

# Advocate

**News for Chicago Metro Area Foster Parents**

## Cook County DCFS Scholarship Winners

Several young people who reside in the Cook County regions or whose cases are managed in Cook County found that their hard work in high school reaped many benefits for college. Each DCFS scholarship recipient will receive a medical card, \$444.85 monthly maintenance stipend and a waiver of tuition and fees if they attend one of the nine designated Illinois universities. Students who elect to attend another school still receive the benefit of the medical card and the monthly stipend. These winners of the DCFS Scholarship were chosen from applications submitted by students across the state on the basis of their scholastic aptitude, personal statement and their community involvement. Take a closer look at the Cook County youth who have recently started down a new path to success.

**Diamond Archibald**

Diamond, of Chicago, is a 2002 graduate of the Southside College Prep Academy. She now attends Marquette University. In addition to community service, Diamond was active

on the math team, book club and National Honor Society.

**Danielle Baugh**

Danielle, from Maywood, graduated from Proviso East High School. There, she played tennis and participated on the student council. Danielle was also a member of the Student Principal Advisory Council. She now attends Northern Illinois University and is considering a major in business.

**Tiarra Garner**

Tiarra, of Chicago, received numerous high school awards including the Angel Award for completing over 100 hours of community service. Tiarra now attends Chicago State University.

**Andrea Graebe**

Andrea, from Chicago, is a 2002 graduate of Lane Technical High School. She now attends Northeastern Illinois University.

In high school, Andrea stayed busy by playing on the school softball team, performing as a member of the drama club and students or service club. She was also nominated for the "Junior Citizen's Award" from the Chicago Park District.

**Julianne Heniff**

Julianne, a 2002 graduate of Rich East High School, was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America. She also volunteered at the Park Forest

homeless shelter and served as the treasurer of her senior class. Julianne attends Northern Illinois University and will major in business/finance.

**Shanika Galloway**

Shanika, of Chicago, graduated from John Hope Preparatory High School. She now attends college at Bradley University and will major in business administration or accounting.

In high school she was Treasurer for the National Honor Society and for her senior class. She also participated in volleyball.



## Cook Scholarship Winners (con't.)



### Angel Johnson

Angel, a 2002 graduate of Thornridge High School, now attends Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and studies English. Angel has a passion for writing and received the Young Authors

Award from Columbia College. She was also a feature writer for Thornridge High School's newspaper. Angel was also recognized for her community service at a homeless shelter in Chicago.

**Danielle Lavallais** Danielle, of Chicago, is currently attending the University of Illinois at Chicago and majoring in speech and hearing science. Her hobbies include playing the flute and piccolo, for which she won both the city and state championships while in high school.



**Kashawneda Lajunee Lee** Kashawneda, of Chicago attended Olive-Harvey College, where she made the Dean's List last year. In high school, Kashawneda was in the Who's Who Among American High School Students, the Principal Scholars Association and the National Honor Society.

### Kara Denise Maglio

Kara, of Glendale Heights, graduated from Glenbard East High School. In high school, she participated in a three-week school sponsored trip to Mexico. Kara had collected clothing, books and other items for Mexican children. She was a Student Leader at Glenbard and was in the Spanish Honor Society and New Beginnings. She now attends Northern Illinois University.



### Siovhan Sanders

Siovhan, of Chicago, is a 2002 graduate of Simeon Career Academy where she received the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. Siovhan attends the University of Illinois, Chicago and is majoring in social work.

### Tika Shelby

Tika, a resident of Chicago, was a 2002 graduate of Carver Military Academy. She now attends University of Illinois at Chicago. In high school, Tika participated in various activities including the school newspaper, Academic Decathlon of Mathematics and ROTC.



### LaTonya Snowden

LaTonya graduated as senior class president from Dunbar Vocational Career Academy in Chicago. In 1999, she developed an interest in the culinary arts and took a college course at Roosevelt University during her senior year. She now attends Johnson & Wales University in Charleston, South Carolina.

### Kyna Starks

Kyna, a resident of Dolton, graduated in June of 2001. She attends college at Northern Illinois University and plans to major in business administration or liberal arts. In high school, she was captain of the track team and played in the band. She has also done volunteer work at her church, school and community.



### Nikki Thigpen

Nikki is a resident of Hazel Crest and a 2002 graduate of Hillcrest High School. Nikki attends the University of Chicago and plans to major in business administration. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized in the local newspaper for participating in the Shedd Aquarium's Marine Biology program.

## Cook Scholarships



### Theresa Thompson

Theresa, a resident of Chicago was a 2002 graduate of Prosser

Career Academy. She now attends the University of Chicago. In high school, Theresa was captain of the school basketball team and involved in the college excel program.

### Jacquelyn Wolski

Jacquelyn, of McHenry, is a 2002 graduate of Proviso West High School.



Jacquelyn attends Northern Illinois University and plans to major in physical therapy. In addition to being a reporter for the high school newspaper, she played clarinet in the school band, and was a member of the National Honor Society.



### Symone Young

Symone Young, of Chicago, now attends the University of Illinois at

Champaign. In high school, she maintained a B average and participated in numerous activities, including the Big Sister Mentor program, Spanish Honor Society, University of Chicago College Summit program and the University of Illinois Health Science enrichment program.

## Post-Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy Unit Has New Toll-free Number

Now families who have adopted or taken guardianship of children receiving subsidies can have one number to dial for help. Subsidy-related questions can go to a new, toll-free phone line (866) 538-8892. The main number to call outside of Illinois is (312) 808-5250. Each of the Cook County subsidy workers can now be reached at the toll-free line. If you don't know the worker for your child, the operator will connect you.

The subsidy unit in Cook County handles more than 28,000 cases. The new line was put in place to make it easier to answer the many questions that typically come in each day. The difference will be that now the unit has an operator to help manage calls, along with a detailed automated voicemail system.

Callers have the option of connecting directly to their subsidy worker's extension. Or if they need assistance, an operator can help. Further, the voicemail greeting helps redirect calls that are not handled by the unit.

"Some of our most common calls are about things we don't handle like missing checks or lost medical cards. The new phone system gives callers that information up front, so we can get to the other important subsidy questions," said Legertha Barner, Administrator for the Cook County Subsidy Unit.

The subsidy unit can help adoptive and guardianship parents who have questions about what the subsidy covers, using the subsidy to get referrals for services or updating family address information. It is also the first stop for troubleshooting issues with obtaining services and/or questions about moving out of state.

With the new phone system, the Cook County subsidy unit is seeing better response times as they serve Cook County families. As yet, phone numbers for subsidy workers in other DCFS regions have not changed, but the hope is to have a centralized system across the state in the future.

**Cook County  
Subsidy Unit  
New Toll-free  
Phone Line**

**(866) 538-8892**

## Cook Central Region Celebrates Its Graduates

The Cook Central Youth Advisory Board hosted its annual Graduation Celebration at the 3518 W. Division Street office. Cook Central regional staff and the staff from the Division of Education and Transitional Services (DETS) honored eleven graduates, accompanied by their guests.

The keynote speaker for the program was April Curtis, past president of the Statewide Youth Advisory Board and a special assistant to Director McDonald on the issues of youth in care. During the event, the youth got an opportunity to meet with the DETS staff and obtain further information about attending college or obtaining vocational services for future employment. They were given a brief overview of services that are offered by DCFS to its older teens.

The evening concluded by awarding certificates and duffle bags from DETS to each honoree in recognition of their accomplishment. Additionally, the staff of Cook Central collected funds to provide each graduate movie passes and a gift card from Old Navy as a special treat from the staff.

## Congratulation to Cook South 2002 Graduates

“We’ve Come Too Far to Stop,” was the theme for the Graduation Celebration for Cook South graduates this year. During the summer Cook South Administration, the Division of Education and Transition Services and the Cook South Regional Youth Advisory Board, sponsored a gala event to celebrate the achievement of approximately 20 foster children who had graduated from high school, college, or received their GED.

Foster parents, staff, family, and friends came out to show these young people how proud they were of them and to encourage them to continue on this positive road. Many of them had overcome many obstacles to reach this level of success.



The program consisted of dinner, music, and tributes to the honorees. There were many words of encouragement from the various speakers. The program’s Master of Ceremony was a member of the Youth Advisory Board. The featured speaker was Justice Ellis E. Reed of the Illinois Appellate Court.

In Justice Reed’s opening remarks, he told the graduates, “We gather to celebrate one of life’s many milestones under your theme ‘We’ve Come Too Far To Stop’. Today you should dedicate yourselves to honorable achievement so that you can become leaders in this community.”

He went on to say, “One of life’s truths is that you only get by giving and there is no value in anything that cannot be shared. You must always try to do your best and to make a difference in this world.”

During his speech he presented the graduates with what he called his “10 Rules For Successful Living.” Rule Number Nine, stated: “Today’s Choices Will Affect Tomorrow. The choices made in life clearly affect the road that will be traveled by you.

## People You Should Know

### *Sheila Green*

Sheila Green has been a DCFS foster parent for the past ten years. Ms. Green loves babies and can be counted on to provide outstanding care. Many of the children that have come into her home have behavioral problems and other special needs. She once accepted two teenage sisters who had disrupted from their pervious placement due to their behavior and were headed for the shelter and possible group home placements. Ms. Green worked with both girls until they were able to return to their previous placement. She has adopted two children, both of whom had special needs. She is in the process of adopting two siblings, one of whom has special needs.



**COOK SOUTH**

According to DCFS Supervisor Bremen Campbell, "Ms. Green is an advocate for those in her care and tirelessly pursues the best possible services for them. She is one of those special people who sacrifices her time to insure that the children in her care attend all medical appointments, participate in counseling if needed, and recreational activities." He also stated that she was, "a rare individual whose love for children helps to make a difference in many of their lives."

Everyone at Cook South thanks Ms. Baker and Ms. Green for their support to the staff and their dedication to foster children.

### *Jennifer Baker*

Jennifer Baker has been a foster parent for twenty years. She received an Outstanding Achievement award at Cook South's Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner earlier this year. She is a Foster Parent Support Specialist, a trainer for Foster Pride, a part-time college student, and a foster parent. She has served on Foster Parent Planning and Implementation committees, offering new ideas on the care of children. She has helped to organize holiday parties for our foster children. With all of these duties, she still finds time to make herself available to serve on the Cook South Youth Advisory Board and the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council.



Ms. Baker is a real advocate for foster children. She encourages other foster parents to take their children to the State Fair and take advantage of the many other activities that are available for children. She believes in being actively involved in the lives of her foster children. She monitors their school progress and makes sure that they are getting the most out of their education. She takes the lead in assuring that all their medical needs are being met. During the winter months, she may even be found in the park sledding with her children.

One of Ms. Baker's greatest achievements to date is moving beyond the role of a foster parent to become an adoptive parent. She and her husband have adopted five children.

## Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

At the suggestion of some of Cook North foster parents, each issue of *Fostering Illinois* will focus on a Foster Parent Law Right and/or a Responsibility. This issue looks at Foster Parent Right #13 along with the Cook North Implementation Plan's response to address that right.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding the Cook North region's implementation plan, you may contact either: Jackie Bright at 312/328-2507, e-mail address: JBright@idcfs.state.il.us or Sari Rowitz at 312/328-2481, e-mail address: SRowitz@idcfs.state.il.us.

**13. *The right to have timely access to the child placement agency's existing appeals process and the right to be free from acts of harassment or retaliation by any other party when exercising the right to appeal.***

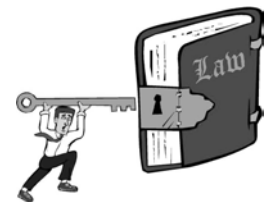
According to Rule and Procedure 337, child welfare staff are responsible for providing foster parents with documentation regarding the service appeal process. Annually, Cook North provides foster parents with a copy of their appeal rights with a copy of our annual implementation plan. Additionally, the region posts copies of the current service appeal brochure in the lobby of each regional office. Prior to filing an appeal, foster parents are encouraged to request a staffing via their casework supervisor to resolve any issues.

When case situations are brought to the attention of regional management, the team makes every effort to resolve the issue at a local level, working across divisions to expedite resolution. The region continues to further develop internal relationships between divisions to better provide support and continuity of care to children and families.

The region recognizes the need to have a system in place in order to address foster parents' concerns when there is an issue related to service delivery, teamwork or potential violations of the Foster Parent Rights and Responsibilities. To meet this objective, it developed a regional grievance resolution process in collaboration with the Foster Parent Council.

## Implementation Plan and the Foster Parent Law

In August of 2002, Cook North DCFS Foster Parents were sent copies of the Region's Annual Report and Implementation Plan for the Foster Parent Law. Every fall the region schedules several focus groups in order to provide foster parents with the opportunity to review the region's progress and to give input on ways to improve on the annual plan.



Please let the region know your thoughts and ideas about the Cook North Plan. Call 312/328-2481 for more information. Remember...the key to a successful implementation plan is teamwork!

## Seeking Resources for Adoptive and Guardianship Families

Do you know a good resource for adoptive parents or guardians? The Center for Adoptions Studies is gathering information for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to develop an updated directory of helpful services. The directory will focus on the following areas:

- Mental Health Therapists
- Advocacy Services
- Support Groups
- Respite Providers
- Training and Educational Opportunities
- Social/Recreational Opportunities for Adoptive and Guardianship Children and Families
- Child Welfare Agencies providing adoption and post adoption services

In addition, the Center is looking for the following specialized services that may assist adoptive and guardianship families with particular needs:

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome related services
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD or ADHD) services
- Treatment for sexual abuse

All they need from you is a name, address and phone number of the service, then they will contact them to learn about their services.

Please call, write, e-mail or fax

Carrie Thomas  
 Center for Adoption Studies  
 Illinois State University  
 4650 - Social Work  
 Normal, IL 61790-4650  
 Phone: 309-438-5077  
 Fax: 309-438-3142  
 E-Mail: CMThomas2@ilstu.edu

Include your name and phone number if you would like the Center for Adoption Studies to contact you to learn more.

THANK YOU!

## Community Forum: Systems of Care

Come learn more about the new System of Care community-based delivery system of mental health services for children. (See article on page 6 of Fostering Illinois for more details.) Caregivers are invited to a community forum sponsored by the African-American Family Commission. This forum will help explain what services will be provided to children with special needs and how caregivers can access these services through the System of Care. Representatives from DCFS administration will be on hand to answer questions.

December 5, 2002  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.  
 Juvenile Court Building  
 Auditorium  
 2245 W. Ogden Ave.  
 Chicago, IL

For more information, contact Wasi Young at 312-326-0368 or [wyoung@aaaf.org](mailto:wyoung@aaaf.org).

***Kind words can  
 be short and easy  
 to speak, but  
 their echos are  
 truly endless.***

— Mother Teresa

# Cook County Training Calendar

## FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

**Module 1** - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children* (Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

**Module 2** - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 3** - *Addressing Developmental Issues Related to Sexuality* (One 3-hour session = 3 training hours)

**Module 4** - *Responding to the Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 5** - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 6** - *Working as a Professional Team Member* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 7** - *Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 8** - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

**Module 9** - *Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

**Module 10** - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families* (Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

### COOK SOUTH

	Module
<b>Chicago South</b>	
November 16 (Sat) & 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	3
November 23 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	
<b>DCFS, 6201 S. Emerald</b>	
November 18 & 20 (Mon/Wed) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	8
<b>DCFS, Harvey Office</b>	
December 7 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	5
and December 14 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	

### COOK NORTH

	Module
<b>Harold Washington College</b>	
November 2 & 9 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	10
and November 16 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	
December 7 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	2
and December 14 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	
<b>Irish Center</b>	
December 10, 12 & 17 (Tues/Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	6



## Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

### COOK NORTH

**Harold Washington College**

October 31 &	
November 7 (Thurs/Tues)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
November 9 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
November 21 & 26 (Thurs/Tues)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
December 11 & 16 (Wed/Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
December 14 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
December 21 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### COOK CENTRAL

**Association House/Spanish**

December 14 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
	<b>Circle Family Care</b>
Nov. 25 & Dec. 2 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
	<b>Lutheran Child &amp; Family Services</b>
November 9 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
December 17 & 19 (Tues/Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
	<b>WACA</b>
November 19 & 21	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
December 14 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### COOK SOUTH

**ABJ Community Services**

December 14 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
	<b>Church of the Holy Family</b>
December 17 & 19 (Thurs/Tues)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
	<b>Country Club Hills - Youth Empire</b>
December 14 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
	<b>DCFS South Area Office</b>
November 13 & 18 (Wed/Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
November 21 & 26 (Thurs/Tues)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
November 23 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
December 21 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
	<b>Harvey</b>
November 9 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
December 11 & 16 (Wed/Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
December 21 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

All classes are coordinated by  
Harold Washington College in Chicago.

Call **312-553-5821** or **-3031**  
to register.