



Hoke County DSS Resource Family Newsletter

FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED!

We are always in need of foster and adoptive families. We currently have 15 licensed foster homes—not a lot, but it is twice what we had a year ago. However, out of those 15 homes: 2 are licensed for the placement of specific relative children; one is licensed for a child in the custody of another state; one is licensed for purposes of adoption; and 4 homes are at capacity. That leaves us with only 7 homes for placement of children that enter foster care.

We are required to match a child's needs with a foster/adoptive parents

strengths. We don't want placements to disrupt; we don't want children to have multiple placements. To avoid disruptions & placement changes, it is very important that we have a number of foster & adoptive families available so that we can make the best placement match.

We currently have 41 children in foster care in Hoke County. Children can enter foster care from birth up until they turn 18 years of age. We especially need families willing to foster and adopt teenagers!

Statistic of Children in Foster Care in Hoke County:

Ages: 8 months to 19 years;

Males: 16 Females: 25

African American: 14

White: 9 Hispanic: 7

Native American: 11

Foster/Adoptive Families:

African American: 9

White: 5 Hispanic: 1

Native American: 0



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month—ever heard of it? I hadn't until now and this is the 6th annual preparedness month. The monthly awareness campaign is sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security...and is part of its Ready Campaign. It is a public service cam-

aign to encourage the public to be prepared for a disaster, whether it is a hurricane or something localized. We should all be prepared for disasters as we never know when or how our families might be impacted.

Have an emergency supply kit & family emergency plan ready to go. Visit www.ready.gov for more information.



Hoke County DSS Foster Care & Adoptions

Volume 1, Issue 3

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Special Points Of Interest

- ☺ WWW.hokecounty.org
- ☺ WWW.NCKIDS.COM
- ☺ WWW.NCREACH.COM
- ☺ WWW.ncfapa.org
- ☺ WWW.ncdhhs.gov/dss

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Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting-MAPP

What is MAPP? MAPP is a 30-hour training program provided free of charge by every North Carolina county DSS. Any person that wants to foster or adopt a child must take the class.

Hoke County DSS offers MAPP classes twice a year; usually once in the Spring and then again in the Fall. MAPP will help you (and us) decide if fostering or adopting is right for you. MAPP will help you to become a successful foster/adoptive parent; you will learn 12 skills to be successful. The class teaches you to identify your strengths and to build on your needs.

MAPP will give you a better idea of the process of how and why children enter foster care and what you can do to help a child and family adjust. You will get insight from current foster/adoptive parents; and possibly foster children and families that we have worked with in the past.

MAPP is an opportunity to ask questions and learn about foster care and adoption. Many people start the MAPP class but then drop out after a couple of classes...that's ok! Sometimes people realize that becoming a foster/adoptive parent is not right for them after learning more about the program. MAPP is designed to give you as much information up front

so that you can make a sound decision to foster/adopt. Deciding to foster/adopt is a major decision and will impact not just you but your family and friends as well.

Upon completion of MAPP, you might decide to foster or adopt or both; then again, you might decide none of those options are right for you. We will help you and guide you in the decision making process. Call us for more information!



The adoption process...

What does it take to adopt a child from foster care? Does it cost a lot of money? To many people, the adoption process is scary, lengthy, and very costly. In actuality...it can be lengthy but it's not so complicated and we are with you every step of the way. The cost: funds are available to cover the legal fees for adoption of a special needs child., Read below for a definition/explanation of a special needs child!

How do I find a child? Visit www.ncdhhs.gov to find out more in-

formation; how to find a child; requirements to be an adoptive parent; resources for adopting; and much more.

To adopt a child, the child must be free for adoption; to be free the birth parents' rights must not be in existence. This can be accomplished in several ways: a court terminates parental rights; a parent signs a relinquishment; or the parent is deceased.

An adoptive family is identified and approved by DSS.; often, the identified family is the current foster par-

ent or relative caretaker.

To be an adoptive parent, you must have completed MAPP training and have an approved Pre-Placement Assessment. We complete the assessments free of charge when adopting a foster child.

An attorney is hired to complete the legal paperwork regarding the filing of the Adoption petition. It normally takes 90 days from the filing of the petition for an Adoption Decree to be issued. Call us or visit www.ncdhhs.gov/dss for more info!



Special Needs Children

Special Needs as defined by the state:

-existence of a specific factor/condition:

Ethnicity, age, membership in a minority or sibling group, or presence of physical, mental or emotional handicaps.

This includes a known & diagnosed medical, mental or emotional condition requiring treatment/therapy; child's situation as a member of a sibling group to be

placed together, ethnicity or membership in certain minority groups & age of child; the need for placement with a known & approved family to include relatives other than biological parents; and a child with a potential handicap. If the department determines a child has a special need, adoption assistance benefits can be authorized for the child to include payment of legal fees associated with the adoption, monthly cash assistance, and vendor payment for services not covered by Medicaid.

Foster Care/Adoptions Unit & other Important Contact Info

Supervisor:

Kristi Pigford 878-1925

Foster Care Social Workers:

April Locklear 878-1927

Wally Sirenko 878-1928

Judy Anderson 878-1932

Wanda Harley 878-4040

Adoptions Social Worker:

Ana Watson 878-1989

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Jennifer Otero 878-1987

Office Assistant:

Sheila Campbell 878-1926

E-Mail Addresses:

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DSS Main Number 875-8725

After Hours Emergencies:
875-2135 or 911

Adoption Statistics

The most recent data available indicated that there were over 126,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States in 2006. In North Carolina: over 3,000 children were waiting to be adopted.

From July 2008-



June 2009, over 1600 children were adopted from foster care in North Carolina ; we had 7 foster child adoptions here in Hoke County. It is anticipated that we will have at least 11 more Hoke county adoptions this year & most of the children will be adopted by their foster parents!

AS of 9/30/06, 16% of the children adopted in North Carolina were aged 11 or older; 80% were aged 1-10; and only 4% were under 1 year. This information comes from the Admini-

stration of Children Families.

From 10/1/05-09/30/06, 54% of children adopted from foster care in North Carolina were adopted by their foster parent.

Older children tend to have to wait the longest to be adopted—why? They are just as deserving of a family as is a 2 year old!

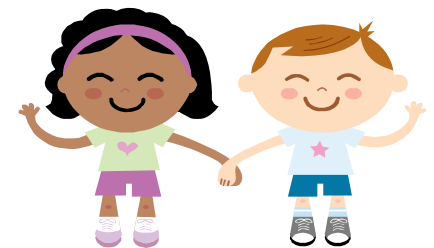
There literally are thousands of children out there, waiting to be adopted. Every child deserves a family! Consider adopting a foster child!

ADOPTION RESOURCES

The North Carolina state Division of Social Services website, www.ncdhss.gov/dss has a lot of information available regarding the adoption process as a whole. Each county DSS is a placement agency—meaning we can place (foster) children for adoption. There are also 5 licensed private adoption agencies that contract with the state to place special needs children. Again, this is

for the adoption of foster children. Should your wish be to adopt a child that is not in foster care, there are a number of other private adoption agencies that offer such services—go to the website for a listing of agencies.

Children adopted from the foster care system are often eligible for adoption subsidy/benefits when they have been determined to be a child

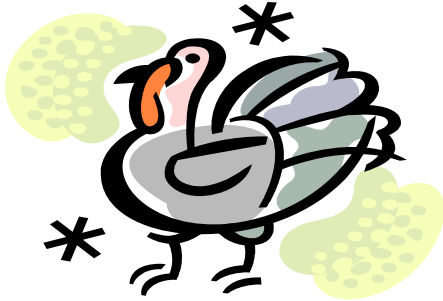


with special needs. Children adopted also qualify for Medicaid and other post adoption related services. Please visit the state website to learn more or give us a call!

Hoke County DSS Foster Care & Adoptions

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314 S. Magnolia Street
Raeford, NC 28376

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North Carolina Turkey Festival
9/19/09

We will have a booth at the festival to recruit families. Come out and visit us!

Topics for the next issue of

HOKE COUNTY RESOURCE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

1. More info about Adoptions
2. What is a legal risk placement?
3. What is a disruption?
4. What is a Pre-Placement Assessment?
5. What are some of the requirements to be an adoptive parent?
6. More info on MAPP classes

Our newsletters are now available online! Visit www.hokecounty.org Social Services to access them!

How many children are available in Hoke County?

Currently we have one 14 year old female available and waiting for an adoptive family. Keyonda has been waiting for her family for several years! Maybe it is you! Call us to learn more.

Although we only have one child currently available, we have 11 children that have adoption as their plan of care; 8 of those children are being adopted by their foster parent. When a child is placed with a foster family and the child's plan becomes adoption, we turn to the foster family first for adoption., as long as all other relative placements have been ruled out. When a foster parent has been providing care to a child and a bond has developed it is usually in the child's best interest to remain in the home of their foster parent. We encourage foster parent adoptions!



North Carolina Foster
and
Adoptive Parent
Association

www.ncfapa.org

This is a state-wide organization for foster and adoptive parents. Membership dues are required for the state association; visit the website for more information.

Foster & Adoptive Parents can get together and start a local association. This topic will be discussed in our next issue.