

Anu connections

The newsletter of Anu Family Services

Fall 2009 | issue 01



We create permanent connections to loving & stable families.



This recommendation was accepted by the Board of Directors on July 23, 2009. Board highlights will be listed in each newsletter. At the following Board meeting in September, the Ad Hoc Structure Committee recommended the formation of a Treatment Foster Parent Consulting Council, commonly referred to as "The Council". The Council is a group of Treatment Foster Parents recommended by The Council and appointed by Anu's CEO to serve as consultants to Anu's Staff and Board leadership.

Our Kids Stay with the Same Family

95% of the children placed in Anu's Treatment Foster Care homes stay with the same foster family during their entire stay. This is improved over last year's 93% success rate.

Board Highlights

Over the past several months, there have been significant structural changes in the Anu Family Services Board of Directors.

As you are aware, after more than a year of careful study and consideration, the Board Ad Hoc Structure Committee—comprised of both Treatment Foster Parents and Community Representatives—made the recommendation to the Board to allow only persons not currently licensed with Anu Family Services to serve on the Anu Family Services Board of Directors.

The intention of The Council is to create an avenue to continue to utilize the great wisdom brought forth by our Treatment Foster Parents and to preserve our long-time culture of foster parent influence. The Council will be used for Licensing and Policy Reviews, to provide guidance and consultation to agency leadership, review potential agency changes, and to serve as agency representatives in various settings. Council members will serve 2-year terms and must meet rigorous ethical and service standards. Inaugural Council member appointments will be announced in the next several weeks.

Amelia Franck Meyer, CEO

Social Networking for Foster Kids

<http://www.fostercarecentral.org/>
<http://adopteennetwork.com/>
<http://www.fosterclub.com/>

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Good News!

A Stepping Stones Grant was approved for a long-term foster youth, who has aged out of care and is moving to independent living. He was awarded \$350 to cover the cost of the security deposit for his apartment. A Special Needs Grant was approved for a foster youth to attend YMCA Camp this summer.

An Anu Board member entered and finished a Triathlon this summer raising \$3,490 for the agency from individuals and corporate sponsors.

A foster youth was awarded funds to help pay for the cost of attending a Challenge Camp to provide him with coping strategies in dealing with his ADHD and RAD behaviors.

From Referral Sources:

- Re: Mechele Judd & Erin Wall, "The social workers were great to work with. Communication was consistent & timely."
- Re: Kari Iwanski, "Worker was excellent with providing me with appropriate information & made herself available for joint visits."

Heather Edge has reported that she has noticed that foster parents using on-call have been making good choices, avoiding incidents, and making good use of their TCIF skills!

Amelia has been asked to present at the annual conference in Appleton of the WI Dept. of Health, Div. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, on Anu's leadership in the state in going restraint free & in leading the Family Connections movement. We received a \$3,000 grant from Xcel Energy for our Stepping Stones Funds.

TCIF* – The Therapeutic Value

By Mechele Judd, Western Regional Director

As Anu Family Services begins the refresher trainings for TCIF this fall it is important to remember that the "T" in TCIF stands for Therapeutic. Whenever a foster family is faced with a child in a crisis situation there is always the potential for danger and the opportunity for positive change. It is important that the foster parents are equipped with skills to diffuse a crisis and in turn assist the child with an opportunity for positive growth and change.

"During the period of upset of a crisis, a person is more susceptible to being influenced by others than at other times of relative psychological equilibrium", states Gerald Caplan in his book, Prevention of Mental Health Disorders in Children. TCIF provides many

different techniques to use in primarily preventing crisis situations from occurring but also in times when crisis situations arise. Once a crisis is in the recovery stage of the Stress Model of Crisis, TCIF has provided the foster parent the tools (Life Space Interview, I-ESCAPE) to assist the child in learning new skills that they can use in the future. Taking the time to complete this interview

with the child is very important not only for the child but for foster parents as well. As foster parents, you will be seen as a person who takes the time to hear their side of the story, is concerned about making sure that you have the story right, offers a connection between their feelings and behaviors, and helps them come up with alternative behaviors. **Therapeutic Crisis Intervention For Family Care Providers.*

Connections to Permanence

By Susan Schwab, Family Resource Specialist



There is a "new" look to Permanency. Have you heard? Anu Family Services has made a commitment to "create permanent connections" for our youth in care. What does this really mean in our day to day work? It means following not only a piece of federal legislation but also changes in how we view our role as social workers and foster parents when working with a youth in foster care. Our goal is to reconnect or connect youth with family or other important adults in their life!

We know from research and our experience, that kids are more successful if they have connection with family. Knowing that they are cared about and a part of a family can be a motivator for kids' success. As a part of this "new look" to

permanency, we can help youth connect with kin (Great Uncle Joe or Cousin Tessa) and other important adults (former teachers, neighbors, foster parents).

Here is how we can promote connections for youth in care:

- ❖ As a way to connect with the youth's family, call them before placement occurs.
- ❖ Promote and encourage the youth to have family contact within 24 hours of the placement (assuming it is safe and approved).
- ❖ Invite the youth's family to school activities.
- ❖ Help the youth start a life book.

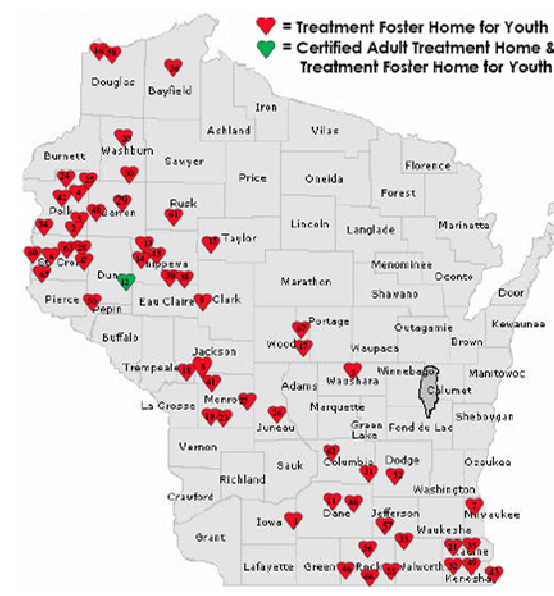
The many faces of permanency provide us with many opportunities to reconnect, support and commit to our youth. This is their new and lasting look of permanency!

What Is the Council on Accreditation (COA)?

<http://www.coastandards.org/>

What is Family Search and Engagement?

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socw/rk/nrcfcpp/downloads/SixSteps.pdf>



What the Kids Are Saying

Anu foster children consider themselves well-served by Anu Treatment Foster Parents.

The Foster Home Report Card Scores listed here represent the scores given by 36 Anu foster youth ages 10 to 18 in care during 2009. They rate their placement in 5 areas on a 0 to 4 point scale.



Upcoming Events

Next Board of Directors meeting: Thursday, November 19th 10a-2p Eau Claire Anu Office. Board meetings are open; please contact Nancy Fier at 715-386-1547 ext. 301 by 11/12/09 if you plan to attend.

Upcoming Treatment Foster Parent Trainings

-Required Training -

Refining our Mission & Model at Anu "Helping Foster Children Develop & Maintain Connections"

When/Where: Pick one of these dates
 10/24/2009 – Madison Anu Office
 11/14/2009– Eau Claire Anu Office
 3/27/2010-Madison Anu Office
 4/19/2010-Eau Claire Anu Office
From: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

-Non-Required Training -

School Systems & Your Foster Child
 10/29/09 8:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Eau Claire Anu Office
Child Neglect & Abuse & It's Impact on Development
 10/29/09 – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Eau Claire Anu Office

Full TCIF Course Training
 Madison Anu Office: 11/6-8
 Eau Claire Anu Office: 11/11-13
From 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Treatment Foster Parent Anniversaries

- Mary Anderson – 1 yr
- Mike & Mary Downs – 16 yrs
- Dave & Sue Frazer – 1 yr
- Mike & Roxie Frederick – 5 yrs
- Scott & Tiara Grunden – 7 yrs
- Joe & Vicky Harter – 2 yrs
- Sharon & Earl Jensen – 11 yrs
- Gary & Sandy Kalan – 7 yrs
- Mike & Sandy Kessler – 3 yrs
- Kari Kielsa – 1 yr
- Wade & Lynn Phillipps – 9 yrs
- Donna & Gordon Squire – 2 yrs
- Valerie & Donald Szymanski – 2 yrs
- Herb & Deborah Vincent – 8 yrs
- Hank & Evett Westphal – 6 yrs

The Anu Store is open

SHOP www.anufs.org