

# Our Kids

For Southern Region Foster Parents

## A Fond Farewell

### *Anthony Jenkins Retires*

Anthony Jenkins, Southern Regional Administrator, has retired after twenty-five years in the position and thirty-seven years in child welfare. Mr. Jenkins, known for his "open car" and "open door" policies, was always held in high regard by DCFS and private agency foster parents and staff. Under his leadership, the Southern Region excelled in all areas of child welfare. A few of his many accomplishments include the development of the Professional Foster Parent Program, Don Bosco Children's Shelter, and separate and distinct child abuse investigation teams. Mr. Jenkins was always ready to embrace innovative ideas and implemented many safeguards to protect children.



At his retirement party, foster/adoptive parents, family, friends and staff praised Mr. Jenkins for his strong commitment to children. The example he set for Southern Region was one of excellence. Letters recognizing his accomplishments were read from previous DCFS Directors and Governor George Ryan. DCFS Director Jess McDonald honored Mr. Jenkins with a plaque of recognition inscribed: "For his 37 years of service to the children and families of Illinois, his dedication and commitment serve as a model for child welfare professionals."

DCFS foster/adoptive parents Clayton and Lillian Mitchell contributed two beautiful musical selections. Staff also lightened the mood by providing some comedic remembrances. Pete Wessell, Labor Relations Liaison, recalled his six years of working with Mr. Jenkins as a "privilege" and described him as "the ultimate professional and an excellent person for a young person to look up to and learn from."

Mr. Jenkins said he welcomes the opportunity to relax and enjoy his hobbies.

## Homes Needed for Younger Children

If you live in the East St. Louis area and have an interest in having children ages 0-6 placed with you, call your private agency or the Fairview Heights Family Development Unit at 618-394-2100 now. The number of homes for this age group has significantly dwindled with current foster families adopting their foster children.

Children need homes today!  
Please call!



## Torch Passes to Norman Jacob

### *New Southern Region Administrator*

Norman E. Jacob, well-known to Southern Region foster families, was appointed Regional Administrator on January 31, 2000. He began with DCFS in 1970 after a seven year career with Public Aid as a caseworker and supervisor and has held various DCFS roles, most recently as Program Manager. Mr. Jacob also served as Chairman of the Licensing Reform Panel and Chairman of the Permanency Best Practice Committee. He has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Missouri and has worked part time teaching graduate level classes at Washington University in St. Louis and undergraduate social work classes at Greenville and McKendree Colleges. Mr. Jacob is married and has three grown children, one who's a social worker and one who's a psychologist. He looks forward to continuing his positive relationship with foster families and invites their input.

# I'm From Southern Region

*Do You Know A Family for Me?*



Ten-year-old Adam enjoys playing with action figures, riding his bike, fishing, camping and swimming. He loves reading all kinds of books and playing with his pet cat. When he is challenged at school, Adam excels.

His teachers say that Adam is a great student, especially in reading class. He is very outgoing and has no difficulty in approaching people he doesn't know. "Adam is a bright child, and he can be very warm, loving and considerate when he puts his mind to it."

If you are interested in adopting Adam, know someone who may be or would like to learn more about other children waiting to be adopted, call the Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) at 800-572-2390 (within Illinois) or 312-346-1516 (outside Illinois).

## New Faces for Adoption

If you are interested in adoption, you won't want to miss this new monthly opportunity. Adoption workers are meeting with interested families once a month to inform them of new children available for adoption that month and to offer the opportunity to browse through the Adoption Information Center of Illinois (AICI) listing book. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at the DCFS office at 10251 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, Illinois from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Don't forget to mark your calendar and jot down questions in advance. Questions? Call 618-394-2100.

## Know the Law

Sherry Rice, President of the Home Advantage Foster Parent Association recently organized two training sessions for the foster parents of the Southern Region.

The training topic "Foster Parents Rights/Responsibilities" was presented by treatment foster parent Timothy Russell. Mr. Russell was well versed as he served on the original committee developing the rights/responsibilities.

He emphasized that foster parents should play an active role in developing an implementation plan for their agency. Foster parents are an important part of the treatment team and their input is indispensable in the development of any plan. Foster parents must understand and be sensitive to issues of culture, ethnicity, religion and childrens connectedness to their families. Knowing your rights, as well as your responsibilities, will allow you to be an advocate for your child.

If your group is interested in contacting Mr. Russell about speaking, you can call him at 309-697-6294.



### OUR KIDS

**Sponsor**

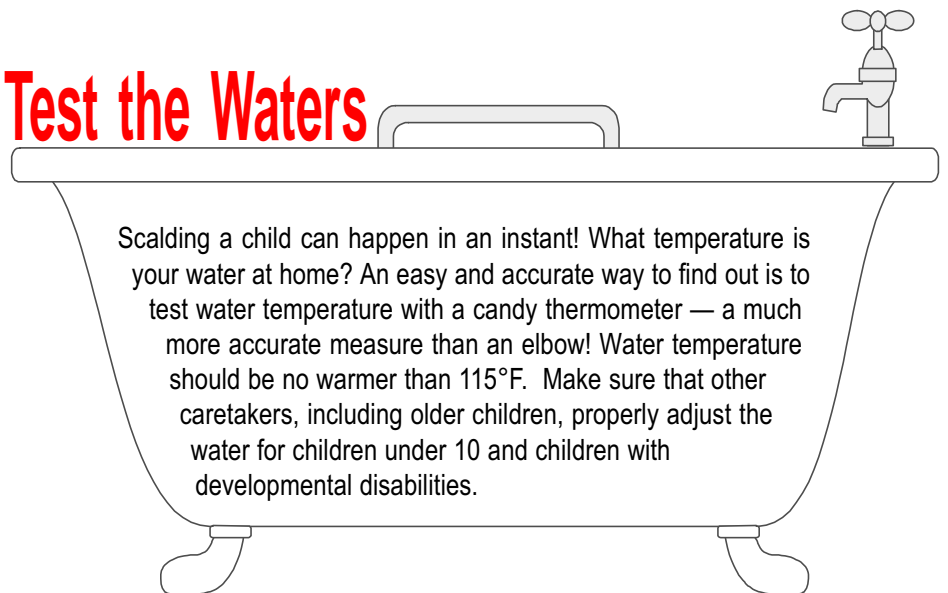
Norman Jacob, DCFS  
Southern Regional Administrator

**Editor**

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Call with foster parent association news and schedules, local training, features on foster families and community members working for children, photos and news articles and support all foster families can use.

## Test the Waters



Scalding a child can happen in an instant! What temperature is your water at home? An easy and accurate way to find out is to test water temperature with a candy thermometer — a much more accurate measure than an elbow! Water temperature should be no warmer than 115°F. Make sure that other caretakers, including older children, properly adjust the water for children under 10 and children with developmental disabilities.

# Southern Region Training Calendar

## FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

**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)

**East St. Louis**  
**618-650-3213**

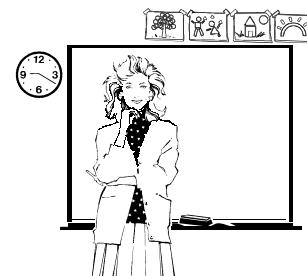
**Marion**  
**618-536-7751**

	Module
<b>ALTON - Holiday Inn</b>	
Aug. 5 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 3
Aug. 12 & 26 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 4
Sept. 9, 16 & 23 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 8
<b>FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS - Ramada Inn</b>	
Aug. 3 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 3
Aug. 10 & 17 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 4
Sept. 21, 26 & 28 (Tues/Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 8

	Module
<b>CAIRO - Comm. Health &amp; Emergency Services</b>	
Aug. 7, 14 & 21 (Mon)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 3&4
<b>EFFINGHAM - Keller Ramada Inn &amp; Conv. Ctr.</b>	
Aug. 19 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 7
<b>MT. VERNON - Hampton Inn</b>	
July 12, 19 & 26 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 6
<b>MURPHYSBORO - U of I Extension Center</b>	
Sept. 9 & 16 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 1
<b>OLNEY - Richland Memorial Hospital</b>	
Aug. 9, 16 & 23 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 p.m. 3&4

## Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours



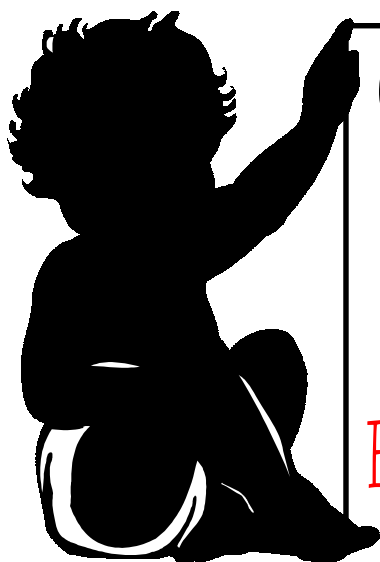
**East St. Louis**  
**618-650-3213**

<b>FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS</b>	<b>DCFS Office</b>
Aug. 7 & 14 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
Sept. 6 & 13 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
Sept. 9 & 16 (Sat)	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Marion**  
**618-536-7751**

<b>CAIRO</b>	<b>Comm. Health &amp; Emergency Serv.</b>
Sept. 23 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
<b>MARION</b>	<b>Drury Inn</b>
Aug. 12 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
<b>MT. VERNON</b>	<b>Hampton Inn</b>
Sept. 23 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
<b>SALEM</b>	<b>Salem Township Hospital</b>
Sept. 30 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Pre-registration is required for all classes!**  
**Call the number listed for your area.**



Gently Used  
Clothes &  
Equipment  
Just for  
Foster Children

Illinois KidsStore  
Kil-Mar Building  
8601 W. Main Street, Suite 203  
Belleville

**Open:** 2nd & 4th Wednesday, every Saturday  
9 a.m.-Noon

Remember: Bring identification on your first trip,  
showing you are a foster parent!

Watch for the August Back-to-School Sale!

# Help In An Unexpected Behavioral Crisis

800-345-9049  
24 hours/ 7 Days A Week

Even with the best planning and services, a child's challenging or threatening behavior can produce such extreme stress and strain on the foster family that moving the child *immediately* seems to be the only option. But moving a foster child can be hard on the child and on the foster family.

## When To Call

If a foster child is out of control, a danger to himself or other members of the family, or in distress beyond your capacity to manage, call this 24-hour line for help. You can call as often as necessary to get help. The DCFS Placement Stabilization program is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week to help any foster parent in a crisis situation due to a child's unexpected behavior.

## What To Do

Give this information to the person answering the call

- Child's name
- DCFS ID#
- Your name, address, and phone number
- Caseworker's name and phone number
- Description of the crisis

If immediate, in-home help is needed, you must be very clear to request that a crisis counselor needs to come to your home NOW!

## What To Expect

The 800-345-9049 operator will refer your information to a local youth service agency contracted to DCFS. Callers should stay on the phone while a three-way conference is established, so that the caller can explain the problem and discuss the help needed with the crisis worker.



## New Educational Advisor A Foster Parent Too!



Kendra Homoya has recently joined Southern Region's team as the Educational Advisor for the Marion Area. She is available to agencies and foster parent groups to train on special education laws, rights of parents and how to make sure foster children get the education they deserve. Ms. Homoya can provide assistance for foster parents with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and be a guide and resource person for caseworkers and foster parents alike in dealing with the local schools.

Ms. Homoya has two insider perspectives she brings to her new Educational Advisor position. She is a foster parent herself as well as a PRIDE trainer and was formerly an elementary school teacher of remedial reading and math and a G.E.D. Instructor.

Her passion to make a difference in children's lives through teamwork, to see that they have the education they need to succeed, brought her to her new job. She welcomes hearing from foster parents with educational questions. Her DCFS office is located at 1210 Hanson St., Murphysboro, IL 62966. Phone: 618-687-1733 or Fax: 618-687-4584.