

September - December 2013

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 Issue 2

TGIF Celebrates 10th Anniversary!



TGIF Foster Parents of the Year Named at 9th Annual Picnic

Approximately 300 people enjoyed a day of fun, food and recognition recently at the 9th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Picnic sponsored by TGIF at Hawaiian Falls Water Park Mansfield.

Executive Director Sharon J. Grandberry said the day is an effort to say "thank you" to the individuals and families who have "opened their hearts and their homes" to neglected and abused children across the state. "Foster parents are a unique group of individuals who are assisting the state in an ever growing crisis," Grandberry said. "The need for individuals and families to obtain a foster parent license in Texas is acute and we believe that the people who provide this critical service should be recognized and celebrated. That is the concept behind the event which is in its ninth year."

At the event Maxine Rogers of Beaumont, Earline & Raymond Bruton of Ft. Worth and Beverly Hensley of Houston were honored as Foster/Adoptive Parents of the Year.

New Daily Rates for Foster Care

Beginning September 1, 2013
DPFS reimbursements will change:

Service Level	Amount
Basic	\$23.10
Moderate	\$40.44
Specialized	\$51.99

The increases will be reflected on your October 20th reimbursement checks.

On December 19, 2003 TGIF was licensed by the Texas Department of Family Protective Services as a Child Placing Agency serving neglected and abused children. TGIF began operating with one employee and nine Foster Families.

With the assistance of many friends and an unyielding faith in God, founder Sharon Grandberry has overseen the continual growth of the agency. This December TGIF will celebrate one decade of continuous service in Texas.

Since its beginning in Ft. Worth, TGIF has grown considerably and today TGIF employs thirteen full-time and five part-time professionals and now operates offices in Beaumont and Houston. TGIF has trained and licensed nearly 150 Foster Families since 2003 and on average serves approximately 90 to 100 foster children monthly.

TGIF was awarded an Adoptive Homes contract in 2007. Since then TGIF has placed a total of 23 children into adoption.

In 2007 TGIF purchased the former Ambassadors of Christ Christian Academy and, relocated its corporate offices into the 18,000 square foot facility which includes a gym, multi-purpose room, computer room, game room, classrooms and cafeteria with full commercial kitchen. It currently serves children, adults and seniors via activities including parenting classes, dance and karate classes, basketball practices and games, Teen Summits and free play.

TGIF 10th Anniversary Celebration Thursday, December 19th. Schedule of Events:



9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Open House

TGIF Community Center, 4109 Mansfield Highway, Ft. Worth

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Anniversary Gala

Woodhaven Country Club, 913 Country Club Lane, Ft. Worth

Foster Parent Mandatory Training Schedule Sept. – December

Check here each issue of the TGIF Newsletter to learn about the State mandated training sessions each foster parent must complete during the upcoming three months.

Fort Worth

September 28: Mind over Matter:
Related to Abuse and Neglect
Trainer: Rose Anderson

October 26: Trauma Training
Trainer: Rose Anderson

November 23: Topic TBD

All trainings begin at 9:00 a.m. in the TGIF office located at 4109 Mansfield Highway, Fort Worth 76119 Phone: 817-561-4149

Houston

September 14: Promoting Placement
Stability and Attachment in Foster
Children

October 22: Topic TBD

October 29: Topic TBD

November 6: Topic TBD

November 21: Topic TBD

10 a.m. TGIF office located at 5330 Griggs Road, A110, Houston 77021 Phone: 713-644-2600

Beaumont

September 26: Preventing SIDS,
Shaken Baby Syndrome &
Understanding Early Childhood Brain
Development.

October 24: Attention Deficit
Disorder and Substance Abuse 101

November 9 - Topic TBD

(This training will be 10a.m. - 4p.m. if needed if foster parents don't have all hours completed.)

All trainings begin at 5:30 p.m. in the TGIF office located at 990 IH-10N, Suite 215, Beaumont 77702 Phone: 409-892-1808 unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions please
call your local TGIF office.



State Office of Consumer Affairs Hears Complaints From Foster Parents

Recently the Office of Consumers Affairs (OCA) informed child placing agencies and foster parents about their role in reviewing complaints regarding case-specific activities of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). If it is believed one of the program areas of DFPS has not acted appropriately in a situation, a foster parent has a right to file a complaint. All parents will be treated fairly and with dignity.

OCA will conduct a thorough review of reported concerns or case-specific complaints in an unbiased manner. OCS provides written feedback for each complaint or concern. You can contact OCS at 1-800-720-7777. Email: OCA@dfps.state.tx.us

Mail: PO Box 149030, MC: Y946, Austin, TX 78714-9030

Background Check Guidelines

The State of Texas requires that all employees, Foster and Adoptive Parents have a background check every two years. In addition, all new employees, Foster and Adoptive Parents must have a State of Texas and FBI background check.

Your TGIF Case Worker will inform you when you must have a new mandatory background check.

Changes Coming in DFPS

DFPS recently announced the "next big step" in their efforts to revamp the Texas foster care system. Through Foster Care Redesign, DFPS seeks to provide better services and promote positive while improving the overall process and quality of care.

For this next roll-out a metropolitan catchment area has been chosen. The new catchment area, which is in the southwest corner of DFPS Region 3, includes Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell and Tarrant Counties.

TGIF will continue to monitor these developments and keep you informed of all changes that directly affect our agency.

Director's Message

Hello to all of the TGIF Family,

Last month we celebrated our 9th Annual Foster/Adoptive Parents Appreciation Day. I hope all who attended had a wonderful time in fellowship with all of our hard working TGIF staff and the scores of individuals and families who have opened their homes to our foster and adoptive children.

As we move on let me be clear that TGIF will continue to grow and we will strive to be the supportive agency that all of you have come to know over the past decade.

However, growth has its challenges and I implore all of you to assist us in this journey by striving to meet the criteria and standards set forth by the State of Texas. Our State's foster care professionals work hard to assist us and the children we care for and are a great resource. We should take advantage of the experience and knowledge they bring to the table.

Once again, I encourage all of you to assist us in identifying new foster parents who are willing to give of themselves daily to help abandoned, neglected and abused children.

Additionally, I want to be sure that everyone is aware that TGIF reimbursement checks will be mailed on the 20th of each month. That is the date agreed upon on each contract with the agency.

Lastly, there is pertinent information available to you on our Website: www.tgiffoundation.org. The information is available to assist you to do your best for the children you love. Take advantage of it.

Thank you all for everything you do!

Ms. G



Sharon J. Grandberry, TGIF Director

***"Children are great imitators.
So give them something
great to imitate."***

Anonymous



Fun in the sun at TGIF picnic.



Jovan and Kimwanna Mathews

Foster Parent Tip -- Be Prepared!

Get to know the child in your care and help identify their strengths and areas of need. You should be aware of any special requirements of the child. This is important in making the best possible decisions about caring for the child.

Additionally, be patient when a child tests you to find out if you are genuine or patient enough. As much as the situation permits, you need to be very understanding and show the child that they can trust you.

Foster Parent Focus

Houston natives Jovan and Kimwanna Mathews have been foster parents for 11 years and have been with TGIF two years. The couple currently has six foster children at home ranging from age 1 to 17.

I've always wanted to be a foster parent,' Kimwanna said. "I grew up in foster care.

Jovan said his love for children attracted him.

"I like children and wanted to be a teacher but being a foster parent is more rewarding."

The Mathews said they truly enjoy assisting children transition though a most difficult time in their young lives and especially enjoy working with teenagers.



Tell TGIF How We Can Improve!

We are always looking for ways to improve our service to you and the children we care for. Therefore we are encouraging all of our foster parents to give us your thoughts about how we can streamline or improve our procedures and services.

TGIF is committed to serving you in a professional and unbiased manner. We welcome your comments. Don't let a problem fester... Bring it to our attention. Don't sit on a good idea... Let us know.

Contact your case worker or email us at info@tgifoundation.net.

TGIF Recruiting New Foster Parents

TGIF encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. Will you help us recruit individuals and families like you to join us in these efforts?

Encourage your friends to join you in helping our children. If you know someone who is ready to look into foster parenting have them call the local TGIF office or click on: www.tgifoundation.org.



TGIF OFFICES

4109 Mansfield Highway
Fort Worth, Texas 76119
817-561-4149

990 Interstate Highway-10
Suite 215
Beaumont, Texas
409-892-1808

5330 Griggs Road
A110
Houston, Texas 77021
713-644-2600

Toll Free: 1-855-948-0500

www.tgifoundation.org