

family connection



A Newsletter for
Macomb County
Foster & Adoptive
Parents

July~August 2009

What is a collaborative? How can you make a difference to your community?

The Family to Family collaborative is a group of community members made up of residents, agencies and/or government leaders, working together to find solutions to the foster care problem within their cities. At this time, there are not enough foster residences for children placed outside of their homes. Sadly, most are being placed in other counties, away from support groups, school systems, churches, extended family, friends, etc. How can you make a difference? Come to our meeting to help "think outside the box," find ways to reach out to your community, and increase awareness of the urgency for our children to be placed in foster homes within their communities. You can be a part of this much needed change.



We eagerly invite you to the next:

Combined Collaborative Group Meeting

June 24, 2009

1:00 pm - 3:30pm

Roseville Parks and Recreation Dept

18185 Sycamore

Roseville, MI 48066

586-445-5480

www.roseville-mi.gov

Desire To Be Inspired Youth Conference

Macomb County's SPIRIT youth board is hosting their 2nd Annual Teen Conference, "Desire to be Inspired." The event offers breakout sessions in areas ranging from abstinence to youth aging out of foster care. Presenters will include JJ Hitch, Former Foster Youth and Foster Club All-Star, young people from foster care, foster care alumnus and supportive adults from the area. The conference will take place at the Macomb Intermediate School District building, Clinton Township, and is scheduled from 12pm-4pm. Event coordinators request that all registrations be turned in by July 3, 2009. For questions, please call Jessica Rossow at 586.412.6172 or email Rossowj@michigan.gov. To learn more about the All Stars Club, visit <http://allstars.fosterclub.com/>.

Foster Care Forum

Community members are invited to learn how to change the lifetime of a child in need. Information and answers to questions will be provided to anyone interested in learning more about the foster care system. No pressure! This Foster Care Forum will feature guest speakers Anne Lesniak of the Childhelp Private Agency, Patti Laukonis from the Department of Human Services and Ilene Bernstein, former foster parent and member of the Family to Family team.

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

6-7:30pm

Main Library

40900 Romeo Plank Road

Clinton Township 48038

For more information, please contact Ashleigh Singleton, Community Specialist, at 586.868.0351. Light refreshments will be served at 6pm.

FREE Youth Support

CAMP

Summer 2009

Eight day camp program!

Camp is FREE for youth ages 6-15 who are affected by a loved one's use of alcohol or other drugs, or have a family member in recovery. Parent sessions & childcare are available.

July 27-30 & August 3-6

8:30am-12:00pm

Cornerstone Baptist Church

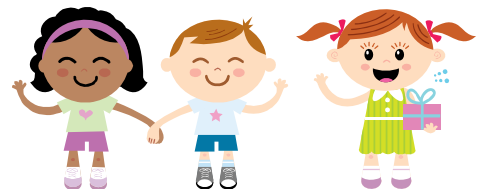
17017 12 Mile Road

Roseville, MI 48066

Registration packet is available online at

www.careofmacomb.com

Or call 586.541.0033



in the community



Friends & Family Support Network

Join the families and friends of incarcerated loved ones as they come together to share experiences, coping strategies and encouragement. This family dialogue night will meet June 5th and continue the first Friday of each month at the New Mount Moriah Macomb in Mt. Clemens. Each meeting will present different topics and speakers; **there is no cost to attend**. For more information or questions, please call Kelly Turri, Family Specialist, at 586.469.7738.

Support Group Meeting Announcement

A FREE support group for sexual abuse/assault survivors (ages 18 and up) is now being offered through Turning Point. The group will meet Wednesday evenings, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Participants can expect a casual, non-threatening and confidential environment. For more information contact Diana at 586.463.4430 x245.

Supper Time at Solid Ground

Community members are encouraged to donate, prepare and/or serve a lunch or dinner at Solid Ground, a transitional housing program, in Roseville. Volunteers are also invited to sign up to work with children as their parents attend meetings. Please call 586.772.3604 to schedule a meal, volunteer or for more information.

Recovery Dinner Cruise

Greater Macomb Project Vox, CARE and the NCADD-Detroit will host a Recovery Dinner Cruise on the Detroit Princess Riverboat, August 20, 2009. Registration for the cruise, as well as complete event information, is available online at www.careofmacomb.com/events.php or by calling 586.541.0033.

Summer Educational Program

Brighton Hospital is hosting a summer educational program:

June 19: Drugs 101—What Every Parent Wants to Know

June 20: Grief and the Addicted Family, Enabling & the Role it Plays in the Addicted Family, Family Sculpting & Recovery of Relationships

For more information or to register, please call 810.220.5514.

Summer Parent Education Classes

CARE offers a variety of informal workshops where parents come together to discuss family life. Participants work together in small groups and learn specific child-training principals and techniques. For more information call 586.541.0033 or visit www.careofmacomb.com.

Link to Community Resources

The Disability Network of Oakland and Macomb will present "Your Link to Community Resources," an opportunity for community members to learn more about Oakland and Macomb's best kept secret. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, from 6:30pm-8pm, at 16645 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township. Those who are interested are asked to please RSVP at 586.268.4160 or info@dnom.org.

2nd Annual Recovery Fest

On Sunday, July 26, 2009, CARE and Greater Macomb Project Vox will sponsor the 2nd Annual Recovery Fest at Huron Park in Roseville. The event will feature a softball tournament, food, entertainment and games for the entire family. To register a team for the softball tournament, call CARE's office at 586.541.0033. For general information about the day's activities, call Debbie Garrett at 586.634.2316. To download an event flyer, visit www.careofmacomb.com/events.php.

Free Family Education Classes

CARE is sponsoring a *free* education program for community members and families concerned about the recovery process. The S.A.S.S. (Substance Abuse Support Services) classes discuss and present issues relating to treatment readiness and understanding. Pre-registration is not required. Classes are scheduled from 2-3:30pm and are held at CARE, in the lower level conference room. For more information, please call 586.541.0033 x210.

If you are interested in becoming a part of Family to Family, an initiative that supports foster and birth families, or want to learn about other ways to help, please contact your local Community Specialist at:

Roseville—586.585.0351

Warren—586.758.1253

Clinton Twp.—586.868.0351

FASD Workshop

On July 13th, from 6:30pm-8:30pm, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will host a workshop on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of birth effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, behavioral, mental and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications. The training will provide an opportunity for caretakers to further their education on this subject. Diana Laskey, FASD Trainer/Screenener for CARE, will use an interactive approach to discuss FASD. The workshop will be held at the VerKuijen Building, Senior Auditorium, in Clinton Township. Registration is required so please contact Ann Wagner at 586.469.7826 or Ann.Wagner@macombcountymi.gov to register.



The 1st Annual Senior Fun Festival

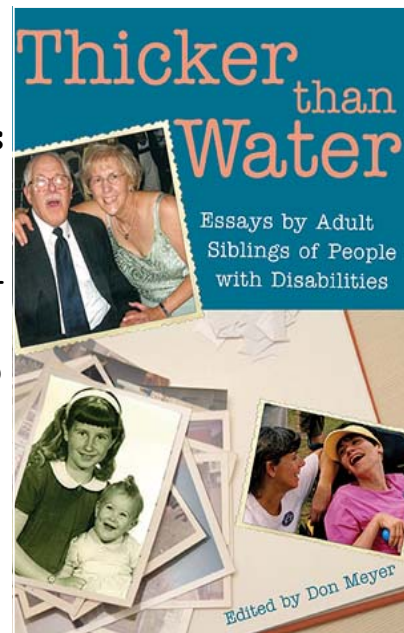
Join Macomb County Senior Citizen Services in their celebration of aging! Food items such as hot dogs, pizza, chips and ice cream will be offered at discounted prices. Many activities will be available during the day as well as an opportunity to receive free health screenings, blood pressure and cholesterol tests, bone density and trigger point massages. The event is scheduled June 17, from 10am-3:30pm, at the Gibraltar Trade Center Expo Center in Mt. Clemens.

Saint Athanasius' Baby Closet

The Saint Athanasius Baby Closet services all of Macomb County. They carry diapers, sizes 1-6, varying types of Enfamil, Similac and Prosobee formula, baby foods, newborn clothes and miscellaneous baby items. Parents are required only to have a need for assistance and proper I.D. (current state driver's license or state I.D.) to receive help. A Birth Certificate or Birth Verification is needed for the infant and a short form is required to complete upon arrival. Parents must call 586-772-1170 or 586-776-2943 to make an appointment to pick up any items. The Baby Closet hours are Monday thru Friday, 9am-12pm, and 1pm-3pm. We are located at 13 Mile and Kelly Road in Roseville. Entrance is through the parish office doors.

Thicker Than Water: Essays by Adult Siblings of People with Disabilities

The Sibling Support Project, a national effort dedicated to the life-long concerns of brothers and sisters of people who have special health, developmental, or



mental health concerns, is thrilled to announce that Woodbine House has published their new book. In this thought-provoking anthology, 39 adult siblings (ages 20-70) reflect on how their lives have been indelibly shaped by their relationship with a brother or sister with special needs. Edited by Don Meyer, *Thicker Than Water* reveals both positive and negative aspect of growing up with someone who might have received the lion's share of his parents' attention or who now requires extra support as an adult. The contributors have brothers and sisters whose disabilities include Down Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, seizures, visual impairment, Fragile X Syndrome, intellectual disability or mental illness.

Thicker Than Water features essays by the very best sibling authors from the US, Canada, England, Japan, and Australia.

Regardless of whether you're a sibling, parent, grandparent or service provider, readers will enjoy this compelling collection of essays.

To order your copy of this book of essays, or to learn more about the Sibling Support Project, go to www.siblingreport.org. All proceeds benefit the work of the organization.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Community Assessment Referral & Education (CARE) was one of 25 non-profit agencies to be recognized at the 25th Anniversary of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's Annual Meeting held at the Max M. Fisher Music Center on June 3. The 25 agencies were chosen from those that the foundation has funded over the last 25 years. Each agency received \$25,000 to continue their mission. CARE provides access to treatment for qualifying clients who require treatment for alcoholism and other drug dependencies, and programs focused on building family strengths.



THANK YOU!

A most heartfelt thank you to Noni's Grille, Roseville, for hosting the "Stephenie's Ride" fundraiser. The proceeds from that night were generous and the service from the wait staff was awesome! Thank you to all who supported this Family to Family effort in helping this teen get the education and support she wished for and greatly deserves. Just a note: she received the Geometry "All A" Award. Congratulations!

With Appreciation and Respect,
Anna Marie Riesterer
Family to Family Supervisor

May Foster Care Awareness Month

May 2, 2009, brought sunshine face painting, Harley Davidson Motorcycles, music, candy, balloons and awareness to the need for more foster parents in Macomb County. Family to Family would like to thank everyone that supported our efforts. Next year we plan on having a 5K run/walk! Stay Tuned!



For more information about CARE's programs, or to download a copy of our Annual Report, visit www.careofmacomb.com

www.careofmacomb.com

Fraser, MI. 48026

31900 Utica Rd.

Real solutions for real life

