

National Adoption Day a Success!



The National Adoption Day celebration, **Oregon Celebrates Adoption**, on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at the Lloyd Center Mall was tremendous fun! Festive entertainment abounded for all – engaging, interactive activities for children; so many cheerful Rose City clowns; exciting prizes; gorgeous family photos; heartfelt speakers; and an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. We hope that this year’s event not only celebrated the joys of what adoption means for each child or family, but also created awareness about adoption in our communities. We are looking forward to celebrating with all of you again next year!



This event would not have been successful had it not been for all of our wonderful families, participants and volunteers. Whether you joined us to celebrate because adoption is a part of your life, or you are considering adding to your family through adoption, your presence made our hard work worthwhile. From the attendees, to the planning team, to the event volunteers and exhibitors, we couldn’t have done it without you! For those of you who were not able to attend, we hope that you can join us next year. Thank you for making this day as memorable as possible.



Sponsored by



Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN

2011 Adoptive Family Portrait Project

 www.voice-for-adoption.org 



In November 2011, Voice for Adoption’s (VFA) 2011 Adoptive Family Portrait Project celebrated families who have adopted children from foster care. The primary goal of the annual project is to raise awareness among members of Congress about the real experiences and needs of families adopting children who have spent time in the foster care system.



Six participating families from Oregon shared their stories along with a family portrait. Each family was matched by VFA with a Senator or Representative from their home state or district. The portraits and stories were featured on display in the Capitol office of each family’s respective Senator or Representative during November, National Adoption Month. This is the first year Oregon had full participation from all six of our members of Congress.

Congratulations and thank you to these special families who participated!

Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions



If you adopted in 2011 (or had expenses in 2010 or earlier for a non-finalized US adoption), you can most likely claim the adoption tax credit with your 2011 taxes. The IRS recently released Form 8839 and instructions, which are necessary to claim the credit. This year's instructions have additional information about the documentation required to file for the credit. To learn more about the 2011 credit, visit www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit2011.html. The IRS has also created a special page for the adoption tax credit and plans to post additional information there as necessary. For more information, visit <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/article/0,,id=235825,00.html>.

New Adoptive Parent Support Groups

NAFA Salem Adoption Group Meeting

Sponsored by Northwest Adoptive Families Association

Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm
Pringle Hall Community Center, Meeting Room
606 Church Street SE, Salem, OR 97301

Contact Christie Van Winkle, NAFA Board Member
541-990-8267, justaminion@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/SalemNAFA or <http://nafaonline.org>

The group is for previous, current and prospective adoptive parents. Meet other adoptive parents to share support, attend trainings, and learn about being the best parent you can be! Childcare will be determined by the group.

LGBTQ Adoptive Parent Support Group

Sponsored by Adoption Mosaic

Meeting 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:00-8:00 pm
Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave., Portland, OR
971-533-0102 or info@adoptionmosaic.org

LGBTQ adoptive parents and families face unique challenges and concerns. Homophobia and heterosexism restrict access to support, services, and the social legitimacy necessary to create and sustain healthy families. The support group is facilitated by an Adoption Mosaic staff member and a parent of the LGBTQ community.

ORPARC can help develop or assist your support group. Visit www.orparc.org → "Support Services" → click and download "ORPARC's Role and Sample Training Topics." If you are aware of any new or updated support group information, please contact ORPARC at 503-241-0799/1-800-764-8367 or orparc@nwresource.org.

Scholarships and Education Information for Youth



- **Oregon House Bill 3471:** Effective January 1, 2012, Oregon's universities and community colleges will waive tuition for youth under age 25 who are now or were in foster care for at least 12 months between the ages of 16 and 18. To qualify, youth must start their post-secondary education within three years of exiting care, graduating from high school, or earning a GED, whichever is earliest.
- **The Fostering a Future Scholarship,** www.childrensactionnetwork.org: Scholarship program designed to provide youth who were adopted from foster care at or after the age of 13 with financial assistance in pursuing a college, vocational, or technical education. Applications available in spring 2012 at www.childrensactionnetwork.org.
- **Foster Care to Success (FCS),** <http://fc2success.org>: 100 new scholarships are awarded each year which can be renewed for five years or until the scholar receives a bachelor's degree, or to students in technical training programs. The 2012-13 scholarship application is open from January 1 through March 31, 2012.
- **Pride Foundation,** www.pridefoundationscholar.org: Scholarships awarded to build leadership and promote diversity in the LGBTQ and straight-ally communities. Scholarships may be used for any post-secondary education including nontraditional degrees, trade or technical programs, community colleges, 4-year public and private universities, and accredited certificate programs. Deadline is Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. PST.
- **Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care & Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:** The guide provides information for anyone who helps youth from foster care (including guardianship or older adopted youth) and unaccompanied homeless youth to secure financial aid for post-secondary education or training programs. The guide describes how to respond to the 2011-2012 FAFSA questions 52-57 that will determine federal financial aid status for these students. Visit <http://bit.ly/uk8BDC> for more information.

ORPARC Trainings

Visit www.orparc.org for updates

Provided in collaboration with Providence Child Center and Cascadia Training

ORPARC trainings are **free of charge** to DHS adoptive, foster and assisted guardianship families, and DHS/SNAC adoption professionals.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

The Journey from Turbulent to Tranquil

Presented by Dr. Read Sulik, M.D.



Friday, **February 17, 2012** ♦ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Providence Medford Medical Center, Mary Norbert Hall
1111 Crater Lake Avenue, **MEDFORD**, OR 97504

- ✓ Register at www.providence.org/classes. Click on "online class catalog" and search by class name for "Swindells Speaker Event – ADHD, Medford." To register by phone, please call 541-732-5958.
- ✓ Spanish translation is also available.
- ✓ 6.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for a cost of \$25.00 for professionals (see below)
- ✓ Sponsored by Trust Management Services, ORPARC, Providence Child Center, and Cascadia Training

Read Sulik M.D. is a renowned child and adolescent psychiatrist and pediatrician and is considered one of the foremost experts in the diagnosis and treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Dr. Sulik will present a two-part lecture. "ADHD in Children and Adolescents" is designed to help parents, educators and providers understand what is needed to promote optimal wellness in children with ADHD. "The Ability to Soothe - 10 Essentials to calming anxious, angry and defiant children" is an interactive lecture with practical tools for caregivers and teachers to help ADHD children improve their ability to self-regulate. Dr. Sulik's expertise and insight will enlighten parents, providers and educators with the most current information on helping children with ADHD lead healthier, happier and more tranquil lives.

Presented by Dr. Julian Davies, The Center for Adoption Medicine, University of Washington

Wednesday, **April 4, 2012** ♦ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Department of Human Services
4600 25th Avenue NE, **SALEM**, OR 97301

Nature and Nurture of the Brain & Sleep and Brain Executive Function



This training combines: brain development, sleep & executive brain functions. First, how nature and nurture interact to shape brain development, the neurobiology of relationships and behavior, and how brain plasticity imparts risk and resilience, with an emphasis on intervention. Next, sleep physiology, why sleep is important, and how many of the prenatal and environmental factors impacting children can interfere with sleep will be reviewed. Finally, how the brain functions, specifically higher order learning, referred to as "executive functioning." Dr. Davies, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington, co-directs the Center for Adoption Medicine.

- ✓ Registration will be open a month prior to the training at www.providence.org/classes or by calling 541-732-5958. Contact ORPARC at 1-800-764-8367 or orparc@nwresource.org for further training or registration details.
- ✓ Light snacks provided; Lunch is "on your own" from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.; a cafeteria is on-site
- ✓ 6.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available at a cost of \$25.00 for professionals (see "Professionals" below)



The Misunderstood Child

Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder

Presented by Sharron Donnelly, MS, OTR/L

Tuesday, **May 29, 2012** ♦ 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Providence Cancer Center Amphitheater
4805 NE Glisan Street, **PORTLAND**, OR 97213

- ✓ 3.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available at a cost of \$25.00 for professionals (see "Professionals" below)

Thursday, **June 7, 2012** ♦ 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
St. Vincent Medical Center Auditorium
9205 SW Barnes Road, **PORTLAND**, OR 97225

Depending on the training, others may attend trainings for minimal charge or on a space available basis. Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Foreign language interpretation available upon request. Request these services two weeks in advance.

Professionals: Registration is separate at the Providence website above. Contact ORPARC at orparc@nwresource.org or 1-800-764-8367 to request Continuing Education Units (CEUs). \$25.00 fee will be collected at the training. *NWRA/Cascadia Training is a NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider (Provider #: 6575). This workshop is approved by the NASW, Washington State Chapter (recognized by Oregon State Chapter) for Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Mental Health Counselors. (Provider number #1975-118).*



Voice for Adoption Celebrates Adoptive Families and Honors the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center during National Adoption Month

On November 14, 2011 Voice for Adoption (VFA), a special needs adoption advocacy organization, presented their 2011 awards recognizing important contributions to the child welfare field. VFA selected the **Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)** as the recipient of the **2011 Drenda Lakin Memorial Award for Continuing Service to Adoptive Families**. This award honors an individual, state, or nonprofit organization, whose programs provide valuable adoptive family support after adoptions are finalized. In 2006 the VFA board of directors created this award to honor the memory of Drenda Lakin, one of VFA’s founding board members and an inspirational and dedicated advocate for children. Voice for Adoption’s board of directors wish to extend their congratulations to each of the recipients of this year’s VFA adoption awards. Here at ORPARC, we are honored to have received this award. Thank you to the many parents and community partners who have expressed their appreciation of ORPARC services over the years! We are equally honored to be able to serve you.



Newsletter via email?

If you would like to receive our newsletter and mailings via e-mail, please call us or email orparc@nwresource.org with your name, address and email. Receiving the newsletter helps us curb our printing and mailing costs so that we can better serve families in other ways.

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO
2053

Northwest Resource Associates
Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center
2950 SE Stark Street, Suite 130
Portland, OR 97214