



Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Inc.

WFAPA News

Winter 2014

We Are Here For You!

FASPP (Foster & Adoptive Support & Preservation Program) is an outreach of WFAPA and more specifically our SAAN (Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect) department. FASPP is a peer-driven volunteer network designed to help you. Our highly trained volunteers are here to help you navigate the frontier that is foster care and adoption. Each volunteer has more experience in a different area, but all of them can help with questions outside their area of expertise, as well. Call them with your questions. Or if you prefer, you may email them first. These volunteers are here for you and can help with many situations!

[Manda \(most experienced working with teen boys\)](#)

715-421-1367, or email emtsmile@hotmail.com

[Melissa \(focuses on fostering younger children\)](#)

715-735-7124, or email mlbutor@hotmail.com

[Joanne \(Native American fostering issues and motherly advice\)](#)

715-234-1606, or email JPaulson6263@charter.net

Allegations happen. Don't hesitate to call!!

HERE IT IS!!! DON'T MISS IT!

Spring 2014 Conference
Wintergreen Resort
Wisconsin Dells
April 4th ~ 6th



Waterpark fun, great times with good friends,
and excellent speakers including Dominic Carter,
Pat O'Brien, and our friends from the State.

See you there!

WFAPA MEMBERS BATTLE CANCER

There are several members of our WFAPA leadership team who have been challenged by cancer over the past few years. Please continue to keep Patty (Pam) Fix, Larry Ward & Lauri Thorssen in your thoughts and prayers. If you know of others who we should also be remembering, please inform the newsletter editor. Together we can stand strong!!!

Save The Date!
WFAPA Fall Conference
October 17-19, 2014
Holiday Inn
Manitowoc

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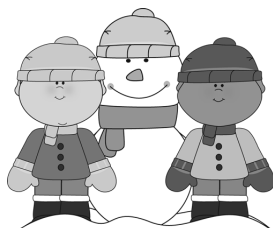
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Message from President Sherry Benson...

Greetings!

Another year seems to have “flown” by quickly leaving a trail of breadcrumbs for those of us that take a bit longer to “get into” the New Year groove. Conferences loom ahead and it always seems to be a busy time for the board to get all the information put together, finalize the needs of the speakers, and take a breath.

The Spring Conference is in the DELLS...Whoo hooo...to all of you that LOVE LOVE LOVE those water parks! We will be at the Wintergreen on April 4-6, 2014. More information and registration can be found in the middle inserts of this newsletter. Get them filled out/sent out/pack those suits/ and come ON DOWN!!!

Presenters:

Dominic Carter, a New York journalist, will speak about his early life which was riddled by the mental illness of his mother. This in turn, obscured her ability to provide a nurturing existence for him. I recently read his story “No Momma’s Boy” and cannot wait to meet this fascinating gentleman! Dominic will be speaking Saturday afternoon.

The State personnel: Katie, Jonelle, and Steve will present updates and information regarding Foster Care and Adoption on Friday night. Bring along your questions for this panel of experts! Katie and Jonelle will answer your Foster Care questions while Steve will tackle those adoption issues.

Our Friday night and Saturday morning speaker will be Pat O’Brien. I spent some time with Pat on the telephone not too long ago and he is an interesting man who lives and breathes the passion of older youth in the foster care system. I suggest that each one of you take some time to look at his website and see what this one person has set out to do and what he has accomplished. His website is: <http://yougottabelieve.org>.

And so I leave you all with these few quotes that I hope will give you a better understanding and a renewed spirit as to why you do what you do!

“The only rock I know that stays steady, the only institution I know that works is the family.” ~ Lee Iacocca

“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” ~ Jane Howard

“I don’t care how poor a man is; if he has family, he’s rich.” ~ Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford

“The family is a haven in a heartless world.” ~ Christopher Lasch

See you soon at the Dells!

Sherry

FILL THE SUITCASES CHALLENGE

This spring at our conference we will be combining our “Life Begins Here” program and our “Fresh Start” program into one big challenge! “Life Begins Here” is a program for youth aging out of care. WFAPA members donate items for those just starting out in independent life and we fill a suitcase which is then given to a youth aging out of care. “Fresh Start” is a program by which WFAPA can give back to the communities hosting our conferences. We have donated seeds to WIC, baby items to a Doula program, and books and gift cards for a summer library program. This April at the conference in Wisconsin Dells, we will be filling a number of suitcases for foster youth aging out of care. Items that are needed include (but are not limited to): new sheets, towels, gently used dishes, pots/pans, silverware, dishes, radios, lamps...anything that would be helpful for someone just starting out...that can fit in a suitcase! Let’s see what we can do to help these young people.

Spring Conference 2014

Wintergreen Resort

60 Grasser Road

Wisconsin Dells, WI

1-800-648-4765

Web: www.wintergreen-resort.com

FRIDAY APRIL 4TH

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 4:00-10:00 | REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY ROOM
Auction/Raffle Items and Raffle Tickets |
| 5:00-7:00 | HOSPITALITY ROOM, FOOD AVAILABLE |
| 6:00-7:30 | STATE UPDATES
Steve, Katie and Jonelle |
| 7:30-9:00 | PAT O'BRIEN
"Laughter and Parenting" |

SATURDAY APRIL 5TH

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:00-8:15 | BREAKFAST |
| 8:30-11:30 | PAT O'BRIEN
"Finding resources for aging out older youth from foster care and adoption." |
| 11:45-12:30 | LUNCH |
| 12:45-3:45 | DOMINIC CARTER
"Mental Illness"
Mr. Carter will be selling his book, " No Momma's Boy. " |
| 4:00-5:00 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Drawing for free conference and room |
| 6:00-10:00 | BANQUET, AUCTION AND RAFFLE |

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 9:00-12:00 | FASPP & BOARD members ONLY~<u>CLOSED TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP</u> |
|------------|---|

NOTE: This conference counts as 12 hours of training/CEU's for attendees

Spring Conference 2014

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes workshops, hospitality room and meals on Saturday. Please make check payable to "WFAPA Spring Conference". Send registration and fee to: TINA CHRISTOPHERSON, 2616 Parkridge Ave, Marinette, WI 54143. Phone: (715) 938-6667. **Registration and fee must be received no later than March 21, 2014.** There will be a \$20.00 service fee for all checks returned for insufficient funds. Cost is \$65.00 per person (WFAPA members), \$75 per person (non-members). Membership is only \$7 per family per year and you may become a member at the same time you pay your registration. There are no refunds. No childcare is available for this conference. Due to the sensitive nature of many of our discussions, children are discouraged from being present in training sessions. Infants are welcome, but please be sensitive to other attendees by removing fussy or noisy babies. **ITEMS TO BRING FOR "FILL THE SUITCASES" Challenge: Gently used pots and pans, radio, lamp, silverware, dishes, new sheets, towels, etc. Items to start a home.**

Participant #1 _____

Participant #2 _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County (Required) _____ or Agency (Required) _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Meal choices

Saturday Night Banquet will be buffet style.

If you have dietary restrictions, please contact me. Also, if you would like your child/children to eat breakfast or lunch with you, PLEASE put that on your registration form. I want to make sure that everyone is fed. The charge for breakfast/lunch per child is \$10.00. Contact me, Tina Christopherson at 715-938-6667 or email twfapa@new.rr.com

PLEASE ENCLOSE AN ADDITIONAL \$20.00 FOR AN EXTRA BANQUET MEAL (for a person not attending conference)

Each person (\$65 or \$75) x ____ = \$ _____ Extra banquet \$20.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Membership Dues \$ _____

Extra breakfast \$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____ Extra lunch \$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____ Number of people attending banquet _____

Is this your first conference? _____

Donations are being accepted and encouraged for our raffle and auction.

Call for reservations at Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center (800-648-4765) Press 1 and ask for the TWFAPA block. Reservation for rooms at the price of \$70. Deadline for held rooms is **March 14, 2014**. Check in time is 4:00PM. Special room prices are only confirmed through that date. Spring conference is April 4th, 5th and 6th. SEE YOU THERE!

Dominic Carter to Speak at Spring Conference

Veteran newsman Dominic Carter, a One-Time Foster Child, is one of the most compelling journalists of his generation, and has been described as the best political reporter working in New York television today. Dominic has been a fixture in the TV News industry for the last 25 years, currently working as a Political Commentator at RNN-TV. RNN reaches 8 million households in five states.

Dominic Carter has also released a book on his life, *No Momma's Boy*, in which he chronicles his triumphant struggle to overcome his mother's mental illness as a quote "Chronic Paranoid Schizophrenic" and his years of shocking childhood abuse. Dominic also spent his life hiding a painful childhood secret that he thought he would take to his grave, being a victim of childhood sexual abuse while growing up in the Housing Projects in the notorious South Bronx New York.



Dominic has moderated debates with Hillary Clinton and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He has appeared on numerous national TV programs like *Face the Nation*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, CNN, MSNBC, and the Fox News Channel.

Dominic has also traveled around the globe, to Israel with America's Mayor Rudy Giuliani, the Persian Gulf, Japan, and Somalia. Dominic's work brought him a measure of prominence for his numerous exclusive interviews, they include former President Bill Clinton, to Nelson Mandela during Mandela's historic 1991 visit to the United States, an interview he conducted as thousands of journalists from around the country pursued the South African president. He has interviewed Caroline Kennedy, and even Donald Trump starts his book, *Think like a Champion*, praising Dominic.

Carter has appeared on the cover of The New York Times TV Guide, which called the veteran journalist "a force to be reckoned with." He has also been profiled in the Washington Post, and Jet magazine. As a victim of Childhood Sexual Abuse Dominic's life story has been told in Oprah Winfrey's Magazine, and on the television show of Nancy Grace.

Carter received a B.A. in journalism from the State University of New York at Cortland, then attended graduate school at Syracuse University. Dominic has also received the Samuel P. Peabody Award for his vision, innovation and dedication to children and families. Dominic Carter has also been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the City University of New York. In his spare time Dominic often talks to young people about the importance of Education.

He will be speaking at the WFAPA Spring Conference on Saturday afternoon, April 5th.



Pat O'Brien to Speak on Aging Out of Care Issues at Conference

Pat O'Brien knew there was a piece missing from the child welfare puzzle. As a director at a New York City adoption agency in the 1990's, he saw firsthand that there were too many teens aging out of foster care with goals of Independent Living. "It is very difficult to think that a youth somewhere between the ages of 18 and 21 can make it on their own when they're discharged from foster care to no one but themselves... when the average 22 year old college graduate returns home to his or her parents after he or she receives a four year bachelor's degree." Pat's observation led him to a shocking discovery. Surveys of homeless populations revealed that

more than half of the people surveyed in any homeless program had reported having been in foster care during their childhood. Things needed to change.

Pat believed that homelessness could be prevented if aging out teens had a lifetime parent and family who will remain a part of their life long after their years in foster care are over. With this truth close to his heart, he founded "You Gotta Believe!" The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement in 1995 with a sole mission to prevent homelessness by finding moral and legal adoptive parents for teens before they age out of foster care. "You Gotta Believe" is the only adoption agency in the United States that limits its practice to finding permanent parents for teens, 'tweens, and young adults before they age out of the system.

Pat has a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work. He was honored as an "Angel in Adoption" by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in October, 2007 for his 20 years of work in the field of older child adoption. More recently, he was received the 'Guided by Compassion' Award by Urban Neighborhood Services.

O'Brien will be speaking on Friday evening (April 4) and again Saturday morning (April 5) at the WFAPA Spring Conference.

Opportunities: Training, Camps, Scholarships

The Coalition for Children, Youth & Families (formerly Adoption Resources of Wisconsin)

The Coalition has a number of upcoming trainings. Please check these out and see which ones might be a good resource for you and your family.

Working With Birth Parents. February 10th 2014 6:00pm—8:00pm. \$15/participant, \$60/agency/group. At the Coalition offices 6682 W. Greenfield Ave., Ste. 210, Milwaukee, WI or via webinar.

March 25th –	Social Media
April 19th –	Attachment/Bonding
April–	Identity Development and Adoption
May –	Fostering teens
June –	Boundaries, Limits and Parenting



Dates for the last three trainings are not yet finalized. Foster and adoptive parents are encouraged to sign up for our newsletters by going to our website at: <http://www.coalitionforcyf.org/> and following the link to “Join Our Mailing List.”

Information about foster care and adoption topics are sent out on a weekly basis.



Camp Forest Springs Offers Scholarships

Located in north central Wisconsin (Westboro), Camp Forest Springs has both summer and winter camping adventures available. Camp Forest Springs is a faith-based camp that includes a wide array of activities including bike riding, air rifles, tennis, archery, drama, sailing, fishing, boating, canoeing, volleyball, foosball, kayak, carpetball, softball, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, wilderness camping, challenge course, mini-golf and nature education.

Scholarships are available for foster families and others needing financial help. Check it out at: www.campforestsprings.org.

National Foster Parent Association Scholarships

The NFPA offers scholarships for foster youth, adopted youth, or biological youth of currently licensed foster parents, who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational/technical school or junior college. Five scholarships in the amount of \$500 will be awarded during 2014. The foster parents must be members of NFPA. Online applications must be received before March 14, 2014 (only online applications are accepted).

There are a number of other organizations offering scholarships. These can be found on the NFPA website at: <http://nfpaonline.org/nfpascholarship>.

You also have the opportunity to aid children and youth in foster care by your financial support, contributions, memorials, and honoraria for the Scholarship Program, in any amount, which is welcome and tax deductible.

The National Foster Parent Association is a non-profit, voluntary organization established in 1972 with tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. The National Foster Parent Association depends upon public donations to continue its work. You can help!

WFAPA Membership Form

Name _____

County, State or Agency Name (that licenses you) _____

Your Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Additional Donation: ____ \$5 ____ \$10 ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ Other _____

Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? ____ yes ____ no

For Individual memberships, return this form and \$7.00 to:

Michelle & Larry Ward * W7018 Discovery Dr. * Fond du Lac, WI 54937 Email: imboard2@charter.net

GO GREEN! ____ I'd like to "go green" and paperless by receiving my newsletter online only.

SWEATSHIRT ORDER: Amount Enclosed: _____

Color: Black ____, Gray ____, Navy ____

Size: S ____, M ____, L ____, XL ____ (\$26.00) 2X ____, 3X ____, 4X ____, 5X ____ (\$36.00)

Frosted Banana Bars

15x10x1 inch pan 350 Degrees For 25-30 minutes

1/2 cup butter (softened)
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 1/2 cups mashed bananas (3 medium)
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 pinch of salt

Mama Kasch's Kitchen



Cream butter, sugar and eggs then add rest of ingredients ~ put in greased and floured pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool then frost with Cream Cheese frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

1/2 cup softened butter
1 8 oz softened cream cheese
4 cups confectioners sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
Chopped walnuts/pecans added or sprinkle on top, if desired.
