

# AIFACS Newsletter

May-July 2017

## Office Closings

The AIFACS office will be closed on May 29<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day, and July 4<sup>th</sup> for Independence 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](http://www.aifacs.org)

## Open House/Annual Meeting

AIFACS will be hosting our Open House/Annual Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-5:30pm. This event will be open to the public and will take place in the parking lot of the St. Paul AIFACS office at 25 Empire Drive St. Paul, MN 55103. Please join us for food, fun, door prizes, and a bouncy house for the kids!



## New Board Members

We would like to welcome Laura Ross and Hannah Lieder to our Board of Directors. Hannah and Laura were appointed to the board in February and we are excited to have them as part of our team!

## 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! There is a crisis number of ICWA children in Minnesota who are in need of out of home placement. We are always looking for additional foster homes, even for respite. **We will once again be offering a referral bonus to any licensed AIFACS foster home who refers someone to our agency and they become licensed.**

Governing Council  
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## BOARD MEMBERS

### Community Members:

Donna Jorgensen

David Loud

Marissa Lussier

Laura Ross

### Foster Parents:

Fabian (J.R.) Strong

Tina O'Brien

Hannah Lieder

## 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:

- May 6<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow for Hope – Minneapolis, MN
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Earth Mother's Day Powwow – Minneapolis, MN
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – South of the River Traditional Powwow – Burnsville, MN
- May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Traditional Powwow – Cass Lake, MN
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – American Indian Magnet School Traditional Powwow – St. Paul, MN
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saa Gii Ba Gaa Traditional Powwow – Orr, MN
- June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – 149<sup>th</sup> Annual White Earth Powwow – White Earth, MN
- June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Grand Celebration – Hinckley, MN
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – Lake Vermillion Traditional Powwow – Lake Vermillion, MN
- June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fourth of July Traditional Powwow – Cass Lake, MN
- July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Mii Gwitch Mahnomen Days 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Powwow – Ball Club, MN
- July 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Traditional Powwow – McGregor, MN

## Reminders

- **When you receive your re-licensing packet in the mail, please fill out the paperwork and send it back as soon as possible.** We send you the packet 90 days before your license is due to expire. This is to allow you time to fill out the paperwork and for us to meet with you for your Home Study Update and submit all necessary paperwork in a timely manner to get your license renewed.
- **Communicate with your licensing worker! If your licensing worker emails, texts, or calls you, please respond to them.**
- As ICWA best practices, please get a court order or written permission from the parent before you cut your foster child's hair.
- Our AIFACS Foster Parent Honoring is taking place on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Black Bear Casino Hotel. Look for more info on this as the date gets closer.



## Training

All AIFACS licensed foster parents need to have 12 hours of annual training. **One hour of your annual training has to be a mental health topic and one hour must be an FASD topic.** This training is required by DHS whether or not you have placements in your home during the year.

## Training Opportunities

- June 13<sup>th</sup> – ICWA Education Day Native LGBTQ/Two Spirit – Mitchell Hamline School of Law – Free (must register)

**\*\*If you would like to use your \$200 annual training allowance for any conferences/workshops, please let your licensing worker know and they can register or reimburse you.\*\***

## AIFACS In-Service Training Opportunities

AIFACS has been providing in-service training on various topics every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 have had trainings on are: mandated reporting, FASD, sex trafficking, CPR, Special Education, Etc.

- On March 15<sup>th</sup> we had Betty Greencrow and Shauna Feine here from MOFAS (Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome).
- On April 19<sup>th</sup> we had Heidi Kopischke from The Link give a presentation on sex trafficking.

We are working on planning more in-service training opportunities. Please let your licensing worker know if there is a specific training topic you are interested in.



### Foster Parent Support Group

We have noticed that when we hold events and our foster parents get together, great discussions are had. If you are interested in AIFACS holding a Foster Parent Support Group, please let your licensing worker know. We feel it would be a good opportunity to allow you all to bounce questions and ideas off each other.

## Shop Amazon Smile

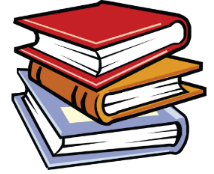
Do you shop on Amazon? Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and register AIFACS as your favorite charity. Each time you shop Amazon through the Amazon Smile website, 0.5% of your total purchase will be automatically donated to AIFACS. Remember that only purchases made through Amazon Smile will count towards a donation.



## AIFACS DVDs and Books

AIFACS has several books and DVDs we are able to “loan” out to our foster homes for training hours or if you are just interested in a certain topic and would like to learn more. We also have some workbooks for teens who are in foster care/struggling with anger issues/stress management. We can make copies of these and send them to you or drop them off on our home visit. We ask that if you borrow a book or DVD that it gets returned within 15 days or by the next home visit so other homes can use them.

Some of the topics of books and DVDs we have are: ADHD, meltdowns, self-regulation, two-spirit, autism, children's books on better understanding foster care, child development, fetal Alcohol, and Native cultural documentaries. Please call us at 651-223-8526 with any questions.



## The Circle Newspaper

We are now a drop site for The Circle Newspaper, so feel free to grab a paper when you are in the St. Paul office! Also look for our events in the Community Events pages!

## Foster Parent Informational Sessions

We are hosting more Foster Parent Info Sessions in Minneapolis and St. Paul in June, July, and August! If you know of someone who has had questions or may be interested in becoming licensed, send them to one of our sessions! This is a great opportunity to get questions answered and even submit a request for a licensing packet that day! We are asking for anyone planning on attending to RSVP by calling 651-223-8526. Snacks will be provided.

- June 20<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Session at AIFACS Office 25 Empire Drive from 2pm-3pm.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> Minneapolis Session at the Indian Center 1530 E Franklin Ave from 2pm-3pm.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Session at AIFACS Office from 2pm-3pm.
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis Session at the Indian Center from 2pm-3pm.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Session at AIFACS from 2pm-3pm.
- August 17<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis Session at the Indian Center from 2pm-3pm.

## Tix for Kids

Tix for Tots is now called Tix for Kids. They have tickets for a lot of Twins games. If there is a specific game you want tickets for, let Angela DeWitt know and she will request them if there are any available. Sometimes there are tickets for other events like the Science Museum or some Plays. If there are other specific events or activities besides baseball or basketball, let Angela know and she will keep her eyes peeled for tickets to request if they are available. Remember requesting tickets does not guarantee tickets. These tickets must be used for kids in care. The adults in the home and minor children may also attend but foster children must also attend. If you request tickets and don't use them, our agency gets penalized. It will make it less likely to have our ticket requests granted, so please make sure you can use the tickets that you request.



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