



Ashtabula County Children Services Board

Winter 2014



From the Director

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday! I would like to start off the New Year by saying "thank You" to some very important people.

I would like to thank all of our generous Christmas donors. With their help, we were able to insure that all of our children in care had plenty of gifts to open for Christmas—see our "Shop with a Cop" pictures on page 3! We also received several monetary donations to our Children's Trust Fund to help us provide the "extras" throughout the year that allow our children to have a bit of normalcy in their young lives. Seeing our kids with smiles on their faces always brightens our day!

I also want to thank all of our foster families and kinship families who open their homes to care for the children who need them. These families take in children who cannot safely remain in their own homes due to a variety of reasons and work with us to give the children love, encouragement and stability during a very difficult time in their lives. They support our efforts

to work with the biological family to make positive changes for their children so they can return home and when reunification is not possible, they often make these children a permanent part of their families. We are always in need of more foster homes, if you or someone you know may be interested in finding out more about foster parenting, contact Mandy Weaver at 998-1811.

It looks as though 2014 will be a challenging year. We are experiencing a continuous increase in the numbers of kids needing our services due to the severe Methamphetamine and Opiate issue this County is facing. The number of children needing foster care has gone up 41% in the past 3 years. The cost of this care continues to rise while Federal and State funding has significantly decreased. The budget constraints are causing us to do more with less while keeping child safety a priority! We are fortunate to have community partners who are committed to helping us keep kids safe and strengthen families by providing quality services and programs.

By partnering and collaborating with others, we will continue to

support our children and families. Later this year, we are looking forward to the opening of our County's Child Advocacy Center thanks to Signature Health. When we told them that child victims of sexual abuse needed a place to support them through the process of disclosure and healing, they did not hesitate to make room for them in their new location. This center will allow for better coordination between CSB, law enforcement, and prosecutors while helping child victims emotionally heal from their abuse. Watch for more information to follow regarding the opening of the CAC!

Please remember we are willing to speak to groups and organizations about recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. We are certified in the Ohio Dept. of Education training for teachers and provide mandated reporter training for those who need it. Call Kathryn Whittington at 998-1811 to schedule a speaker or training .

Thank You for making a Child's Christmas a little brighter!

-Kathryn Whittington

On behalf of Ashtabula County Children Services Board, our staff and the children in our care, I would like to thank all of the exceptional people who reached out to our children during the holiday season.



Your generous gifts and contributions this year made the holidays a little brighter for our kids. The donations we received were made by individuals, churches, businesses and organizations that "adopted" our kids for Christmas. This proves that Ashtabula County continues to show their generosity and concern for our children, during these tough economic times.

Community Education

We are starting our Winter Semester of Parenting classes, Anger Management and Child Abuse/Neglect Training.

Parenting and Anger Management are FREE to anyone who is interested. There is a \$20 fee for the Abuse and Neglect training. Contact Kathryn Whittington at 440-998-1811 to register.



Class Schedule

- *Active Parenting NOW —Tues. Jan 28-Feb 11 9-11 AM
- *Adult Anger Management— Weds. Feb 5-26 5:30- 7:30PM
- *Active Parenting of Teens—Tues. March 4-11 6:00-9:00PM
- *Child Abuse/Neglect—Weds. April 2nd 6-9 PM (satisfies childcare worker refresher requirement)
- *Child Abuse/Neglect—Sat. April 5th 9am-3pm (satisfies childcare worker requirement)
- *Active Parenting NOW—Weds. April 16-23 6:00-9:00pm

Foster Care and Adoption

-Mandy Weaver, Foster/Adoption Supervisor

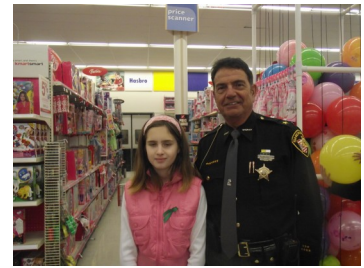
Foster and adoptive parents are valuable resources to our Community. They provide a meaningful and important service to children and families. Within Ohio, there are thousands of children who are removed from their parents for abuse or neglect. The number of children who come into custody continues to increase and, therefore, the need for foster and adoptive parents to provide loving and stable homes is growing. Foster care is meant to be a temporary placement for the child while his/her biological family works to rectify issues that brought the child into the agency's custody. Adoption is the creation of a permanent, emotional, and legal parental relationship between a

child and a parent to whom the child was not born. Single, married, or unmarried couples who are at least 21 years of age can become foster and/or adoptive parents. Foster and adoptive parents may own or rent their homes, as long as their income is sufficient to meet the basic needs of the household. At least one caregiver must be able to read, write, and speak in English. Foster/adoptive children do not need to have their own bedrooms. ACCSB holds pre-service training classes for perspective foster/adoptive parents 2-3 times each year. For more information on the foster care or adoption programs or to learn about the next training series, contact anyone on the foster care/adoption team.



Photo Gallery

Shop with a Cop FOP 106 & K-Mart



Shop with a Cop FOP 114 & Wal-Mart



Jefferson Elementary 5th Grades Classes



Don't forget to "like" our **Friends of Children Services** Facebook page!

Contact Us

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Barbara Legeza
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Legezb@odjfs.state.oh.us

Mission

To assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of the community.

Business Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Address: 3914 C Court

Ashtabula, OH

Phone: 440-998-1811 or 1-888-998-1811

Website: www.help-a-child.org

Facebook: Friends of Children Services

Ashtabula County Children Services Board
3914 C Court
Ashtabula, OH 44004
