

# Between Families

Our Mission

Devoted to the Strength  
of Family

Editors

Jason Cecil

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TFI Family Services, Inc.  
is licensed by the State  
of Kansas Department  
of Health and Environ-  
ment as a Child Placing  
Agency. License No.  
766.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

BY: GAVEN LUDLOW, MSW AND MBA  
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES

By now most of you have learned that the State of Kansas has decided to award the Reintegration/Adoption and Family Preservation contracts to just two agencies statewide. During the past weeks, I asked Resource Family staff to make connection with each of you regarding this change and provide you with the most important piece of information.

### NOTHING CHANGES FOR YOU!

As a resource home with TFI, you will not be experiencing any changes to those vitally important relationships, services and supports.

- The Resource Family Worker for you will remain the same.
- The visits and supports your worker provides will be the same, and we are also looking for ways to enhance

our program in this change.  
—The rates you are receiving will remain the same.

The change to the contract for the case management services does not have any impact on your relationship with TFI Family Services as your licensing provider. That relationship is as strong as ever. Our staff is working to stay even more closely connected to you and ensure you have any and all questions answered. So reach out to your worker, their supervisors or me if you have questions.

We are focused on driving our commitment to you forward and exploring new ways to support homes in a system that will need that independent advocate for homes and families. We are in a strong position to be that advocate for you and Kansas kids as the

largest Foster Home provider in Kansas with over 25% of all licensed homes. As things go forward, TFI will continue to keep you posted on our ideas and ask for your help to enhance our program even more. While this is a time of change in the system and for our agency, it is also something TFI is well prepared for handling in a positive way for families. Our roots as an agency go back nearly 50 years and our service to foster families goes back over 20 years. We know, with your involvement and our commitment, we can continue to serve kids as a strong, independent voice in Kansas.

Thank you for your commitment to children and making things better each day.

Gaven Ludlow, MSW and MBA,  
Director of Resource Family  
Services

## RECRUITMENT MOMENT

BY: JASON CECIL, RECRUITMENT MANAGER

There are many things you can do as a Foster Parent to get that important self-care. Here is a list of 9 things that you can share with families you are talking to about becoming a foster parent when they ask, "How do you do it?"

1. Practice saying "No Thank You" – don't over commit and volunteer more than you can handle.
2. Laugh
3. Maintain a detached viewpoint.
4. Reduce the amount of time you spend with technology
5. Create priorities & stick to it
6. Find inspiration
7. Faith
8. Make your dreams come true
9. Schedule free time in your day

Take this time to visit with your friends, family, and coworkers about the great need for foster parents in your community. Now more than ever we need foster care homes to help keep kids in their home communities. Remember, you will receive a \$500 referral incentive with every family you refer that becomes a licensed TFI foster home. Just have them visit with your resource worker, contact us at 1-800-279-9914 or visit the website at [www.tfifamilyservices.org](http://www.tfifamilyservices.org).  
Jason Cecil, Recruitment Manager

## Welcome New Resource Families

James and Elizabeth Hall  
Kirk and Mendy Hutson  
Gary and Christina Schmalzried  
Lacey Gould  
Mark Taylor  
Duane and Billie Bently  
Roger and Brandy Stanley  
Teresa Bertsch  
Nathaniel and Amber Welzenbach  
Cathleen Harrison  
James and Denise Fasse  
Jeffrey and Desirae Beason  
**Delorse "Lori" Jordan**  
Charles and Jennifer Wehry  
**Alan and Katherine "Katie"**  
Claassen/Korf  
Dwight and Rebecca Long  
Jeffery and Whitney Cowart  
Aaron and Tara Kippes  
Greg and Regina Bowling  
Brian and Rhonda Troglia  
Jerry and Donna Steffenhagen  
Venita Tapia  
Joe and Nancy Madl  
Marcus and Denise Hoffman  
Gilbert and Tommie Gonzalez  
Jack and Janie Blevins  
Michelle Richardson  
Patrick and Carlene Austin/Adams  
Karlheinz and Keenya Tyler  
John and Lynn Murch  
Brian and Michelle Pruessner  
Anne Willcoxon  
Josh and Sarah Henning  
David and Tara Barnes

## Reminders

For after hour  
emergencies, please  
call  
1-877-921-4114.

Visit TFI's website and  
view *Between Families*  
newsletter online at  
[www.tffamilyservices.org](http://www.tffamilyservices.org)

# Dear Daisy



*Dear Daisy,*

*I know that as a foster parent I sign a confidentiality agreement and that foster children placed with us can't have their picture taken by the media and published without their parents consenting, but what are the expectations about posting pictures of our foster children on social media sites such as Facebook? I don't want to violate any confidentiality rules, but we consider our foster children to be members of our family and don't want to leave them out of family photos that we share with friends and family on social media sites.*

*Sincerely,*

*Facebook Friend*

Dear Facebook Friend,

While your motivations are understandable, only a person with legal authority to **consent has the right to approve the child's picture being posted in any public** forum. A person with legal authority to consent may be a birth parent, a guardian, an adoptive parent, the Secretary of DCF, or someone else. Even if the child is not mentioned by name, posting their picture on Facebook or other social media sites **can disclose the child's whereabouts and the fact that they are in foster care and** therefore disclose confidential information about them.

It is expected that foster parents will not post photos of children in foster care on social media sites without signed permission from the appropriate person. If you have further questions about this, please talk with your Resource Family Worker.

Thank you,

Daisy

## SOUTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH PAM MARSHALL

Pam Marshall has been nominated as the Southeast Region Care Provider of the Month. Pam has been a foster home with TFI since 2006. Pam has taken many children into her home. She is very involved with the agency, attends support meetings regularly and provides support for other foster homes. Pam significantly improves the lives of the children she fosters by teaching and modeling to them. Pam plays and guides the children in the right direction, and she is very involved with them. She gives the children love and support.

Pam has paid for her foster child's daycare even when the foster child was at visits with his biological mom. She has recruited and referred a new TFI foster home who also provides great care for our children.

Pam is very caring and works hard to make the foster children as happy as can be. She is a great role model for each child. She communicates well with TFI employees. Pam understands and wants what is best for the child. Pam supports reintegration and is also open to adopt should that be the best for the child.

Submitted by, Jena Russell, RFS—Ft. Scott

*WEST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH  
CASSANDRA CONLEY*

Cassandra Conley has been nominated as the Care Provider for the Month for the West Region. Cassandra is a High School Theatre teacher, which she loves. She has flexibility in her job in the evenings to take the children with her to all of her practices and presentations. She is flexible, supportive of families and professionals and works as a team player. While working with Cassandra on her home study, she described herself as “fantastic, fun, loving and loves children,” and I agree. She utilizes her teaching skills to help children to advance in their educational and social skills.

In October 2011, Cassandra completed her foster parent training with TFI and on the day that she got her temporary license she took a sibling group of two. She has provided care for 10 children in her home through foster care, emergency services and respite since she has become a licensed foster home. As a single mom Cassandra has done an awesome job with adjusting to sick children, daycare and medical appointments. Cassandra tries to find the positive in everything. Cassandra's family, friends and co-workers are very supportive of her being a foster parent as well as helping when needed.

Submitted by Marsha Kaegi, RFW—Burton

*NORTHEAST REGION CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH  
TONI COX*

Toni Cox has been nominated as the Care Provider of the Month for the Northeast Region. She has been a licensed foster home for about 1 year now. She continues to pleasantly surprise me when her dedication to the children that we serve. She is patient, fair and, even when her own personal life gets trying, never gives up on the children. Toni is involved in all school activities, takes the children places with her including out of state for vacation, and throws birthday parties for the kids. She really tries to focus on what's important for each specific child. After a child comes through Toni's home they will have much more respect and discipline than they did before. Toni is a great asset to our organization and I really appreciate the time she takes to make each child feel special and loved. Thanks for all you do Toni!

Submitted by Meghan Greenly, RFS—Atchison

## Best Practices in Painting

Submitted by, Sara Willimon, Communications Specialist

While feeling trapped indoors by Old Man Winter, you may find yourself wondering things like, “Have my walls always looked like that?!” If the painting bug hits you this season, try out this green tip collection:

- Dispose with Care – Never pour paint or solvents down the drain. Seal them securely then make sure they get to a hazardous waste site. Your local government should have information on this.
- Reuse – Paint thinner can be reused. As paint sludge settles to the bottom, continue using the clean solvent at the top.
- Air out cans – Simply let cans from latex paint air out and the paint dry in a well-ventilated area before throwing them away.
- Donate – Paint leftovers can prove useful to a local theatre group, parks department, or school.
- Go VOC free – Buy the most eco-friendly paint possible and look for low or no VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) varieties. As a bonus, they have less of the unpleasant and harmful odors.

Sources: <http://www.earthshare.org/2008/09/paint-your-home.html>; <http://remodelista.com/posts/10-easy-pieces-eco-paints>



## Resource Family Anniversaries

### "One Year"

Craig and Robin Reager

Debra Burton

Adam and Tiare (Tia)  
Grundleger

Douglas and Thea  
Bower

Toni Cox

Leroy and Elouise Ware

Lashawn Stevenson

Jeremiah and Rena  
Wood

Nathan and Julia Bruns

Daniel and Shelly Rowe

Brandon and Tina  
Coffey

Danny and Tonya  
Williams

Dena Swisher

Matthew and Jennifer  
Gosser

Phillip and Jessie  
Fewins

Jackie and Ballweber

**Andrea O'Byrne**

### "Three Years"

Edna Garner

Seth and Payton

Jackson/  
Schroeder

Rene Appelhans

Lloyd and Ruth

### "Five Years"

Jerry and

Dorothea Dalrym-  
ple

Rovell and Vitina

## I NEED YOU—DO YOU NEED ME?



*Connor is a likable and friendly young man. He makes friends easily and enjoys spending time with adults. His hobbies include sports, fishing and other outdoor activities. Connor enjoys all of his classes in school and makes good grades. Connor has plans to join the army or be a welder someday. He is very proud of his welding skills and athletic abilities. Connor continues to work hard on managing his anger and any frustrations that he is feeling. Connor would like a forever family that has animals and enjoys outdoor activities.*

For more information on Connor,  
please contact Stacy Bishop  
at 620-768-0142.

## **February 2013 Support Meetings**

**Burton:** Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6:00pm at the South Hutchinson Christian Church. **Topic:** TBA

**Chanute:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Chanute TFI office, 1709 W. 7th Street, Chanute, KS. **Topic:** TBA

**Concordia:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 6:30pm. **Topic:** Discussing the Contract Changes.

**El Dorado:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the El Dorado TFI office, 3913 SW 10th St., El Dorado, KS. **Topic:** **Love and Affection When you Don't Feel Like It.**

**Emporia:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the TFI Emporia office, 618 Commercial, Emporia, KS. **Topic:** Partnering for a Successful Court Process-Part 2.

**Fort Scott:** Monday, February 25, 2013 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Community Christian Church, 1919 S. Horton, Ft. Scott. **Topic:** Partnering for a Successful Court Process Part 2.

**Garden City:** Monday, February 25, 2013 at the First Christian Church, 306 N. 7th St., Garden City. **Topic:** Choosing Battles Carefully and it is Best When Everyone Wins!  
**Independence:** TBA.

**Iola:** No February 2013 support meeting.

**Kansas City:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Kansas City TFI office, 1333 Meadowlark Lane, Ste. 205, Kansas City, KS. **Topic:** Behavioral Transformation.

**Leavenworth/Atchison:** Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Atchison Public Library, 401 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS. **Topic:** Contract Changes: What to Expect and How to Support Your Placements.

**Lawrence:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lawrence TFI office, 910 W. 24th St., Lawrence, KS. **Topic:** Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma.

**Manhattan:** Monday, February 18, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Junction City. **Topic:** Julie Kisler from TFI Daycare will be speaking.

**Overland Park:** Monday, February 11, 2013 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Overland Park TFI office, 8300 College Blvd., Ste. 301, Overland Park, KS. **Topic:** Communicating Effectively with Children.

**Parsons:** TBA

**Phillipsburg:** Monday, February 18, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Oliff and Boeve room. **Topic:** Gaven Ludlow speaking and introducing the new RFS supervisor.

**Pittsburg:** Monday, February 18, 2013 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at Schlanger Park, 725 E. 6th St., Pittsburg, KS. **Topic:** Partnering for a Successful Court Process Part 2.

**Salina:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Salina TFI office, 131 N. Santa Fe, Salina, KS. **Topic:** Contract Changes Q&A.

**Topeka:** **2 support meetings:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. **Topic:** Partnering for a Successful Court Process, Module 2 and Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Topeka TFI office, 217 SE 4th St., Topeka, KS. **Topic:** Partnering for a Successful Court Process Modules 3, 4, and 5.

**Wellington:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the McKinley Building, 514 N. Olive, Wellington, KS. **Topic:** Teaching and Shaping Honesty in Children.

**Winfield:** Monday, February 11, 2013 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Winfield TFI office, 1321 E. 7th, Winfield, KS. **Topic:** Understanding Anger.

**Wichita:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Wichita TFI office, 1711 S. Longfellow, Wichita, KS. **Topic:** Discussing Upcoming Contract Changes.

