

"Alone we can do so little.  
Together we can do so much."  
— Helen Keller



## Montgomery County Foster Parent Association

P.O. Box 10006 • Gaithersburg, MD 20898-0006 • [www.mcfpa.com](http://www.mcfpa.com)

# Fostering Communications

May 2005

A newsletter for foster and adoptive parents in Montgomery County. Published by DHHS.

### Please Join!

The Montgomery County Foster Parent Association (MCFPA) is a non-profit organization and is independent from DHHS. All foster and adoptive parents and other interested persons are welcome at our meetings. Dues are \$10 per year and can be mailed in or paid at the meetings.

The purpose of our organization is to address the needs of the children in care. This purpose is met by supporting foster and adoptive parents, answering questions, finding solutions, presenting helpful speakers at the meetings, and providing camps, tutoring, reduced cost day care, and sports activities.

Another benefit to joining is that you receive 1.5 hours of continuing education credit for each meeting you attend. You are required to complete six (6) hours of credit each year to maintain your license.

## May is Foster Parent Appreciation Month

Please join us May 12th for  
a reception 7:00-9:00 at  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg, MD

**Meet other foster parents  
and enjoy great food!**

**Directions:** The church is across from Walnut Hill Shopping Center on Route 355, near Shady Grove Road. There are three churches in a row. *Epworth United Methodist Church is the middle church with the stained glass steeple.* Parking is in the rear lot. Enter through the back doors, turn left, and follow the hallway around to the right to the social hall.

### Child Care during the meeting is free of charge.

**RESERVATIONS NECESSARY**



If you need child care during our meetings, please call 301-916-6001 at least a week before the meeting and leave a message. Children will not be accepted without a reservation. See next page for more information.

# Meeting Child Care

is available free of charge.



Many of our topics are unsuitable for young ears, so we ask that no children old enough to comprehend the content be brought in to the meetings.

**IMPORTANT:** We will be regularly checking in on the children to be sure everything is well and there are no behavior problems. Any child not following the rules or the direction of our provider will be removed from the child care room and returned to the responsible parent(s). Since some of the meeting topics are not appropriate for young ears this may require that you leave the meeting as well. If you are bringing older children to the child care room please have a discussion with them about proper behavior, respect for others and property, and following the rules.

If you need child care during our meetings, please call 301-916-6001 a week before any meeting and leave a message. Children will not be accepted without a reservation.

## Montgomery County Foster Parent Association 301-916-6001

### OFFICERS

#### President:

Gerrie Wright .....301-948-0686

#### Vice President:

Gordon Taylor .....301-916-6001

#### Secretary:

Daria Taylor .....301-916-6001

#### Treasurer:

David Brown .....301-916-6001

#### DHHS Liaison:

Linda Gore .....(240) 777-3943

#### Newsletter Editor

Michelle Haggart.....(301) 972-0984  
e-mail: mhaggart@comcast.net

The MCFPA Executive Board meets the first Monday of each month. Please leave a message at (301) 916-6001 if you have an item that should be discussed.

**MARY ALLMAN**, with Montgomery County Public Schools **Special Education** division, will help with any concerns you may have with special education issues. (301) 279-4967.

## Need help with Medical Care?

**BRENDA PETERSEN** who is a nurse and social worker can help access medical, dental, and mental health services for any child in state-supervised care. Please call her at 240-777-4439 if you need any assistance in obtaining health care or resolving billing issues for the children in your care.

### This is YOUR newsletter!

All foster and adoptive parents are encouraged to provide articles. These might include finalized adoptions, articles written by the foster child themselves, and scholastic or extra-curricular awards. *The deadline for all contributions to the newsletter is seven days after the monthly meeting.* Please submit your contribution using one of the following methods:

**E-mail:** mhaggart@comcast.net

**Mail:** Fostering Communications  
P.O. Box 10006

Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006

**Telephone:** (301) 916-6001

**CANCELLATION POLICY** Meetings will be cancelled if the schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather. The meeting will also be cancelled if Montgomery County Schools cancel evening programs. If you are in doubt call (301) 916-6001 and the recording will tell you if the meeting is on or not. If you prefer to speak to a person, you may call one of the officers. Regardless, do not venture out if driving looks too dangerous.

# MEETING MINUTES *by Dave Brown*

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Attendance: 26

The evening began with a light dinner of pizza provided by the association. Geri Wright, President, brought the meeting to order at about 7:30 PM. Geri welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves and share some personal info. Geri reminded everyone that there would not be a meeting in April. The next scheduled meeting is for Thursday, May, 12th. This has historically been the foster parent appreciation reception sponsored by the DHHS. Geri proceeded with a report on the Holiday Party. The party was held at the Gaithersburg Chuckie Cheese. Everyone who attended had a nice time. Some ideas for fundraisers and a spring kid's activity were discussed however nothing firm was settled. We are always looking for volunteers to become active in pursuing these ventures. Anyone interested was encouraged to speak with an officer during the break or after the meeting.

Linda Gore, the DHHS liaison, introduced herself and made a few short announcements. She announced that Angela Secundy, the long time supervisor of the home finders unit at DHHS, had recently retired along with another long time staff member. We will all miss her and wish her the best in her retirement. Everyone was encouraged to be patient during the interim while replacements are decided on. There was also some discussion about donations to the department of items that may be useful for foster families. Linda explained that there simply was no room to store such items but that if folks had items to donate that they could certainly call and let the staff know what was available in case a need arose.

A door prize was awarded during the break to Mr. Dale Taweel, a new foster parent trainee. There were many new faces from a recent foster parent class. We hope to see some of them return at future meetings.

Linda then introduced the speaker for the evening, Ms. Jane Larsen, RN. Ms. Larsen is a nurse with the MCPS and was here to share a presentation on, "Preventing Teen Pregnancy, Talking to Children of All Ages About Responsible Sex." Her presentation was a mix of videos and discussion about many issues of self esteem and sexuality that face our children today. Overall a very informative presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00, hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

## FORMS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Travel, daycare, and health passport forms (with instructions) are now available on the MCFPA web site.

**[www.mcfpa.com](http://www.mcfpa.com)**

click on "important forms"  
at the bottom of the page.

(THEY ARE IN PDF FORMAT)

# MCFPA Membership Form

for July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005



Please fill out, fold in thirds, place in an envelope, and mail with payment to:  
Fostering Communications, P.O. Box 10006, Gaithersburg, MD 20898-006

**Amount Due: \$10 per foster family**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ *(Do not send cash)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Topics and/or speakers you would like to see at our meetings: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Montgomery County  
Foster Parent Association**

P.O. Box 10006 • Gaithersburg, MD 20898-0006

*May is Foster Parent  
Appreciation Month*