



May is National Foster Care Month Join Us for Our 2009 Walk for Foster Care



Each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity for us to focus on the needs and important issues of nearly 500,000 children in foster care across America and the 5,000 children in foster care in South Carolina. Growing

Home Southeast, along with our partners, the South Carolina Department of Social Services, the Mentor Network, Alston Wilkes Society and Specialized Alternatives for Youth are sponsoring our 3rd Annual Walk for Foster Care on May 2nd.

The Walk will honor you, our foster parents and the many people who work on behalf of children in foster care in South Carolina. Additionally it will raise awareness about the needs of children in foster care and highlight the positive value of fostering.

You do not want to miss this event. As foster parents for Growing Home Southeast, we want you to be present so that you can be honored for the many ways you help and support our children in foster care.

The Walk will start at 8:00 am at Boyd Plaza located at Main and Hampton Streets in downtown Columbia (at the Columbia Museum of Art). Following the Walk we will assemble at Boyd Plaza for entertainment, refreshments and prizes.

Contact your Growing Home Southeast worker or go on line at www.growinghomese.com to register for the Walk. Registration is free for all of our foster parents and children in care. We are looking forward to seeing you on the 2nd.

Cultural Competence: Understanding the Culture of Foster Care

Over the last few months all of our regional and local support groups have received training on cultural competence, more specifically, helping us understand the culture of foster care. We took a unique approach and recruited four Growing Home Southeast foster youth to assist us in providing the training. While I believe this was a risk, it was a risk I think we needed to take. Overall, the panel of youth was well received by our foster parents. While there were definitely a few “bumps” in the road as far as our openness to their perspective, I think they did a masterful job of helping us understand what it’s like to be in foster care and some of their values on certain issues.

Here’s a recap of the training:

- It is important that you remember that one training can not make you culturally competent but hopefully the training helped you to be open to what you don’t know but are willing to learn.
- Cultural competency requires an understanding of many things as it relates to the children and youth in our care.
- Three things that we focused on in the training were **multiple placements, independent living and sensitive issues**.
- Multiple placements can occur due to a mismatch between the child or youth and the foster family. The matching process is very important to avoid disruptions if at all possible.
- It is our goal that the children and youth in our care will eventually become productive members of society. Teaching and modeling independent living skills is a must and can ultimately determine the success of our children/youth.

Cultural Competence: Understanding the Culture of Foster Care (continued)

- Technology, TV, fashion trends and peer pressure impact our children/youth in care as it relates to their views and sometimes understanding of relationships, respect, sex, substance use, behavior and values.
- Understanding our children/youth in care is not the same as agreeing with them.

We learned through your comments and evaluations that we must continue this discussion and even find ways to begin this discussion with all of our youth in care.

NEW GHSE TREATMENT PARENTS

MIDLANDS REGION

Vernell Crawford
Shirley Johnson
Sharon Pearson
Gordon & Jackie Shaw

LOWCOUNTRY REGION

Jacqueline Ancrum
William & Afreida Jackson
Eva Keller
Edwina Wilson

PEE DEE REGION

Willie & Barbara Finley
Lenora Hill
Judy Perkins

Welcome to the Growing Home Southeast Family!

New CPR & First Aid Provider

CPR & First Aid Training will now be provided by The American Heart Association. Certifications will now be renewed every two years. Please check with your Regional Worker or Regional Director for training dates and times.

BRAG CORNER—WE LOVE TO BRAG ON OUR KIDS!!

Breanna is now attending school regularly. Good Job!

Melissa received a 2nd place ribbon in the Special Olympics!

Austin has started walking!! Way to go Austin!

Aaliyah made the A/B Honor Roll for the 3rd quarter! Keep up the good work, Aailyah!!

Courtney & Treatment Parent completed her science fair project.

Darren reached a wonderful milestone! She is off oxygen!!

Alisha is involved with JROTC and will be attending the military ball.

Danielle made the A/B Honor Roll and continues to earn additional badges in Girl Scouts. Way to go!

Shannon won 2nd place in the oratorical contest at her church.

Kimberlee will be participating in the Special Olympics.

Kristin passed the GED exam. Great job, Kristin!!

Tranelius made the Honor Roll & his school's soccer team!

Billy made the honor roll this nine weeks! Way to go, Billy!

A special **“Thank You”** to the following youth for participating on our Youth Panel.

- Alex
- Megan
- Lillian
- Nikita

It was a great success!



WHAT A GREAT
GROUP OF KIDS!!



440 Knox Abbott Drive Suite 250 · Cayce, South Carolina 29033
Phone: (803) 791-5513 /Toll-free (800) 344-5498 · Fax: (803) 739-0301
Visit us on the Web at: www.growinghomese.com