



# KFAPA News

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2010

## Kansas Walk Me Home Event 2010

Walk Me Home is the signature fund-raising and awareness event for foster care in America. Walk Me Home is a great way to support the over 513,000 children in foster care. This year thousands and thousands of walkers will participate in Walk me Home events across the country, raising funds to support the life changing programs and activities of foster care associations throughout the United States.



The National Orphan Train Complex and Kansas Foster and Adoption Parent Association have partnered to organize the 1st Annual 5k Walk Me Home event in Kansas. The Orphan Train Museum offers a moving reminder of the beginnings of foster care in the United States, when orphans were loaded onto trains and sent "out west" where they were put on display for potential families in various towns could pick out a child, or children, to either adopt or keep in their homes until adulthood. The walk will be hosted on Sunday, May 23, Concordia Sports Complex. Registration begins at 1:30 pm, warm-up at 2:15 pm and the walk begins at 2:30 pm. We need more foster families to attend and walk in this worthwhile event. You can register a team at [www.walkhome.org/Kansas](http://www.walkhome.org/Kansas). If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Duling, KFAPA Secretary, 316-737-2883 or [gduling@cox.net](mailto:gduling@cox.net). The Klick for Kids exhibit will be on display at the National Orphan Train Museum during the month of May.



## Royal Family Kids' Camp

Royal Family Kids' Camp is for foster children, approximately six to eleven years old (who have not entered middle school). The 2010 camp is from Monday, June 21st through Friday, June 25th. This year's camp will be the 14th annual Royal Family Kids' Camp of Northeast Kansas. Many foster children have already experienced this special week of camp, as you may have heard from exciting reports or from other foster parents or social workers.

This year camp will again be held at the beautiful Timber Lakes Camp and Retreat Center near Pomona, KS. Although many of the activities are help outdoors, the children sleep in air-conditioned rooms with bunk beds. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are provided at camp. Each counselor is assigned to only two campers, so the children receive much individualized attention. Swimming in a large (in-ground) pool, arts and crafts, games and sports, nature exploration and outdoor recreation, entertaining skits, music, a camper talent show, and character-building Bible stories are all part of this camp which emphasizes the building of positive memories and good attitudes. The children also take home a memory bag filled with special items including two camp t-shirts, a cd of camp songs, a camp water bottle, a photo album with picture of themselves and others at camp, and many "treasure" that they will make throughout the week.

The total cost for the camp is only \$50.00 per child. The camp runs from June 21st through June 25th. To receive an application contact Janae Lucero at (785) 608-9449.

## Meet the Board

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## KFAPA Board Meeting Schedule

June 19, 2010

Lawrence, KS

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

## KFAPA 2010 Parent Summit

The purpose of the Parent Summit is to bring together Kansas families to discuss the child welfare system, evaluate current effectiveness, and make recommendations for change. Participating organizations are Youthville, TFI, KVC, AYS, SFCS, DCCCA, KFAN, Relatives as Parents Program, KS Guardianship Program. Each participating agency is being asked to supply one family representative from each contract region. Also invited are members of the Kansas Youth Advisory Council.

Each agency is also asked to send one staff person as well as KDHE, SRS, OJA, Children's Alliance, KYAC, and CASA. Staff persons will help facilitate the discussions with the family representatives. The intention is to create a neutral setting for everyone to meet and discuss the system.

Areas of discussion include:

- Licensing and re-licensing
- Placements
- Exchange of Information
- Legal Process
- Reintegration
- Documentation
- Collaboration vs Competition
- Allegations and Investigations

The Parent Summit will be held in Salina, KS at the Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 10. For more information contact Sandra Hiller.



KFAPA is a 501 c 3 approved organization.



# Adoption Profiles

## Michael



Michael is looking for a forever family that likes to fish, hunt, play sports and video games. He is currently in a selfing class in a school and doing really well at learning this skill. So much so that he is thinking about making it his career when he grows up.



Michael can struggle a bit in school and needs someone who will monitor his grades to make sure that his work is being completed. He would prefer to be in a home without a lot of other children. Michael gets along well with the adults in his life but can be resistant to strict rules. He prefers to be treated as an adult and he wants a family that will be proud of him when he does well and offer him positive support. Michael would like for his forever family to be willing to allow him to maintain at least phone contact with his biological family as long as that interaction is appropriate. To learn more about adoption visit [AdoptKSKids.org](http://AdoptKSKids.org) or call 877-457-5430. Michael's case number is CH-5196.

## Arianna



Arianna is a pretty typical teenage girl who enjoys shopping and hanging out with friends. She hopes to attend college, possibly on a volleyball scholarship. Arianna is appreciative of being placed in foster care so that she can better her life. She enjoys the home where she is currently placed and tries very hard to be a good kid. She needs a family that will assist her in meeting her educational goals and that can help her with decision-making and anger management skills. Arianna wants to be surrounded with people who can be a positive influence in her life. A family that is patient, understanding and loving would be ideal for this lovely young lady. To learn more about adoption visit [AdoptKSKids.org](http://AdoptKSKids.org) or call 877-457-5430. Arianna's case number is CH-5103.



### Kansas Independence resources for finding a brighter future

The Kansas Serves Substance Affected Families (KSSAF) initiative has launched a website to provide resources and support to foster youth and former foster youth impacted by alcohol and other drugs.

KSSAF is a joint project of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services and the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare funded by a grant from the Administration for Children and Families to increase the well-being of, and to improve the permanency outcomes for, children affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse. As a partner agency on the grant, the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (KADEC) creates public awareness materials and provides collaboration and evaluation support.

This component of the KSSAF initiative targets youth ages 15 and older in foster care of former foster care youth currently receiving independent living services. The initiative includes the integration of substance abuse prevention

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## Kansas Independence resources for finding a brighter future

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and early intervention with existing life skills and independent living services utilizing a web-based format.

The website, [www.kansasindependence.org](http://www.kansasindependence.org), was developed with input from foster youth to help foster youth in Kansas "learn more about the challenges and possibilities of life ahead" as they transition into independent living. The website includes stories of foster youth who were impacted by their own, or their parent's substance abuse, as well as information about the effects of alcohol and other drugs.

Kansasindependence.org also provides an extensive resource listing on topics from health and relationships to job hunting and how to buy a car. Additionally, the website links to the Financial Literacy for Youth (FLY) project which contains interactive lessons and activities to teach youth about financial topics including banking, budgeting, goal-setting and saving.

## Upcoming KFAPA Events

**May:** Join us in Concordia on May 12 at 2:30 (registration begins at 1:30) for the Kansas Walk Me Home event. This Walk is a fundraiser to help raise awareness about foster care during Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Visit [www.walkmehome.org](http://www.walkmehome.org) and click on the Kansas Walk to create a team, join a team or sponsor a team.

**June:** KFAPA Annual Membership Meeting on June 19. We will have a KSAPA Potluck Picnic, board meeting/annual election and Campout at the Gaines Walnut Grove southwest of Lawrence, Kansas. All members and their families are welcome. Please RSVP by June 1.

**July:** KFAPA is hosting a Parent Summit in Salina on July 10. Child placement agencies and child welfare agencies have been invited to send a limited number of families and workers to discuss the child welfare system and make suggestions for improvements.

For more information about the events, please contact:

President Sandra Hiller at [Sandra-hiller@fhrd.net](mailto:Sandra-hiller@fhrd.net)

or phone 620-628-4071

or Secretary Nancy Duling at [gduling@cox.net](mailto:gduling@cox.net)

## Links to Check Out

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

Sign up to receive the latest recalls emailed directly to you.

### Adoption Sites

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

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

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

[www.adoptioninformation.com](http://www.adoptioninformation.com)

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

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



# KFAPA

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