larry takes pride in his achievements and loves to share them with people he cares about. Larry is a young man who has made huge strides in the past month and is eager to find a forever family. If you are interested in learning more about Larry, contact Heather Roberts at 800.367.8373, 314.614.2433, or heatherroberts@foster-adopt.org.

Meet Mykez and Jameer



Mykez (10) and Jameer (6) are a dynamic duo who are going to make great additions to a forever family. Mykez and Jameer are inseparable! When you see one you will see the other. Mykez and Jameer both love playing video games, watching t.v. and playing football. They both love school. Mykez says school is great and Jameer says school is awesome! Mykez is excelling in Art and Jameer is excelling in Math. Mykez is smart and friendly. Jameer is funny and smart. Mykez and Jameer are loving, well mannered, respectful and good helpers.

If you are interested in learning more about Mykez and Jameer, please contact Shivonne Goosby-Gaines at 314-340-3472.

Meet Tristen



Meet Tristen! He is a 4 year old boy with a smile that will melt your heart. He attends the Early Childhood Education pre-school program. He loves to listen to music, sing nursery rhymes, and play outside. Tristen is blind and receives services for language, occupational and physical therapy, instruction for visually impaired (learning brail), and orientation and walking. Tristen sees a team of doctors in St. Louis to monitor a variety of medical issues. Tristen is legally free for adoption.

For more detailed information about Ray please contact Carlotta Warmack at 573-290-5609 or Carlotta.Warmack@dss.mo.gov.



Family Connections
c/o The Coalition
1750 South Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 210
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144



It's important for youth in foster care to know the individuals who are making decision on their family's behalf. The following template can be copied or cut out to help your foster youth to better understand their team.

Case Manager/Children's Service Worker: This is the worker assigned to provide direct service to you and your family. The worker's job is to provide services that best meet the needs of each child and family. You will likely have the most contact with this team member, outside of your foster parent.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Case Manager	Phone / Email	Case Manager's Supervisor	Phone/E-mail

Deputy Juvenile Officer (DJO): Your DJO is the person who handles the legal part of your case and makes recommendations to the Judge. If you have questions about how the Court works, your DJO is a good person to ask.

_____	_____
DJO Name	DJO Phone / Email

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)/Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): Your GAL is responsible for representing your best interest in Court and making recommendations to the judge. Your GAL is responsible for making your wishes known even when they differ from theirs. You may also have a CASA volunteer assigned to you. These volunteers advocate for youth and provide written reports and recommendations to the judge.

_____	_____
GAL / CASA Names	GAL / CASA Phone / Email

_____	_____	_____	_____
Other Name	Other Phone / Email	Other Name	Other Phone / Email

