

Franklin County Children's Task Force

March 2008



Franklin County Children's Task Force

113 Church Street
Farmington, ME 04938

778-6960

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Email website www.fcctf.org



United Way of
The Tri-Valley Area



Reminder!



Winter Hours:

Monday– Thursday 8 to 4:30
9:00–1 pm on Fridays

April is Child Abuse Prevention
Month. Look for pinwheels
around the county.

From the Executive Directors Desk:

It's that time of year again when we get excited to see the snow melt away and wait for flowers to start to bloom; this is also the time of year when we celebrate our good fortune for our healthy happy children. While many of us know April to be "Child Abuse Prevention Month", those doing this important work around the state have gathered together to change how we send the message for the work we do. The biggest change we have decided upon is that we want this time of year to be a time where we celebrate the families we have and help to strengthen those families who need our support. Thus, "Pinwheels for Prevention" has evolved into this years plan. In the month of April you will see clusters of blue pinwheels in various areas around our county,Cont. Page 3

7th Annual Kids Stuff Sale

An event that allows to children help children. This event serves as a great opportunity for children to help other children by donating their out-grown clothes, books, videos and toys. Kids can bring their items to the Kids Stuff Sale to help raise money for scholarships so that other children living in Franklin County can go to a local Summer Camp. The Kids Stuff Sale will be held at the

Congregational Church on Main Street in Farmington. Please check out the Franklin Journal or Daily Bulldog for the time and date or, contact the FCCTF @ 778-6960

Upcoming events:

17th Annual Father/Daughter

Dance: Saturday, March 15, 2008

6:00-9:00 At the Community Building in
Jay

Tickets at the door-\$12.00

In advance \$10.00

Tickets cover Dad and his escort/s

Music by Chelsea Hutchinson

Buy your tickets in advance @:

Mickey's Hallmark, Farmington

The Flower Barn, Jay

Riverside Quick stop, Jay

Parents Wanted : Parent Education

More information on page 2

Face Painting at the Children's Festival
February 16, 2008



A Special Thanks to our volunteer Dillon Downs for creating this Newsletter.

Fresh Air Fund

Become a host family for The Fresh Air Fund and welcome an inner city child into your home for a week or two this summer.

The Fresh Air Fund is the oldest New York City Charity; begun in 1877 to provide a 2 week vacation for city children through organizations all over the eastern part of the country. These organizations place children with families in all walks of life. Approximately 6,000 children are involved in the program.

Host families provide these children with a taste of a life style different from theirs. Children range in age from 6-12 years. The Fresh Air Fund covers all transportation costs and medical health care expenses. Each child receives a physical before leaving home.

A breath of fresh air and sunshine; things we often take for granted are scarce commodities in inner-city New York. This year the months the kids are coming are: July and August. If you would like to know more about the Fresh Air Fund or would like to consider hosting a child(ren), please contact us at:

Fresh Air Committee 652-2369 Franklin County Children's Task Force 778-6960

Parents Wanted: Parent Education

The Franklin County Children's Task Force is happy to announce it's new -
schedule for **Parent Education**

1, 2, 3, Magic– for parents of 2– 12 year olds

March 3, 10, 17, Mondays, 5:30– 7:30, @ FCCTF conference room

Childcare provided

1, 2, 3, 4, Parents– for parents of 1-4 year olds

April, 1, 8, 15, Tuesdays, 5:30– 7:30 @ FCCTF conference room

Surviving your adolescents– for parents of 13–18 year olds

May 7, 14, 21 Wednesdays, 11:30– 1:00 @ FCCTF conference room

Bring a Bag Lunch

Place: These classes will be held at the Franklin County Children's Task Force (FCCTF)

For more information and to register please call

The Franklin County Children's Task Force @ 778-6960

Growing Healthy Families

We are looking for items such as, Cribs, Crib Mattresses, Swings, Porta-Cribs, Highchairs, ect. **-sorry no car-seats.**

Thanks to **Isabelle Foss** for making the Welcome Bags.



E-Mail Newsletter?

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter in this manner please email us at fcctf@fcctf.org

Continued from page 1

one pinwheel for every 100 children in Franklin County will be displayed. When you see these displays talk to your child about what they represent, explain to them that they can tell you anything, that you will always love, care and protect them. This is the most important message we as parents can give our children.

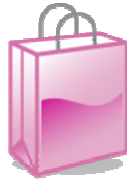
Want to do more?

Many of you may want to do more but you're not sure what that "more" can look like.

The FCCTF works to ensure that every first child born into a family in Franklin County receives a "Welcome Baby Bag". These bags are filled with new goodies from donors and given to new parents. We are in need of additional items for these baby bags. Some items you could help out with include: Onesies-newborn size, baby socks, baby washcloths, receiving blankets, safety items (such as cupboard latches and electrical covers), rubber ducks for bath time, personal hygiene items for both mom and baby, and car seat locking clips. All these items are needed to continue to provide a healthy start for children.

Another way for you to help is to donate to our programs directly, our "Wild and Wonderful" playgroup can always use paint, seeds and soil for planting, easels for children to draw on, additional play tables, blocks for building, paint stamps, and paper.

Clothing Exchange



Bring A Bag-Take A Bag

Sizes Newborn to 5T



Bring in a bag of gently worn clothing and exchange it. First-time parents and expectant moms, no exchange is needed for 1st free bag of clothes. Limited maternity items also available.

Try to call ahead as the space is sometimes unavailable

Hours of Operation 9:00am-4:00 pm M-Thurs
9:00am-1pm Friday.

Call: 778-6960 or 1-888-429-6960

113 Church St. Farmington, ME

We need your help!

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in Franklin County!



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please make my gift in memory of _____

Please make my gift anonymous

Please make your tax deductible check payable to:

FCCTF, 113 Church St., Farmington, Maine 04938



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Bonnie Finney's Story



NO! It isn't true. It simply cannot be true. They are telling me that my grandson is dead, but there must be some mistake. But deep in my heart, I knew it was true for I have not seen him in weeks. It's been so long since I sat by his side in the hospital. Of course I knew something was wrong as I sat there. I saw the fear on his face, the bruises on his body, and the healing cigarette burns on his hands. His doctor did not believe my daughter's story "he fell in slippery water in the bathtub." I felt sick...I didn't understand. Are my granddaughters all right?

I only had one child. She was a beautiful little girl - the light of our eyes. We knew she had entered into a stormy marriage, for we brought her home several times in the 5 years it lasted. We suspected heavy use of drugs BUT in those five years, 3 beautiful healthy children had been born. I loved them dearly and they loved me. The children were 16 months, 3 years and 4 years.

After the ordeal at the hospital, my grandson was placed in foster care for 3 weeks. He cried when they came to return him to his mother. He told his foster mother, "My mamma don't love me" and begged to stay. I ached for his dilemma, but I wasn't physically able to care for him. The courts believed that home was the best place for him, but I knew better and I told, no I BEGGED them, not to return him to his mother. But I was overruled - my grandmother's instinct didn't count.

I never saw Bubba again.

My 16 month old granddaughter was hospitalized after being beaten severely her leg broken in four places, and her hand burned from the tips of her fingers to her wrist. It was only then that the "search was on" for Bubba. We learned he had been killed, wrapped in a sheet, stuffed into a toolbox, and dumped into the Dismal Swamp 3 months earlier.

My grandchildren had suffered and battled so much throughout their young lives that it sickened me. My life was turned into physical and mental chaos.

My efforts to understand became a plea to stop abusing children. I tied a blue ribbon on my van antenna to make people wonder. It caught on locally with restaurants, businesses, police and TV and radio stations supporting me in my efforts to make it a real awareness campaign.

Why blue? I intend never to forget the battered, bruised bodies of my grandchildren. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for our children.

Please wear a blue ribbon...put one on your car...give one to your friends...tell them what it means. You may save a child's life! If you suspect ANYTHING is happening to your children...your grandchildren...the child next door...PLEASE ACT! If you get no response, try again! You may not hear their screams...you may not see their bruises...so check for the hidden pain and watch for the silent screams in their eyes.

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-452-1999