

# Anu connections

The newsletter of Anu Family Services  
Fall 2010 | issue 04



We create permanent connections to loving and stable families.



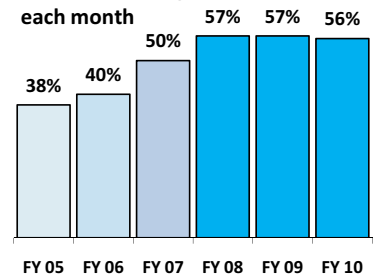
At Anu Family Services, we have increased the number of children who find permanence after being discharged from our care by 20% over the past 4 years. As a result, we have developed nationally-recognized outcomes in the number of kids who are adopted or reunited with kin upon discharge from our treatment foster homes.

These kinds of results take the commitment and effort of everyone in the Anu Family. At Anu, we believe that a child cannot have “too many” people who love them. When everyone works together to develop as many permanent connections as possible for our kids, we can get even closer to reaching our goal of being “the last placement prior to permanence for 90% of the kids we serve.” That’s a big goal, but we have shown that we have the skill, ability, and commitment to make this dream a reality for our children!

## The Word is Spreading

The good news of the work we are doing together to find children permanent places to call “home” is spreading. In the past few weeks, we have had calls from Florida, Wyoming, California, and Nevada for consultation on how we have achieved our outstanding permanency results.

## Children discharged to Permanence each month



\* Permanency is Family Reunification or Adoption

## Check it out

The Anu Family Services Blog – [www.anufs.org/blog](http://www.anufs.org/blog)

## Board Highlights

### The Board has been busy with the following activities:

- Discussing and approving many items related to the new partnership with Teipner Treatment Homes effective 8/1/10.
- Understanding and Planning for changes related to Wisconsin’s child welfare redesign and rate regulation.
- Planning and approving the FY11-FY12 agency Strategic Plan and organizational strategy.
- Planning for our FY10 Financial Audit and the development of our Audit Committee.
- Planning our upcoming Board Member Recruitment Campaign.

## this issue

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## Perspective on change

By Patty Clark

For two months I've witnessed individual's reactions to the transition process, and I've seen folks view this process as either wonderfully successful or frustrating beyond reason, depending on their perspective. The situation has stayed the same, its people's attitudes that have been fluid.

A recent article described folks that cope 'better' with life's stressors and changes as those that "expect or anticipate" change. By "knowing change will come" they are one step closer to being prepared to adapt or cope, versus individuals who don't prepare (mentally) and are caught off guard. The premise is there are certain things that will happen to all of us.....Friends or family move away, people

change jobs, marriages end , everyone will become ill at some point, etc.

The difference is when you anticipate, or are receptive to change you are ready to ask yourself "What can I do to adapt", instead of "Why did this happen to me?" You approach the situation from a position of strength instead of victimhood.

So, to me it's very important for us to remember that we chose change! We decided what we wanted to become, versus waiting to see what would be done to us!!

It's normal to have "moments of doubt," and healthy to allow yourself to have them, but then we need to look at the situation from 'another perspective' -- focus on the positive, and clearly see all that we have already accomplished , which was bring two well run organizations together to create a larger, stronger, more resourceful, thriving entity. Children are thriving in our care, our outcomes look great! Referrals are coming

in, and we are making progress toward our joint agency policies. In my opinion, that's Success, after two short months.

As we move forward and build on our successes please remember that everyone is trying their best, and continue to exercise patience and understanding, as we face the changes that are yet to come!!

### DON'T FORGET!

Treatment Foster Parents please join us for one of the next Transition Update Teleconference.

- Oct. 26 from 8-9pm – Moderated by Regional Directors Crystal and Missy
- Nov. 18 from 11am-12 Moderated by Regional Directors Crystal and Mechele

To join the call dial 1.866.951.1151 then enter code 7071608

## TCIF – Tips & Reminders

By Mechele Pitt, Western Regional Director

The TCIF tip for this month features the third question we ask ourselves when dealing with a potential crisis situation.

### HOW IS THE ENVIRONMENT AFFECTING THE CHILD?

After assessing our feelings and the needs, feelings, or wants of the child, the next step is to look at the environment surrounding the child. It is important for children to have structured activities and daily routines. Consistency and reasonable expectations help the child feel cared for. Involving the child in decisions that affect their lives helps the child feel that they have some power and control, which will positively affect their behavior. The physical environment surrounding the child is also very important. The environment should be safe, uncluttered, clean, and inviting. Please take a moment and look around your home today. Then

ask yourselves these 2 questions: What does your home say to a child? What does your home say about the expectations for their behavior? Other factors that affect the overall environment are lighting and noise. Is there adequate lighting for the child to do their homework? When having a family meeting, is the TV and stereo turned off? By paying attention to the environment, we as caregivers can increase coping skills, strengthen defenses, prevent frustration, and increase self-control in the child.

### TCIF Refresher Trainings

Date: Saturday: November 6, 2010  
Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Place: Rice Lake, WI

Date: Saturday: November 13, 2010  
Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Place: Eau Claire Office

Our just-turned-six kindergartner came home from school this week and proudly announced, "I can read now." So to prove it he said he would read something to us. Finding an easy-reader we let him show off. "The...the...the...the" he said. He was great at identifying his FIRST word. So we worked on things a little more. Then just the other day he said, pointing to our welcome mat at the doorway, "S-E-L-J-E. Papa is that how you spell rug?" – Submitted by Dick Selje

## WE WANT TO KNOW!

- Kids say the darndest things. Do you have an interest in sharing the cute things our kids say? Send us your famous quotes from your biological, adopted and foster children, and we will try and work them into our agency newsletter. Thanks to Dick Selje for these ideas.
- Do you have questions? Want a place to ask them? Submit your questions and we'll have our ghost writer answer them in our newsletter.

Submit your kids' quotes or questions for the CEO to:

"Ask Amelia" 516 Second St. Suite 209 Hudson, WI 54016  
Or by email to [redwards@anufs.org](mailto:redwards@anufs.org)

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### Upcoming Treatment Foster Parent Trainings

Friday, October 8, 2010 - **Madison Office**  
9:00-12:00 - Suicide Prevention/Child & Adolescent Mental Health; 1:00 - 5:00 - Separation, Grief & Loss  
Denise Hoffman (608) 663-1262 [dhoffman@anufs.org](mailto:dhoffman@anufs.org)

Monday, November 22, 2010 - **Madison Office**  
11:00 - 2:30 - Part Two: Helping Foster Children Develop and Maintain Connections  
Denise Hoffman (608) 663-1262 [dhoffman@anufs.org](mailto:dhoffman@anufs.org)

Saturday, October 9, 2010 - **Eau Claire Office**  
9:00-3:00 - Part One: Helping Foster Children Develop & Maintain Connections  
Lois Jacobson (715) 839-0068 [ljacobson@anufs.org](mailto:ljacobson@anufs.org)

Friday, October 22, 2010 - **Eau Claire Office**  
9:00-3:00 - Part Two: Helping Foster Children Develop & Maintain Connections  
Lois Jacobson (715) 839-0068 [ljacobson@anufs.org](mailto:ljacobson@anufs.org)

Monday, December 6 2010 - **Eau Claire Office**  
11:00-2:30-Part Three: Helping Foster Children Develop & Maintain Connections  
Lois Jacobson (715) 839-0068 [ljacobson@anufs.org](mailto:ljacobson@anufs.org)

### Additional Training

Saturday October 16, 2010  
9:00 - 12:00 - Suicide Prevention/Child & Adolescent Mental Health  
1:00-4:00 - Child & Adolescent AODA

### Treatment Foster Parent Anniversaries

Sue & Dave Frazer - 2 years  
Evelt & Hank Westphal - 7 years  
Sharon & Earl Jensen - 14 years  
Mike & Mary Downs - 17 years  
Joseph & Billie Jo Hancock - 7 years  
Jodie & Phillip Klamm Jr. - 7 years  
Donna & Gordon Squire - 3 years  
Valerie & Donald Szymanski - 3 years  
Deb & Herb Vincent - 9 years  
William and Beverly Abramczak - 6 years  
Tom and Kelly Bartelme - 4 years  
Larry and Lola Booker - 2 years  
Paul and Suzan Bourassa - 3 years  
Mark and Sharon Butler - 11 years  
Michael and Bethany Ciszak - 6 years  
Jessie Collins - 8 years  
Jill and Justin Goebel - 2 years  
Nick and Jessica Goodman - 5 years  
Roger and Deanna Gordon - 8 years  
John and Evaughn High - 3 years  
Darren and Cherie Kennedy - 3 years  
Leonard and Tina Lutzow - 13 years  
Larry and Renee Lynch - 14 years  
Frank and Cindy Mielke - 1 years  
Daniel and Natalie Riedy - 3 years  
Joseph and Bobbie Jo Vojtasek - 13 years  
Ryan and Courtney Ziehr - 3 years

## Connections to Permanence

### Family Connections: Finding the Peace

By Susan Schwab, Family Connections Specialist

Anu Family Services is committed to "create permanent connections" for our youth in care. If you are new to Anu, you will regularly hear about the

dedication of agency foster parents and staff to assure that all youth in our care have at least one safe, unconditional, loving and supportive adult relationship or a "permanent connection" prior to discharge.

What is permanency? It's a state of mind, not a place. It's a feeling of being connected and belonging. It's knowing you will be missed by others if you don't show up on a holiday. It is having somebody to call when your life has taken a downward turn (or an upward turn). It is a place to call home.

Do kids in care only need permanency now? No! They need it for a lifetime. Not only do youth need permanent connections as they prepare to leave care, they also need those caring individuals in the years to come.

With whom can youth celebrate the birth of their children? What adults will be supports when youth are ill? Who will be called when a first 'real job' is accepted?

As Anu foster parents and social workers, consider taking on the role of a *lifelong, unconditional connection*, whether it is for emotional support or to embrace the youth as part of your family. *Re-define* your definition of permanency and consider *refining* your role in it!

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

October, 21, 2010	9:00am - 1pm	Eau Claire Office
December 16, 2010	11:30am - 1pm	Teleconference
January 20, 2010	9:00am-1pm	Eau Claire Office

### CONGRATULATIONS You did it! You discharged a child(ren) to permanence \*

The Braun Family, The Seaman Family  
The Lois Family, The Phillipps Family,  
The High Family, The Greer Family,  
The Lynch Family, The Goebel Family,  
The Peres Family, The Lutzow Family,  
The Fagerland Family, The Arn Family  
The Johnson Family (2),

\* Statistic includes children discharged  
7/1/10 - 8/30/10

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