

## Post Adoption Resource Center Newsletter June 2012

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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:

Phone: 313-530-9746  
Toll free at: 877-441-4017  
Or visit our website at  
[www.parcwayne-orchards.org](http://www.parcwayne-orchards.org)

### 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 Wayne County PARC Program offers a monthly adoptive parent led support group, a lending library, quarterly trainings, quarterly family activities, an adop-

tive 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 fami-

lies that we work with. To inquire about the services and/or opportunities available to you please contact Jennifer Harmon at: 313-530-9746

Toll free at: 877-441-4017

Or visit our website at

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### 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 313-530-9746.

## 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:

- 6/22/12 from 12:00—3:00PM Orchards bike day. Over 300 children, some of whom are affiliated with PARC, 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. Special Guest Dawn Ritter will be present from the Subsidy Office.

- 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. Dinner and Childcare provided.
- 8/28/12 from 6:00—

7:30 PM we will have our adoptive parent support group. Dinner and Childcare provided.

- 8/15/12 from 9:00—10:00 AM we will be hosting a Wayne County Task Force Meeting to discuss Post Adoption and gaps in service.

To inquire about any of the above activities, contact Jennifer Harmon at 313-530-9746. Also, please visit our website at [www.parcwayne-orchards.org](http://www.parcwayne-orchards.org) for further listings of local community activities.

## Parenting Tip...

*"To the world you might be one person, but to one person you are the world."*

*~Unknown*

### THE DAILY GROOVE~ by Scott Noelle

[www.enjoyparenting.com/dailygroove](http://www.enjoyparenting.com/dailygroove)

Feeling Good vs. Being "Right"

Want to have a great day? Simply decide that feeling good is more important than being "right," and let that priority guide every thought, word, and deed

throughout the day.

When being "right" is your priority, you may achieve the shallow satisfaction of receiving approval, but it disconnects you from your inner guidance, which is revealed through your emotions.

When feeling good is your priority... you choose love, because loving feels good,

you choose connection because it feels better than separation, you choose forgiveness because resentment feels yucky

See what happens when you take a day off from being "right" or trying to be a "good" parent. Let go of all "should" and let yourself be guided by pleasure instead.

## Fun Family Activity...

Candy Land, Shoots and Ladders, Uno, Bingo, Go Fish....Ahhhh the games of our childhood, brings me back to a simpler time.

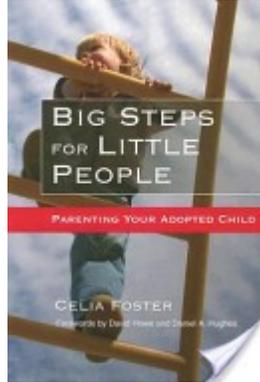
Let's be honest, life gets BUSY...many of us work, we have children, we have activities for said children and some of the simpler things fall by the wayside. Nevertheless, it is important

to remember that those "simple" things are huge when it comes to bonding with our children and building their self confidence.



Sure dance, baseball, soccer, they are fun, but nothing beats quality time with the parents. So pick a day of the week, make a quick dinner, pull out the old board games and spend the evening with one another—you'll be surprised the conversation that you will have with your kids doing this simple act!

## Featured Reading...



As part of our Wayne 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 35 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 313-530-9746 or visit our website at [www.parcwayne orchards.org](http://www.parcwayne orchards.org).

Our featured reading this month (available in our library) is "Big Steps for Little People" by Celia Foster. A mother of two adopted children, Celia Foster has written this book as a per-

sonal insiders guide to parenting adopted children. Drawing on hard won wisdom gained in her own family life, Celia offers a thoughtful account of life with adopted children and examines the issues that many adoptive families encounter, including the development of children with attachment problems and how to tackle behavioral difficulties. She combines real life anecdotes with suggestions and strategies that other parents can use. This book will be a great comfort and help to all adoptive families!

*"Great changes may not happen right away, but with effort even the difficult may become easy."  
~ Bill Blackman*

## Meet Our Staff...



Andrea Romeus is one our Wayne County PARC Workers, she is dedicated to serving the population that work with and has much experience working with children. Andrea indicated that her favorite thing, thus far, about working with

the PARC Program is seeing the smiles on the children and families faces when "it all works out."



Nicole Nicholls is our other Wayne County PARC Worker. Nicole is very committed to meeting the

needs of the families that we work with and works tirelessly to find needed resources. To date, Nicole indicated that her favorite thing about working with the PARC Program is being able to see the commitment that the families have to the children that they adopted, despite the circumstances.

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

**ORCHARDS  
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*We're on the Web!  
Www.parcwayne-  
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 or 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 Wayne County is 313-530-9746. We look forward to hearing from you!!!

