



# KFAPA News

## Connecting the Dots: Kansas Families and Children

July 11, 2009, Topeka, Kansas

KFAPA has partnered with Kansas Family Advisory Network (KFAN) to bring you the first annual KFAPA conference. The conference will be held at The Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka on July 11, with early conference check in beginning on the evening of July 10. The theme for the conference is Connecting the Dots: Kansas Families and Children. Participating in this year's conference are SRS, KDHE, KFAN, OJA, KYAC, Keys for Networking and Families Together. KFAPA is very excited that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will also be participating in this year's conference as well keynote speakers Ward Foley "Scarman" and Judge Webb. For a full schedule see page 6.

The goal of the conference is to bring together birth families, foster and adoptive families, kinship families, and families new to the child welfare system to share information and exchange ideas. A variety of topics will be discussed by the participating agencies and organizations. No matter which workshop you choose to attend you are sure to leave this conference with a wealth of new knowledge and a greater insight. Individuals attending the conference have the opportunity to receive up to 5.75 continuing education units.

The conference brochure will be posted on the KFAPA website as soon as it is finalized. Be sure to register quickly, the registration deadline is June 5th. The conference is being offered free of charge to families. If traveling 60 miles or more Friday night lodging will be free for the first 125 families. Although the lodging is free the hotel does require a credit card on hand at check in. The card will not be charged for the cost of the room, you will be responsible for any amenities such as movies, room service, etc... The conference cost for professionals will be \$40.00 per person, payable by cash, check or money order. Free childcare will be available on site.

### A Cup of Tea

One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me. I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. I had a little 'tea set' and it was one of my favorite toys. Daddy was engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mom came home. My Dad made her watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!' My Mom waited, and sure enough here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy, she waits and watches as Daddy drank it up. Then she says, (as only a mother would)...."Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get the water is the toilet?" **Have a great Mothers Day!!!**

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**Scholarships Available to Registered Members of Foster Parent College??**

Program Scholarships are available to self-registered foster, adoptive and kinship parents for whom the cost of parent trainings poses a financial challenge. Resource parents who do not receive FPC training units through their agency, and would like to enroll in classes, can apply for these scholarships. Recipients must already have a self-registered account, for those who are not registered, registration is free and easy. For additional details and to apply, visit:

[FosterParentCollege.com](http://FosterParentCollege.com)



Thank you to Saint Francis Community Services for printing this issue of our newsletter!



## Meet the Board

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## KFAPA Board Meeting Schedule

June 13, 2009 at 10:00 am  
Lawrence, KS  
(teleconferencing available)

July 10, 2009 at 8:00 pm  
KFAPA Conference  
The Governor's Suite  
Topeka, Kansas

see [www.KFAPA.org](http://www.KFAPA.org) for more information or to view minutes of past board meetings

## "Scarman" to Speak at Conference

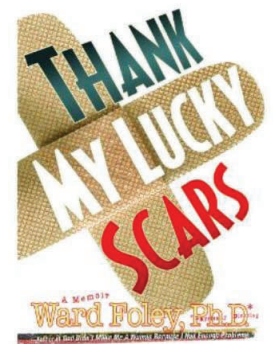
Ward Foley was born with multiple birth defects and very little chance to live. But he did, and on July 11th he will be sharing his remarkable experiences as "Scarman" with the attendees of the KFAPA Conference.

Not only did he find the power within to overcome his birth defects, but also survived being severely burned with a deep fat fryer, a brutal beating and near fatal run in with a drunk driver.

After the death of a close friend, Ward found himself entering the world of hospice care and a circle of people who had more to teach him than he ever imagined.

"You can be in the wrong place at the wrong time...a lot. In fact, your whole life can seem like one, big, wrong turn. But often that's exactly what it takes to get you to the one place you want most."

Author of Thank My Lucky Scars, Ward is lively and warm-hearted, full of dry humor and unexpected twists. He offers an exuberant look at what we all ultimately want from life and the story we've been handed.



KFAPA is a 501 c 3 approved organization.

# ~ATTENTION READERS~

Our newsletter will now include a regular column from the Office of Judicial Administration and from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If you have specific topics of interest that you would like either of these agencies to address, please let us know and we will try to include them in future issues of *KFAPA News*.

## Judicial Information



## News from KDHE

The Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) and the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning (SCTPPP) will be participating in the upcoming "Connecting the Dots" conference for birth, foster and adoptive parent which is sponsored by KFAPA.

The Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning was charged with studying ways to provide and improve the care of children who are under the jurisdiction of the court. The mission of the Task Force is to ensure appropriate and timely permanent placement for children in order to assist in accomplishing their maximum potential as productive citizens.

Three members of the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning will be presenting workshops for families on understanding the court process.

The "Connecting the Dots" workshops include:

1. *Nuts and Bolts of the Legal Process* - Participants will gain a better understanding of the court process for a child in need of care case. This workshop will include discussion of the process and terminology, identify the key players in the court process and highlight the importance of participation in the court process.
2. *Legal Time Frames* - Participants will gain an increased knowledge of the federal and state legal time frames for a child in need of care case. This workshop will include discussion of the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Revised Kansas Code for the Care of Children.
3. *Permanency Options* - Participants will gain an increased knowledge of the permanency options available under the Kansas Code for the Care of Children.

The CPA and Residential Programs Section is excited to have been invited to participate in the upcoming KFAPA Conference in July. We welcome the opportunity to meet with current and potential foster and adoptive parents and to share information about the role of KDHE, which is the licensing agency for family foster homes. Successfully ensuring the safety and well-being of Kansas children in foster care requires many individuals and representatives from the Children's Alliance of Kansas, child-placing agencies, and SRS to provide foster and adoptive parents an opportunity to better understand the licensing process for family foster homes as well as the investigative process when there are reported issues of concern.

During a panel presentation, discussion will focus on the licensing process and will include topics such as pre-service training, the preliminary walkthrough, the application packet, the licensing survey, and the importance of continuous self-monitoring related to compliance with the regulations. The regulations provide the foundation for standards of care that are designed to give support and guidance to foster parents in providing activities, supervision and care to children in healthy and safe environments. In addition to the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to gather resources related to a number of health and safety topics.

Having a licensing surveyor and/or a social worker from SRS come to your home to investigate a reported concern can be an unsettling experience, especially if you don't know what to expect. A second panel discussion will provide foster and adoptive parents the opportunity to gain understanding about why investigations are a necessary part of the licensing process, the roles of the various

**Continued on Page 4**

## News from KDHE (continued)

agencies that might be involved, and how the findings process works for each agency. Participants will also learn about what happens after an investigation is complete and will have the chance to ask questions of the panel.

Foster and adoptive parents are a valuable resource for Kansas children. Opportunities such as the KFAPA conference build avenues that enable each of us to better fulfill our roles as we continuously strive to meet our common goal, to the benefit of the children who depend on us.

### May is National Foster Care Month

Twenty 20 years ago Senator Strom Thurmond was encouraged by the National Foster Care Association to proclaim May as National Foster Care Awareness Month.

This month, all over the country different agencies celebrate and honor foster parents, but there is a larger goal. To motivate more Americans to step up and help the 513,000 children in foster care. There is always a need for foster parents. Especially since more foster parents are adopting their foster children. This means states are losing beds in which to place future foster children.

#### Goals for the National Foster Care Awareness Campaign

- Raise awareness about the magnitude of the issue and the urgent and sustaining needs of children and older youth in foster care and their families
- Issue a national *CALL-TO-ACTION* that motivates, inspires and facilitates many more Americans to come forward and help change a lifetime for a young person in foster care
- Develop a positive framework for maintaining visibility and interest in the foster care issue to support the year-round efforts of the National Foster Care Month Partner organizations and other child welfare agencies

Foster Care Month also provides an opportunity for acknowledging the thousands of dedicated foster families and other caring individuals and organizations who are already supporting these young people. Special events are being planned all over the state as an opportunity to show appreciation for the work foster parents do. To find a schedule of events in your area contact your licensing agency.

### Links to Check Out

[www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org)

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

[www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)

National Foster Parent Association website

[www.KFAPA.org](http://www.KFAPA.org)

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association website

[www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com](http://www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com)

Our newly developed blog site provides educational and informative postings . Take a look!

[www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org)

First thing you do to prepare for pool season is to prepare your family with Pool Safety.



# KFAPA

PO Box 273  
Canton, KS 67428

## "You Can Make a Difference"

Keynote Speaker Judge Tommy B. Webb



Imagine if you will...  
You are a war orphan in  
South Korea in 1952.  
Your world is one of hunger,  
desperation, and fear.  
The priority in your life each day is  
simply to survive...



Judge Webb's life story "You Can Make a Difference" focuses on making a positive difference in a negative world. He has experienced life from a perspective not commonly shared by individuals who live in this part of the world. His dynamic message to value and appreciate the qualities of other people is delivered with a sense of humor that will be inspiring, thought provoking and entertaining. With his powerful story Judge Webb can relate his experiences to all types of situations and needs.

## "Keeping Children Safer While In Care" Suzette Newcomer



Keeping Children Safer While in Care—Preventing Abduction and Exploitation of Children in Foster Care is a workshop specifically designed for the special needs of this population. This session will address the safety issues of abduction, exploitation, run-away and throwaway children in out-of-home care. It will give vital information about children who runaway and the effect trauma has on child development. It will look at the importance of visitation as well as the commonalities for parents who abduct their children. Parenting tips and resources will be shared.

The goal of this session is to enable participants to:

- Define abduction, exploitation, runaway and thrown away
- Understand how abduction, exploitation, running away and being thrown away affects children
- Identify risk factors indicative of parents who abduct their children
- Identify four reasons children run away
- Understand the effects of trauma on children
- List two parenting tips for handling at risk children
- Know how to teach children how to take responsibility for their own safety
- Identify available resources for parents who have children who have run



Suzette Newcomer is the mother of five children, four birth children and one adopted child. She has been involved in the child welfare system for over 15 years both as an out-of-home care giver and a licensing specialist. Suzette is the president of her local foster and adoptive parents association and has been a trainer for parents and professionals for over 25 years.

**Connecting the Dots: Kansas Families and Children**  
**1st Annual KFAPA Conference**  
**Breakout Sessions and Workshop Schedule**  
**July 11, 2009**

Time	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
7:00—8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b> Continental Breakfast		
8:15—8:45 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b> KFAPA and KFAN		
8:45—9:30 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Ward Foley		
9:45—10:45 a.m.	<b>Investigative Processes</b> SRS & KDHE	<b>Working Together as Family Partners and Practitioners (PALS) - Overview</b> KFAN	<b>Nuts and Bolts of the Legal Process</b> OJA
11:00—12:00 p.m.	<b>Keeping Children Safer While in Care-Preventing Abduction and Exploitation of Children in Foster Care</b> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	<b>Working Together as Family Partners (Bridging the Gap)</b> KFAN	<b>Legal Time Frames</b> OJA
12:00—12:45 p.m.	<b>Buffet Lunch</b>		
1:00—1:50 p.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Judge Webb		
2:00—3:00 p.m.	<b>A New IDEA—Educating Kansas Children with Exceptionalities</b> Families Together	<b>“I Need To Be Heard” - Challenges Facing Family Voice</b> KFAN	<b>Permanency Options</b> OJA
3:00—3:10 p.m.	<b>Break</b>		
3:10—4:10 p.m.	<b>Overview of Family Foster Home Licensing Process</b> KDHE	<b>Drawing Conclusions/Making Judgments</b> KFAN & KFAPA	<b>iGrad Program</b> Keys for Networking
4:15—5:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap Up—Moving Forward</b> KYAC		

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