

Post Adoption Resource Center Newsletter

June 2012

What is a Post Adoption Resource Center?

The Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARC) Program was created by the State of Michigan as a way of ensuring that adoptive families were provided with access to supportive services beyond adoptive placement.

The program offers a myriad of services inclusive of Case Management, Coordination of Services, Information Dissemination, Family Support, and Web Based Communication opportunities.

Our Oakland County PARC Program offers a monthly adoptive parent led support group, a lending library, quarterly train-

ings, quarterly family activities, an adoptive parent led blog/forum, an “ask an adoptive parent” “corner” (on our website), etc.

With the different services that the program offers we are able to tailor the program to fit the specific needs of your family.

Orchards Children’s Services is very excited about the opportunity to assist the State of Michigan in supporting adoptive families beyond adoptive placement. We cannot wait to see the impact that having such services will have on the families that we work with!

To inquire about the services and/or opportunities available to you please contact Jennifer Harmon at: 248-410- 0727

Toll free at: 866-702-7222

Or visit our website at

www.parcoakland-orchards.org



What’s Been Happening with PARC?

It’s been an exciting first quarter for the PARC Program! We have been able to establish a committed team, create service plans, and secure the resources needed to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to us by the State of Michigan, and more importantly, the families that we plan to service.

On April 24th we hosted our first monthly support group. We had quite a few families in attendance with most finding the group to be an exciting opportunity for camaraderie. Most recently the PARC Program hosted a family activity for families to attend a Tigers game free of charge. Our

June support group will be held on June 26, 2012 from 6:00–7:30 PM; childcare and dinner will be provided.

If you would like to attend our support group please RSVP to Jennifer Harmon at 248-410-0727.

June 30, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

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We are eager for you to read our first issue of the Post Adoption Resource Center Newsletter and are hopeful that you will enjoy it. If there is anything special that you would like to see written in this publication please contact Jennifer Harmon at: 248-410-0727

Toll free at: 866-702-7222

Or visit our website at www.parcoakland-orchards.org

Upcoming Events....

As part of the challenge that comes with working with adoptive families we are trying to implement new and exciting ideas and activities that families can participate in. Some of our upcoming events are listed below:

- 6/12/12 from 1:00–3:00 PM Oakland County Task Force Meeting.
- 6/22/12 from 12:00–3:00PM Orchards bike day. Over 300 children will get new bikes, helmets and locks!

- 6/26/12 from 6:00–7:30 PM we will have our support group/quarterly training which will focus on the Medical Subsidy Program and it's uses.
- 7/28/12 from 1:00–4:00 PM our family activity will be held at Seaholm High



School. All children will leave with a new back pack and supplies.

- 7/31/12 from 6:00–7:30 PM we will have our adoptive parent support group.
- 8/28/12 from 6:00–7:30 PM we will have our adoptive parent support group.

To inquire about any of the above activities, contact Jennifer Harmon at 248-410-0727. Also, please visit our website at www.parc Oakland-Orchards.org for further listings of local community activities.

Parenting Tip...

THE DAILY GROOVE~

by Scott Noelle

www.enjoyparenting.com/dailygroove

“Do Over”

Children in their natural state are totally focused on pleasure. They aim to maximize the FUN in every moment. We can learn a lot about practical happiness by observing them.

For example, when kids are playing a ball game, and the ball lands too close to the line to tell if it's “in” or “out,” they don't waste their time and energy arguing about it. There's no fun in that!

Instead, someone call out, “DO-OVER!” and they all return to the beginning of the last play to have another go at it.

The do-over is a great tool for parents, too. When an interaction between you and your child turns sour, just stop, remember that you would rather feel good than be 'right,' and say, “Let's have a do-over!”

Then you can redo the interaction with a clear intention to enjoy it.

For more tips like this visit:

www.enjoyparenting.com/path/info

Fun Family Activity...

School's out for summer! To some this may be a stressful time however it could also be seen as time to bond with your family and have fun together. With the warm weather approaching we thought we would offer up a suggestion for a low cost, fun, family activity that can be enjoyed by most....a staycation!

Camping is a fun activity that many of us enjoyed during our youth and with a little thought you and your family could enjoy a camping trip without leaving

the home. Here's how...pack a cooler of sandwich stuff for lunch, and roast hot dogs over the BBQ for dinner. For an after dinner snack roast marshmallows over the BBQ (or if you want to go all out you could make s'mores!). If you have one you could also roast these items over a portable fire pit. For entertainment play

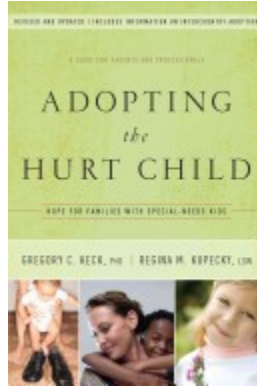


board games outside or make a homemade slip and slide (all you need is a tarp, a sprinkler, and some dish soap!). Once nightfall reaches, you could tell ghost stories or try to identify different constellations. For the true outdoorsy type you could even pitch a tent in the yard and sleep out under the stars! Have fun!

Featured Reading...

As part of our Oakland County PARC Program we are creating a lending library which consists of books that focus primarily on adoption and common parenting issues. Presently the agency has approximately thirty five different books available for distribution, and we would like to continue to grow that number. To inquire about other items available please contact Jennifer Harmon at 248-410-0727 or visit our website at www.parcoakland-orchards.org.

Our featured reading this month (available in our library) is....



Adopting the Hurt Child, by authors Gregory Keck and Regina Kopecky.

Written in 2009, without avoiding the grim statistics, this book reveals the real

hope that hurting children can be healed through adoptive and foster parents, social workers, and other's

who care.

The Lending Library is something that is very near and dear to our hearts. Again, please contact Jennifer Harmon for a complete list of our available readings. Additionally, your input is always welcome, if there are additional items that you would like to see within our library let us know as we are hear to serve you!

Within the next newsletter we will be featuring the novel Big Steps for Little People by Jessica Kingsley.

Meet Our Staff...



Raquel Coulter is an experienced Family Preservation worker, having worked to keep families together for nearly four years. Raquel is enjoying the challenge that working wit the adoptive families is allowing her and noted that her favorite thing, thus far, about the program is seeing the commitment that the parents have to their children.



Robert Logan is also an experienced Family Preservation worker. Robert is an exciting addition to the program as he seems

to have an uncanny understanding of the challenges faced by adoptive families. Robert shared that he feels the most exciting thing about working adoptive families is being creative, as every family is different and has individual needs.

If you are interested in utilizing the PARC Program, both Raquel and Robert are here to serve you!

"TOGETHER WE STAND, TOGETHER WE FALL, TOGETHER WE WIN, AND WINNERS TAKE ALL"

Summary of Services...

We wanted to take this opportunity to again explain the services that we have to offer.

Our program can be as intensive as families need it to be. We offer case management services which would allow a worker to make routine home visits and work more one on one with families. We have a Coordination of Services piece which allows a worker to

help families set up necessary services without having to visit in the home. We have an Information Dissemination piece, which is strictly distributing requested information to families. Our Adoptive Family Support section offers families a monthly support group, quarterly trainings, and quarterly support groups. Lastly, we have our website, which can link families up with community resources, our lending

library, and other adoptive parents! We hope you have enjoyed our newsletter. If there is anything you would like to see in here next time please let us know!!



We are all in this together and look forward to speaking with you!!

June 2012

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Visit us online at:
www.parkoakland-orchards.org

Who We Are:

- *Orchards Children's Services has been a beacon of hope for children and families for fifty years!*
- *Orchards seeks to protect and nurture children and youth by providing shelter, sustenance, life- and educational skills and opportunities. Our programs and services touch children from birth to young adulthood, and we remain committed to them every step of the way.*
- *We believe in engaging individuals in planning for their own success, and offer services and support in their homes and communities. By working in partnership with parents, relatives, foster parents and children where they live, we empower them to achieve stability and long term self sufficiency.*

Frequently Asked Questions...

How old are the children that your program works with?

Our program services youth ages 21-years-old and younger and their families.

My child was adopted twelve years ago, can I still get help?

Yes! As long as your child was adopted out of the foster care system, resides in the home, and is 21-years-old our younger he/she and your family will be eligible for services.

My child is already receiving

therapy, what other types of services are you able to provide?

Our program is a resource center and an advocacy center if you will. We are here to link you up with

needed services and to ensure that those services are set up. We can help families set up special educational services, positive community based activities, Medical Subsidy, Temporary Out of Home Placement, and camps just to name a few of the things that we can do.

Who can refer families to the program?

Anybody can refer the family to the program, inclusive of the family themselves. The referral number in Oakland County is 248-410-0727.

