



Loudoun Families for Children

Providing emergency placements, respite care, and mentoring to children in need of safety, stability, or on-going support

April 2008

Program Updates

LFC has had two emergency placements, one respite care case, and one new mentorship begin in February and two additional emergency placements in March and April. We would like to thank the **Gladish** family for providing an overnight placement for an 8-yr-old boy. It was their first emergency placement and it worked out very well. Thanks also to the LaFave/Byrd family for taking care of a 7-yr-old girl and her 9-yr-old brother for one night. Kudos to **Becky Reeder** and the **Vessey** family for providing emergency care to a sibling group of four for 8 days. The Vesseys had the two older children, an 11-yr-old boy and an 8-yr-old girl, while Becky took on the 4 ½-yr-old twin girls. In addition, they assisted the **Reinhardt** family with their placement of a 9-month-old baby. Two other families provided respite care to a 3 ½ year old boy for several hours over three weekends. The **Blaskoski** family helped for two of the days and the **Hoovler** family finally got a chance for their first LFC experience. We hope to add the **Garnier** family to the roster soon as a respite care provider. In addition to the emergency placement, the **Gladishs** also recently had their first visit with their new mentee, a 10 year old girl. They look forward to lots of fun times with her. With this addition, LFC now has a total of five mentorships and another one could be starting soon. We currently have a referral of two siblings that need to be matched with an appropriate mentor. If you would like to be considered for this referral, please contact Kim Burk.

2008 Officers and Goals

The 2007 officers will continue to serve in their current positions for 2008. They are Ted Bullerdick, Chair; Bobbi Seely, Vice Chair and Secretary; and Richard Reinhardt, Treasurer. Gayle Reinhardt will also continue as Family Coordinator. The board's main goal for 2008 is to implement an on-going advertising campaign to effectively recruit new volunteers. The campaign began in January with a newspaper display ad in the Leesburg Today that will run several more times throughout the year. We have also created a radio ad with WAGE radio which will air for several weeks in March and April. In addition to the advertising, we are working with a professional web designer to improve our website. We are expecting the new site to be up and running by the end of April.

Calendar

April 14th-Board of Director's monthly meeting, 6:00 at PRCS bldg., Leesburg

April 25th-LFC Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, 5:30-7:30 PM at Claude Moore Rec. Center, Sterling

April 26th-Volunteer Fair, 9:00-1:00 at Ida Lee Rec. Center, Leesburg

May 12th-Board of Director's meeting, 6:00 at PRCS admin. Building, Leesburg

May 12th-New Volunteer Informational meeting, 7:30 at PRCS bldg., Leesburg

Domestic Violence Training

On April 8th, Sue Curtis, Director of Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice and LAWS conducted a very informative training session. Sue gave an overview of domestic violence; as well as, information about how it effects children who have experienced this situation.

Research shows that violence in the home effects children, whether they are directly abused or not and that child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where there is domestic violence.

Sue explained the emotional reactions and developmental effects of domestic violence on children. She pointed out that every child reacts differently and advised that if a child confides in you on this matter, you should tell the child it is not their fault, validate their feelings, and seek help to make a safety plan for the child.

If you weren't able to attend the training, please review the handouts mailed to you for more information.

Policy Clarification

LFC allots \$100/child per 3-week placement for expenses. In order to be reimbursed, items purchased by volunteers for a child in care must be necessities (i.e., clothing or personal items.) If necessary, additional expenditures may be approved by the Program Coordinator prior to the purchase.