

AIFACS Newsletter

August-October 2017

Office Closings

The AIFACS office will be closed on September 4th for Labor Day, and September 22nd for National Native American Day.

Emergencies

Please remember to write up incident reports! 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

Foster Parent Honoring

Our Foster Parent Honoring will be Saturday, September 30th at Black Bear Casino Hotel. Please RSVP to Angela by August 25th. You will need to book your room by August 29th. Watch for more details to come.

Shelter Homes

AIFACS is looking for foster homes that would also like to be an emergency shelter home. Shelter placements are usually less than 30 days, but can be extended to 90 days. The daily pay rate is higher than non-shelter placements because you are expected to have everything needed for the children when they arrive. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a shelter home as well as a foster/respite home.

Board of Directors

Donna Jorgensen resigned from her position as Board Chair at the end of her term in July. AIFACS would like to thank Donna for her dedicated time on the board and we wish her well with future endeavors. Laura Ross has been appointed as the new Chair. With that, we are looking for a community member spot to be filled. If you know anyone interested in taking on this opportunity, please have them contact Lucy Favorite.

Governing Council
board@aifacs.org

Lucy Favorite
lfavorite@aifacs.org

Angela DeWitt
adewitt@aifacs.org

Kelly Peet
kpeet@aifacs.org

Erin Hauck
ehauck@aifacs.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Community Members:

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:

- August 4th-6th – 39th Annual Sobriety Mash-ka-wisen Traditional Powwow – Sawyer, MN
- August 18th-20th – Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Wacipi – Shakopee, MN
- August 18th-20th – 51st Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow – Onamia, MN
- August 25th-27th – Cha Cha Bah Ning 36th Annual Traditional Powwow – Inger, MN
- September 8th-10th – Mendota's 18th Annual Traditional Powwow – Mendota, MN
- September 1st-3rd – Leech Lake Labor Day Powwow – Cass Lake, MN
- September 15th-17th – Miigwech Mankato Traditional Powwow – Nett Lake, MN
- September 15th-17th – Battle Point 19th Annual Traditional Powwow – Battle-Sugar Point, MN
- September 22nd-24th – 4th Annual Mahkato Traditional Powwow – Mankato, MN

Correction Orders

As an agency, we are required to abide by rules set by DHS. As foster parents, you are required to abide by the same rules set by DHS. These are a higher standard of rules than the average parent should follow. If these rules are not being followed and the minimum foster parent standards are not being met, our agency may have to issue your home a correction order. A correction order is a way for you to identify an error and correct the mistake. Correction orders are required by DHS when minimum standards are not met and they are not meant to degrade or shame our foster parents.

We Are Not Your Employer

AIFACS has had requests to verify employment. We cannot verify your employment or give out salary information because you are not employed through our agency. We can only verify that you are licensed foster parents and that you have had placements.

Shop Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? Go to 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.

Halloween Party

Last year, we held a Halloween party and it was a big hit! We expect this year's party to be just as fun! Come by the St. Paul AIFACS office on Friday, October 27th from 5pm-7pm for a spooky fun time with food, prizes, and games! All children in your home are welcome to come show off their costume! This event is for AIFACS licensed foster homes only. Please RSVP by calling 651-223-8526 by October 23rd so we make sure we have enough food and prizes for everyone.



Foster Parent Informational Sessions

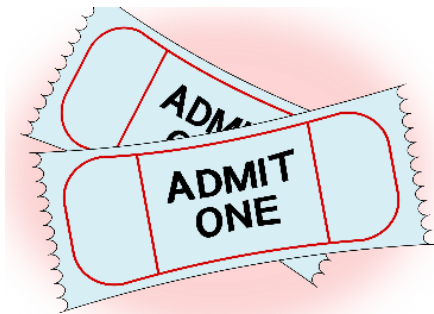
We are hosting more Foster Parent Info Sessions in Minneapolis and St. Paul in August! If you know of someone who has had questions or may be interested in becoming licensed for foster, shelter, or respite care, send them to one of our sessions! This is a great opportunity to get questions answered and 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. Light refreshments will be provided.

- August 15th St. Paul Session at AIFACS from 2pm-3pm.
- August 17th Minneapolis Session at the Indian Center from 2pm-3pm.

Training Requirements

As an AIFACS foster home, each licensed adult in the home is required by DHS to have 12 hours of annual training. At least 1 hour must be a mental health topic and 1 hour must be an FASD topic. Your annual training hours are due by December, 31st. There are various resources for training such as our website, books and videos at the AIFACS office, In-Service training provided by AIFACS, conferences, and workshops. You can even watch a TV program at home as long as it relates to foster care, mental health, child development, etc. Each AIFACS home has an annual training allowance of \$200 to use for registration fees, mileage, lodging, and food while at a training. Remember to submit your receipts so we can process your reimbursement.

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.

Visit our website at www.aifacs.org

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