

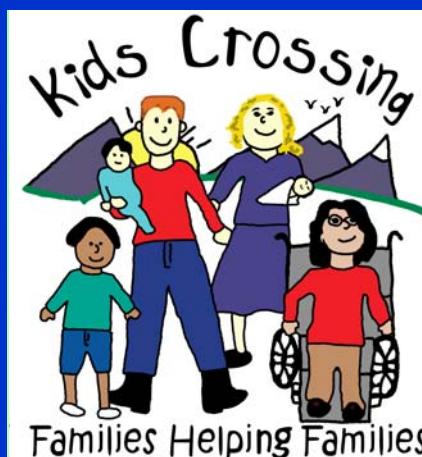
★ **CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF YOUR NEW GROUP HOMES!!!**

- ♥ PASSAGES TO ADULTHOOD GROUP HOME.
- ♥ VOICES OF EMPOWERMENT GROUP HOME.
- ★ **THANK YOU, Jim & Sue!** Your beautiful music added greatly to the enjoyment and ambience at the Pueblo Foster Parents Appreciation Dinner. Thank you from everyone!
- ★ **Going ABOVE & BEYOND!** John at Top of the Hill Group Home took the boys on vacation for spring break — with no extra help!
- ★ **WELL DONE!** Jim at Haven House Group Home is working hard and doing well with the teen boys in his group home!
- ★ **DOING LOTS OF HARD WORK!** Foster parents, Jenny & Jeff have done really well with the children in their home and have been open to providing respite for other families, as well. Recently, they took a teen girl for an emergency respite and have decided to try to make it work for a placement.
- ★ **Going the EXTRA Mile!** Foster parents, Colleen & Roger for staying with their foster son at the ER and remaining supportive of him as he was going through a difficult time.
- ★ **Making a DIFFERENCE!** Foster mother, Cheryl is taking on a new teen to preserve him attending the same school.
- ★ **FANTASTIC Teamwork!** Foster parents, Joanna & Teal stepped up to take in a newborn baby boy from the hospital on an emergency placement, spending the morning on a weekend at the hospital getting all the information from the nurses as he was a drug exposed baby.
- ★ **WAY to GO!** Foster mother, Ana is continuing to hang in there with her sibling group, working well with the children's mother toward reunification to make this transition as smooth as possible.
- ★ **Super TEAM Effort!** Foster moms, Joan and Tiffany are working together to ensure a smooth transition for the 1-year-old currently in Joan's home to Tiffany's home. This will be a permanent home for the toddler.
- ★ **WAY to GO!** Allen is working with his foster

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mother, Jackie, on setting up a paid internship through Fostering Hope.

- ★ **WELL DONE!** Jeff in Suni's home continues to excel at school and has excellent grades — straight A's for the 3rd quarter in a row!
- ★ **KUDOS!** Charles, also in Suni's home, got a job!
- ★ **Going ABOVE & BEYOND!** Foster parents, Linda & Dave were very flexible this past month in working out a visit for the child in their home with her biological father when flew into town, and they provided incredible support to her throughout.
- ★ **Foster Parenting to the MAX!** Foster mother, Marge facilitated the transition of a foster child to her father's home in another state. She coordinated phone calls and Skype calls, threw a going-away party for the child with all of her siblings, and drove her to Denver and assisted her to her flight gate.
- ★ **Going the EXTRA Mile!** With caseworker permission, foster parents, Paul & Renee continue to supervisor phone visits for the children in their home, who wish to have contact with their biological father.
- ★ **Making a DIFFERENCE!** Foster parents Milly & Wayne assisted the children in their transition home, including taking the children to the hospital to visit their mother and coordinating regular phone calls.
- ★ **CONGRATULATIONS!** Anthony at Humphrey's Family Tree Group Home, started Spring Football.
- ★ **FANTASTIC JOB!** Alic, also at the Humphreys Family Tree Group Home, has completed his GED and celebrated his 18th birthday. He has become a positive leader, a good peer and role for the other youth in the home.



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



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**Kids Crossing Welcomes Youth Ventures Providers and Staff!**

As many of you already know, effective March 1, 2011, the Colorado Division of Child Care declined to renew the CPA license for Youth Ventures. This, in effect, means the State closed down the Youth Ventures CPA.

The State closed the Youth Ventures agency because of ongoing licensing problems and ongoing problems with their financial operation. In spite of the State's finding regarding these issues, however, Youth Ventures has continued to enjoy a great reputation throughout the state of Colorado for doing good work with children and youth. This kind of reputation can only be a product of the dedicated and caring providers and staff.

All providers were given 30 days to find another CPA to affiliate with, and all but a few chose to come with Kids Crossing. Many of the Youth Ventures staff members are continuing with Kids Crossing, as well — continuing to work with these providers and the children and youth in their homes.

In Colorado Springs, Kids Crossing is maintaining Youth Ventures providers and staff as a separate entity. This new "Youth Ventures Program" will continue to focus and specialize on serving primarily adolescents — to include juvenile sex offenders. There is a strong need for such programming, and this is

a niche Youth Ventures has been serving very well for many years now.

This has been a very traumatic few weeks for the providers and staff who have had to deal with this unexpected closure and the uncertainty of what would happen immediately after the closure. To their credit, everyone kept their eyes on the kids and did what they had to do to make this transition. The transition is not over — there are still many details to work out and a great deal of folks getting to know new folks.

Without a doubt, this transition has also created work and stress for many Kids Crossing staff — as they have had to step up to help work out the logistics of providers and staff becoming affiliated with a new agency — and still do their regular jobs. As a result, I can't help but think it's possible that some things have not been followed up on, or some people are unsure about something that is happening or not happening, and I'd like to take this opportunity to ask and remind everyone to feel free to contact me directly with any concerns or ideas. My email address is [loesterle@kidscrossing.com](mailto:loesterle@kidscrossing.com) — and that's a great way to reach me. If it is something more urgent, please call me on my cell at (719) 359-6801.

*Lee Oesterle, Executive Director*

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

# Single Point of Entry

There is a new after-hours placement process in El Paso County. The Department of Human Services has selected a proposal submitted by four CPAs (Kids Crossing, Bethany Christian Services, Lutheran Family Services, and Maple Star) for what is being called the "single point of entry" process. Basically, this means the pager person on-call for the Department only has to call one number to make a referral for placement. The four agencies rotate being on-call, and we work together to provide appropriate placements.

The pager person used to have to call each CPA to try to find a placement - in the middle of the night and sometimes driving around with children in the car. This single point of entry process makes it much easier on the pager person, and it allows the CPAs to do a lot of the work during the day in a collaborative effort to make placements available in the middle of the night.

Kids Crossing is excited to be a part of this innovative new project. The single point of entry process has been in place for three weeks, and so far it has been very successful.

The next step in the implementation process is to fully involve the other CPAs in the project - in order to have sufficient resources to offer for placements after hours. Once we demonstrate the effectiveness of this process during after hours, we will be given the opportunity to offer single point of entry 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Stay tuned!

# FOSTER PARENT GROUPS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT KIDS CROSSING & ELSEWHERE:

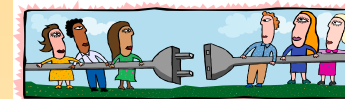
## Colo. Springs



❖ **OPEN HOUSE • 1 HOUR**  
Tues., April 5th, 5:30 to 6:30pm,  
1440 E. Fountain Blvd. Open House is for anyone interested in learning more about Kids Crossing and/or foster care. Please RSVP to Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.

❖ **BEYOND CONSEQUENCES • 20 HOURS**  
♦ Kids Crossing, Colo. Springs office.  
♦ 10 weeks on Thursday evenings, beginning April 7th, going through June 9th. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
♦ RSVP to Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.  
♦ Unfortunately, daycare cannot be provided.

Colo. Springs  
Foster Parent  
Group Meetings



- 1. TRAINING GROUP:**
  - ♦ New topic posted in Facebook every month: kc@kidscrossing.com.
  - ♦ 2nd Friday.
  - ♦ April 8th • 10 to 11 a.m.
- 2. DISCUSSION SUPPORT GROUP:**
  - ♦ Foster parents have the opportunity to discuss frustrations they have encountered, hear advice from other foster parents, share positive stories, and meet other foster parents to help build a support system.
  - ♦ 4th Friday.
  - ♦ April 22nd • 10 to 11 a.m.
- 3. MENTORING GROUP:**
  - ♦ This group is for foster parents who have been licensed at least 3 years and are interested in mentoring new foster parents.
  - ♦ 1st Thursday - **Every Other Month**
  - ♦ Next meeting May 5th • 10 to 11 a.m.

### IMPORTANT FOR ALL GROUP MEETINGS:

- ♦ RSVP to Melissa at 667-7044 or mparkowski@kidscrossing.com.
- ♦ **Child care will be offered to those who RSVP.**
- ♦ KC will provide beverages. Please bring a snack to share.

Look us up on **FACEBOOK!**

**Kids Crossing**  
**Colorado Springs**  
**kc@kidscrossing.com**

**Denver**  
**kcdenver@kidscrossing.com**

**Pueblo**  
**Kids Crossing Pueblo**

**You'll find the latest scoop —  
on training & everything else.**

**See you there!**

## Denver



**Denver Foster Parents  
Monthly Support Group Meetings**

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:  
MONDAY • APRIL 4 • 6:30 PM

TOPIC: "How to say good-bye" to the children in your home and help them transition to planned placements (i. e. reunification or an adoptive home).

RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: Contact Amy at 303-861-8915 or aharder@kidscrossing.com.

CHILD CARE: Child care will be available — please let Amy know if you will need child care.

REFRESHMENTS: Snacks and beverages will be provided

TRAINING CREDIT: 1.5 hours.

CONTINUING SCHEDULE: Beginning in April, we will resume meeting the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

## Pueblo

- ❖ **LOVE & LOGIC TRAINING:**
- ♦ Catholic Charities.
  - ♦ 429 West 10th St. Suite 102.
  - ♦ Phone: 544-4233 ext 120 or 112.
  - ♦ Fee: \$25 a person or \$30 a couple.

- ❖ **CPR & FIRST AID CLASS:**
- ♦ Good for 2 years. \$35 for both.
  - ♦ February 5th • 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.
  - ♦ New Life Bible Church, 2320 Prairie Avenue.
  - ♦ Call Renee for reservations at 251-8878 or 561-0941.