

AIFACS Newsletter

November-January 2016/2017

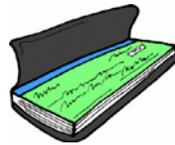
Office Closings

The AIFACS office will be closed on November 11th for Veterans Day, November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving, December 26th for Christmas, and January 2nd for New Years Day.

Emergencies

Always remember to write up an incident report! If you have an emergency or need to report an incident regarding any children placed in your home or for respite, please call the St. Paul office at 651-223-8526 or the Northern office at 218-768-2892. You can also file an incident report on our website at www.aifacs.org

Checks



Receipts are being issued with your checks. Please be sure to look them over to ensure they are correct before cashing them. In the case of an underpayment, an adjustment check can be issued as soon as Erin is notified. If you are overpaid for any reason, a correct check can be re-issued. If you cash a check that contains an over-payment, you will be expected to pay the difference back to us. It is important that you update your licensing worker of any changes in placements or MAPCY/DOC scores in order to ensure accurate billing.

Recruiting New Homes

AIFACS foster parents make the best recruiters! If you know of families who would make great foster parents, spread the word about AIFACS! Anyone interested can call our office and request a licensing packet.

Referral Bonus

We are offering a \$25.00 bonus to our foster parents when you refer someone **and they become licensed**. In addition to this, when someone calls to request a licensing packet and they mention your name, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card at the end of the month. We are offering this until the end of 2016.

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BOARD MEMBERS

Community Members:

Donna Jorgensen

David Loud

Richard White

Marissa Lussier

Foster Parents:

Fabian (J.R.) Strong

Debi Doffing

Tina O'Brien

Holiday Party with Santa

AIFACS will be having a Holiday party on **Saturday, December 3rd from 12:00pm-2:00pm** at the St. Paul office. We will have games, activities, food, door prizes, and Santa! All children in your home are welcome to attend. **Please RSVP by calling 651-223-8526 so we know how many people to expect.**



Powwows

As a reminder, powwows can be used as training hours. Foster parents are allowed to earn 2 hours per powwow for up to 3 powwows. That's 6 hours of training! The following are upcoming powwows:

- November 7th – Gathering for Our Children and Returning Adoptees Powwow – Minneapolis, MN
- November 11th – Traditional Powwow at St. Paul American Indian Magnet School – St. Paul, MN
- November 14th – Veterans Wacipi Keep Tobacco Sacred – Morton, MN
- November 17th – Minnesota Indian Education Association Powwow – Red Wing, MN
- November 28th – Debwe's 4th Annual Traditional Gathering – Detroit Lakes, MN
- January 13th – Traditional Powwow at St. Paul American Indian Magnet School – St. Paul, MN

Talking Circle

In an effort to reduce American Indian out of home placement disparities, Ramsey County has hired John Poupart as a consultant. He will attempt to bring the American Indian community and Ramsey County closer together regarding how they meet the challenge of reducing out of home placement disparities. He will also host learning and training sessions for the county. Outreach is also one of his responsibilities. Within the scope of outreach, he is seeking to host three talking circles with parents of children that are involved with Child Protection Services of Ramsey County. If you are a parent and would like to be involved in one of the talking circles, please contact AIFACS or John Poupart directly at 651-260-9229.

Reminders

- Respite hours add up until the end of the year. You will lose any saved respite hours unless they are used **before** December 31st.
- Communicate with your licensing worker! If your licensing worker emails, texts, or calls you, please respond to them.
- Foster parents must remember that information about your foster children, including photographs, must remain confidential. This is listed in the foster parents and agency agreements that you sign to become licensed. Because of this, posting photos or videos of your foster children on social media websites is not allowed.
- As a friendly reminder, when you are signing paperwork, please make sure you sign AND date all paperwork.
- Please get a court order or written permission from the parent before you cut your foster child's hair.





Training

Your training hours must be turned in for the 2016 year at the end of the year. All Foster Parents licensed through AIFACS need to have 12 hours of annual training. One hour of your annual training has to be a mental health topic. This training is required whether or not you have placements in your home during the year.

Training Opportunities

- The 5th Annual FASD Matters Conference will be held on November 10th and 11th at the Minneapolis Marriott NW. Registration will be accepted through November 3rd. Registration is \$125.00 per person. You can register at www.mofas.org/fasdmatters
- There is an Adolescent Development training on January 23rd – 26th at the AmericInn Motel in St. Cloud. Registration is \$325.00 per person. If you are interested in this training, please have your licensing worker register you.

****If you would like to use your annual training allowance for any of these conferences, please let your licensing worker know and they can register you.****

AIFACS In-Service Trainings

AIFACS will be providing in-service training on various topics every 3rd Wednesday of the month, with a few exceptions due to holidays. Letters and emails will go out to remind you of upcoming trainings and **we will need you to register to attend the training by calling 651-223-8526. If we have less than 6 people register, that training will be canceled and those who registered will be notified.** This is a great opportunity to catch up on your training hours for the year. Some of the topics we plan to have trainings on are: mandated reporting, FASD, sex trafficking, CPR, etc. Look for letters and emails to see what trainings are coming up.

In October, we had Bonnie Jean Smith give a presentation on special education and your rights as a foster parent. She talked about the IEP process, what services are available for children, and resources for parents.

On November 16th, we will have Paula Watts here to give a training on mandated reporting. Paula is an Adjunct Professor at Augsburg College. We will not have a training in December because of the holiday, but we will resume training in January.

A Special Thank You



We would like to thank all of the foster parents who brought their children and came to our Halloween Party in October. We had 32 children come and it was great to be able to provide them with a fun night of games and activities. We would also like to thank those who came to help setup and take down for the party. Your help is greatly appreciated.