

\*\*\* FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP \*\*\*

**TOPIC:** ONE OF OUR FOSTER PARENTS, MINDI JENNINGS, WILL BE PROVIDING US A TRAINING, BRINGING TOGETHER INFORMATION FROM THE BOOK, "DISCONNECTED KIDS" BY DR. ROBERT MELILLO, AND BRAIN BALANCING CONCEPTS. This is excellent information for foster parents working with children who have neurological disorders, including, but not limited to: ADD/ADHD, autism and substance-abuse exposure.

**DATES & TIME:**

- THU • AUG 12 • 1:00-2:30PM
- WED • AUG 18 • 6:00-7:30PM

Please RSVP if you plan to attend: Call Melissa at 667-7044, or send an email to [mparkowski@kidscrossing.com](mailto:mparkowski@kidscrossing.com).

**CHILD CARE:** It is vital to RSVP for child care in advance, or we won't be able to provide it.

Please contact Melissa at 667-7044 or [mparkowski@kidscrossing.com](mailto:mparkowski@kidscrossing.com).

**REFRESHMENTS:** Please bring a snack to share, and KC will provide beverages.

**TRAINING CREDIT:** 1.5 hours.

\*\*\* MENTORING SUPPORT GROUP \*\*\*

This is for foster parents that have been licensed at least 3 years and are interested in mentoring new foster parents.

- This group is held monthly on the 1st Thursday.
- Next meeting is August 5th, from 10 to 11 a. m. at Kids Crossing in Colo. Springs.
- **Please RSVP prior to meeting day for child-care, or we will not be able to provide it.** Contact Melissa at 667-7044 or [mparkowski@kidscrossing.com](mailto:mparkowski@kidscrossing.com).
- KC will provide refreshments, please bring a snack to share.
- If you are interested in participating but cannot attend, please contact Melissa to discuss the program further.

**BOOKS & MOVIES: TRAINING CREDIT**

Foster parents can read/watch the following books/movies and turn in a book report to get 2 hours of training credit. Many of these are at your local library. If you cannot find them, please contact Melissa at 719-667-7044 to see if they are available to borrow through Kids Crossing. Also, the Book Report and Video Form is available for download on our website [kidscrossing.com](http://kidscrossing.com) under Training Opportunities.

- The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family by Dave Pelzer
- A Child Called It by Dave Pelzer by Dave Pelzer
- A Man Named Dave by Dave Pelzer
- The Sexualized Child in Foster Care: A Guide for Foster Parents and other Professionals by Sally G. Hoyle
- The Women Who Raised Me: A Memoir by Victoria Rowell
- Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control by Heather Forbes and Brian Post
- Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow by Dr. Gregory Keck
- Adopting the Hurt Child: Hope for Families with Special Needs Kids-A Guide for Parents and Professionals by Dr. Gregory Keck
- Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding and Appreciating Their Journeys by Dr. Gregory Keck
- Parenting with Love and Logic by Foster Cline and Jim Fay
- Returnable Girl (young fiction) by Pamela Lowell
- A Knock on the Door: Stories by Biological Parents Who Have Children in Foster Care by Youth Communications
- Another Place at the Table by Kathy Harrison
- Plenty Good Room by Cheri Paris Edwards
- Finding the Right Spot by Janice Levvy (for ages 4-8)
- Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights by Julie Nelson (for ages 4-8)
- The Star by Cynthia Miller Lovell (for ages 4-8)

**Movies:**

- My Flesh and Blood (2002)
- Just an Overnight Guest
- Switching Parents
- The Blind Side
- Losing Isaiah
- I am Sam
- Taken in: The Lives of Children in Foster Care Antwone Fisher

These are just a few possibilities. If any foster parents or staff have recommended books or movies, please email them to Melissa at [mparkowski@kidscrossing.com](mailto:mparkowski@kidscrossing.com).



Main Office, Colorado Springs  
1440 E. Fountain Blvd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910  
Phone: 719-632-4569  
Fax: 719-632-6573

Denver 303-861-8915  
Pueblo 719-545-3882

# Picnics!

## Colo. Springs Foster Families!

At Kids Crossing in Colo. Springs.  
Friday • August 13 • 3 to 7pm

- We're grilling hamburgers and hot dogs in the backyard, and KC will also provide beverages & paper products.
- Every family - please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and chairs/blankets to sit on.
- There will be a Bounce House for the kids.
- School supplies will be available.
- RSVP BY AUGUST 6th!
- Contact your Home Coordinator with how many will be attending and the dish you will be bringing.

## Pueblo Foster Families!

City Park Swimming Pool  
Aug. 15 • 5:30 to 8:30pm

- Kids Crossing will provide hot dogs, chips & salsa, dessert & paper products.
- Bring beverages for your family, and please bring a side dish to share.
- Will be in the pool area - bring chairs and blankets for your comfort.
- Call for Reservations Before August 9
- 545-3882.

## Denver Foster Families!

Apex Recreation Center  
13150 W. 72nd Ave. • Arvada 80005  
Monday • August 16

- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • Lunch in the Randall Room
- 12:30 p.m. - on • Playtime in the pools, gym, etc!
- RSVP: call your home supervisor or email Amy at [aharder@kidscrossing.com](mailto:aharder@kidscrossing.com) no later than AUGUST 11.

## "A Youth Perspective"

*Being in foster care as a young youth is not easy. Being removed from a home affects family, the youth, and the education of each youth.*

*Most youth take out there anger on the other people involved with them because they don't know how else to do it.*

*There are a lot of youth in foster care that need support that's why we have Youth Advisory Board (YAB). YAB supports youth in the system and helps them get their voices heard. Youth go into foster care thinking "no one cares", "they don't understand".*

*By going to one YAB meeting and talking to other youth you may think totally different afterwards because we let other youth speak not tell them what to say.*

*At YAB we are all family and we all get along. We don't put others down. That is what you get their voices heard. YAB makes it easier for youth to get through the system.*

*Tiffany*

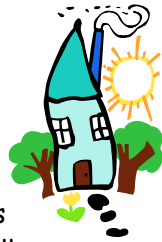
"A Youth Perspective" was reprinted from the **YAB Voice** newsletter at [dhs.elpasoco.com/YAB.htm](http://dhs.elpasoco.com/YAB.htm). You can find out more about the YAB here on the next page....

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

## COLORADO SPRINGS:

### ♥ OPEN HOUSE • 2 HOURS

The next open house is scheduled Tues., **August 3rd, 5:30 to 6:30pm** at 1440 E. Fountain Blvd., Colo. Springs. We have designed the Open House to introduce Kids Crossing to potential foster parents, as well as anyone else interested in knowing more about us. It's also a great way for veteran foster parents to get an update on changes. **PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT FOSTERING.** RSVP to Melissa Parkowski at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.

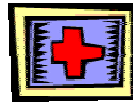


### \*\*\*A REMINDER\*\*\*

CPR and First Aid training must be taken from an approved source.

Online CPR/First Aid training is NOT accepted for this requirement.

If you need help finding an approved trainer in your region, please contact your foster home coordinator.



## PUEBLO:

### ASSOCIATES FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY & EDUCATION

924 Indiana Ave.  
Pueblo, CO 81004

564-9039

\$5.00

6:00 pm

- Aug. 3: Building Character, Courage & Self Esteem in your child
- Aug. 10: Communication Tools for a Better Life
- Aug. 17: Mind Body Connection Explained
- Sept. 14: When Marriage Isn't Perfect What's the next best thing
- Sept. 21: Successfully Blending a Family
- Sept. 28: Treating Depression

## LOVE & LOGIC:

Catholic Charities

429 West 10th St. Suite 102

544-4233 ext 120 or 112

\$25 a person or \$30.00 a couple

## EL PASO COUNTY

# YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

### MISSION STATEMENT:

- *Our mission statement is constantly rewritten by you, the youth of El Paso County. We recognize the importance of youth voice, youth ideas, and youth insight. Together we can make the system better and stronger; together we can make our voices, our stories, and our ideas heard.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- YAB Bake Sale — August 19.

### REGULAR YAB MEETINGS:

- Youth in foster care and foster parents are encouraged to attend YAB meetings — this is a great opportunity for youth to feel heard and participation is a great resume builder, too.
- The YAB meets every other Tuesday at the Community Prep School gymnasium, 332 E. Willamette at 4 to 5 p.m. (summer hours).
- Next meeting dates are Aug. 3, 17 & 31.
- Adult supervision is provided at these meetings.
- If you need help with transportation, please call Deanna at 661-7723.

### HOW TO BECOME A YAB BOARD LEADER:

- You must attend 3 out of 4 consecutive meetings, and then you will be given a proposal.
- YAB would like you to create a YAB activity or community service project that everyone can work on putting together.
- On the 4th meeting, bring back the proposal and present it to the YAB group.
- When this is complete, you will receive a YAB t-shirt.
- After you have received the t-shirt, you will be qualified to be first pick in the YAB activities, and when an officer position becomes available, you will be able to campaign and run for the available position.

### VISIT THE NEW YAB WEBSITE:

[dhs.elpasoco.com/YAB.htm](http://dhs.elpasoco.com/YAB.htm)

*Questions about YAB & events? Please contact Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com or Deanna at 667-7055 or dmeder@kidscrossing.com.*

# Our Stars

### ★ WELCOME TO OUR NEW GROUP HOMES/ GROUP CENTERS!

- ◇ Commerce
- ◇ Espana
- ◇ Haven House

★ **CONGRATULATIONS!** Foster parents Sonya & Dante have added two special boys to their family! True to their philosophy of "everyone deserves a family", Sonya & Dante have stepped up for these boys, mindful of their special needs.

★ **Off to a GREAT Start!** Foster parents Paula & Brad are doing a great job with their first placement of two boys. They have learned a lot about love and logic, giving clear, specific instructions and the importance of owning a mop! Great job, you guys!

★ **DIVING RIGHT IN!** Foster parent Cheryl is doing wonderfully with her first placement. She is balancing long two-hour drives each way to visits twice per week with her already-busy schedule and has fully incorporated her foster child into her family. Also, she did a great job with a difficult teenage boy in a last-minute respite situation. Thank you, Cheryl!

★ **You are AMAZING!** Our thanks go out to foster mom Suni for consistently working her magic each and every day!

★ **OUTSTANDING team work!** Thanks to foster parents, Lisa & Randy, for working with the biological grandparents of the child in their home. You've patiently answer all of their questions in a clear and concise manner, even when they have been challenging and critical. You have made our job easier!

★ **Going ABOVE & BEYOND!** Special thanks to foster dad, Francis, for his superhuman effort with the youth in his home. Francis has consistently given more than anyone would ever expect.

★ **WAY TO GO!** Foster parents Dionn & Gary have done a great job of helping to transition the young child in their home to his mother's home.

★ **THANK YOU for hanging in there!** Thanks to Craig & Tina for taking on a teen mother and her baby in the midst of a crisis. These cases are challenging on so many levels, especially as the teen is preparing to emancipate. We did not predict some of the issues that arose, but as always you handled everything calmly and with good judgment. We appreciate how you both have risen to the challenges that we have thrown your way.

★ **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** Andre has done a great job of assisting one of the young men in his group home in his transition to independent living. This youth's connection with Andre has helped him feel that he can be successful on his own, and this has made an incredible difference for him. Thank you — we appreciate what you do!

★ **SPECIAL thanks & BEST wishes!** Foster parents, Marie & Michael, have continued to work with the young boy in their home, even in the face of family difficulties. Thank you for sticking with the little guy, and best wishes to your family.

★ **Going the EXTRA mile!** Many thanks to Patti & Peter for allowing the families of the children in their care to stay in their home during the transitions and for all of the support they have provided to the families to make the transitions easier. You two are the best!!!

★ **Doing a FANTASTIC job!** Special thanks to Sue & Stan, who are providing a safe, secure, nurturing and structured environment for the toddlers in their care. They are dealing with delays and out-of-control behaviors with grace and calm.

★ **KUDOS!** Our grateful thanks go out to Sharon & Bill for all they do!

**"Keep doing what you do so well!"**