



THE VOICE

A NURTURING HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERY CHILD

Summer 2009

For Children's Sake of Virginia is a private nonprofit agency established in 1997. We provide a multitude of services to children and families, which include but are not limited to therapeutic foster care placement, adoption support services, referred respite, supervised visitation, intensive home-based services, and outpatient therapy. For children's Sake of Virginia is dedicated to promoting positive environments for children and families that develop trust, stability and independence. We strive to provide a nurturing home environment for every child.

Look for us on
Facebook and Twitter

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THE IMPACT OF A FOSTER FAMILY

Foster sibling Marybeth Henry shares her story from a front-row seat



While growing up, Marybeth Henry had 15-20 foster siblings. Today, this wife, mother, and businesswoman is an ardent advocate for foster families and is active in FCSVA recruiting and fundraising. In this interview, Marybeth shared insights about what it was like to grow up with foster siblings in the home.

FCSVA: Why did your mom and dad decide to become foster parents?

Marybeth: They lost my brother David, an adoptee, to cancer in 1975. By then I'd come along. We lived in California, and state laws did not allow adoption if you already had a child in the home. So my parents chose to foster.

FCSVA: Tell us about some of your experiences with foster siblings.

Marybeth: I was five years old when Karen became my first new big sister. I absolutely adored her. Karen stayed just six weeks before being reunited with her biological family. When she left, I was so distraught that my father had to take me to Mc Donald's to cheer me up. Karen was the first of my many foster siblings, some of whom are still very much a part of my life and my parents' lives today.

The next phone call was a home request for a sibling group of three: Josh (8), Melinda (2) and Britney (7 months). I was still 5 years old and the transition was a bit rougher this time. Josh came to us from a group home and had some anger and abandonment issues. Both my parents and Josh were taught how to use effective coping skills and within a year, Josh was a changed person. The support, acceptance and love he received made a huge difference in his life. After three years, Josh was reunited with his mom, Melinda was reunited with her father, and Britney was adopted by my family.

After that, Debby, a teenage mom, and her son Jack (2) arrived. Debby and I were both rising high school seniors. The placement was intended to be temporary until a spot opened at the residential school for teenage mothers, but Debby and I got along so well that my parents asked to keep her for her senior year. Debby later named my parents as Jack's guardians. She soon aged out of foster care, but became a permanent part of our family. Debby had a daughter several years ago, and my parents play an active role in the girl's life.

FCSVA: Who came next?

Marybeth: Dave, a high school junior, was an emergency placement. He had just been in a life-threatening car accident and felt angry and abandoned by his mother and sister. By spending time with my family, Dave's self-worth grew. He soon began making statements such as "when I have children, I will raise them as you are raising me." He later reconciled with his mother but still considers our house his "home." His children call my parents their "grandma" and "grandpa." Dave was a total transformation!

(Continued on page 3)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



One of the inherent strengths of foster care is the variety among private foster care agencies. The way foster parents are trained, the amount of subsidy our parents receive, the children's ages and behaviors that can be provided for, etc. are just a few of the variables that enable every private foster care agency to create its own identity and respond to the unique strengths and requirements of its community. The ability of an agency to open new programs to serve the youth and families in our communities greatly increases when the economy is thriving and revenue flows from local, state and federal funding as well as endowments and donations for those who receive them.

During these periods the differences among private foster care agencies are amplified as agency CEOs make choices from among a variety of possibilities. This year, however, the unique characteristics of every private foster care agency were obscured by shared pressure from the economic crisis that has had a severe impact across our entire country. Every private foster care agency is making creative and sometimes extremely difficult choices and decisions to reduce costs and save our scarce dollars. Each of us is reducing administrative overhead and exploring new options for generating earned and contributed revenue. There is a renewed spirit not only among private providers but also local and state agencies to find new and innovative ways to come together and serve our children. As we climb out of the current recession — *and we will* — it would be beneficial to preserve this powerful sense of community that enriches formal and informal discussions currently underway throughout Virginia.

During this last quarter, FCSVA has been fortunate to be a part of the Loudoun County Youth Initiative invitational golf tournament and were the recipients of a \$25,000.00 much needed grant. We also received a substantial grant from the United Way for our foster home development expansion project. Both grants allow us to serve more children in our community through screening, training and retaining quality foster parents. Foster parents are increasingly more difficult to find as the economy forces families into two-parent income brackets and as families find it increasingly difficult to maintain an adequate level of income. FCSVA staff also serve as a private-provider representative on several public and private collaborations to brainstorm more inventive and effective ways to serve children and families in our community, hopefully to shorten the time a child must stay in care. We are also working to ensure that services needed to keep a child from being removed are on target and effective, again reducing the number of children requiring out of home care. These initiatives save our state and counties millions of dollars as well as allow families to become more effective as parents.

Collaboration among public and private agencies is an important strategy being explored in many counties across our state. Such partnerships not only reduce expenses, but also offer tremendous rewards in professional development and best practice options to participating organizations. Sometimes, great ideas can emerge from periods of economic stress. This may well be borne out with these willing collaborative efforts. A secondary gain is a renewed appreciation for the sense of community and dedication to building the necessary skills of the next generation of workers and administrators. We are working to instill a readiness to work with all partners while maintaining the commitment to our core values, our source of strength across our field.

We at for Children's Sake of Virginia are dedicated to providing a nurturing home environment for every child in our state. We will always require your support and generous donations to provide for our children and families in Virginia.

With warmest regards,

Deborah K. Evans, LCSW, BCD

Intensive In-Home Based Therapy Program

FCSVA is proud to introduce our new Medicaid approved Intensive In-Home Based Program. The program is for children under the age of 21 years old and is designed to preserve biological family placement, transition children back with their biological family, and provide step-down services from a residential treatment facility, group home, and psychiatric hospitalization. Erin Finney is the new In-Home Services Coordinator and there are several Master's level clinical counselors providing the services who are bilingual (Spanish and Arabic). The services range from 3-10 hours of services per week at a length of 3-6 months. Clinical services include:

- Individual therapy (Strength-based Approach)
- Family therapy (System's Approach)
- Crisis management
- Behavioral modification
- Parenting skills (Love and Logic training)

Erin Finney is FCSVA's In-home Services Coordinator. Erin can be contacted at efinney@fcsva.org.



Discharge Plan targeted towards connecting family to community resources.

FCSVA IS RECRUITING 45 FOSTER FAMILIES

City of Alexandria	184 children	22 available homes
Arlington County	139 children	50 available homes
Fairfax County	397 children	140 available homes
Loudoun County	87 children	48 available homes
Prince William County	117 children	85 available homes

“To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived,” wrote American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson. “This is to have succeeded.”

Emerson’s words capture the essence of FCSVA’s 2009-2010 recruiting goals. We’re committed to providing a nurturing home environment for every child – to let each one breathe a little easier!

7,000 of Virginia’s children are in foster care. Of those, around 2,250 live in northern Virginia. If a local county cannot place a child in an available home, the case is contracted out to an agency like FCSVA. Even with that safety net, the number of available foster homes does not match the need.

Shortages can mean a child is placed in a neighboring county, which leads to school transfers, difficulty in arranging family visits, loss of support structure, and struggles to maintain the most stable environment possible for the child.

FCSVA is stepping up to the challenge! We are working hard to recruit 45 new foster families in northern Virginia to help meet this critical need. More approved foster families will provide better opportunities for the children to succeed and families to be strengthened.

Our Foster Home Development team is recruiting families through churches, bank displays, community groups, community centers, and the medical community. This recruiting strategy will allow us to select from a deeper and

more diverse pool of foster parents, provide the best possible matches, and increase the probability of a child achieving his permanency goals. One new foster family means at least one child’s life is impacted!

Will you help us meet our recruiting goals? If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent, please invite them to one of our informal orientation sessions. Or perhaps you have been thinking about becoming a foster parent yourself. There is no better time to start than now!

There are also other ways you can help. Turn to page 3 and take a look at our volunteer opportunities and wish list for donations.

If we all join together, we’ll see children’s lives transformed. And that’s a recipe for success – ***for children’s sake!***



Foster Parent Information Sessions are held at both our Woodbridge and Chantilly offices. Upcoming dates are listed on page 6

Scott Pitts is FCSVA’s Foster Home Development Supervisor. Scott can be contacted at spitts@fcsva.org.

(Continued from page 1)

THE IMPACT OF A FOSTER FAMILY

Foster sibling Marybeth Henry shares her story from a front-row seat

In a loving home, children come to know that they are special. It’s a transformation that is amazing to watch – and one that’s a thrill to experience first-hand.

FCSVA: You had 15 to 20 foster siblings?

Marybeth: Yes, many were short-term or emergency placements. Most were reunited with their families after the crisis was resolved.

FCSVA: Did you ever feel short-changed?

Marybeth: No. Mom and Dad treated me and my foster siblings very equally. And my grandmother says that I was much more trouble as an only child than when I had foster siblings around.

FCSVA: Can you sum up why you are so passionate about foster care?

Marybeth: Children who are angry, feel unlovable, or feel unworthy start to change when they realize that there are people that care about them. In a loving home, children come to know that they are special. It’s a transformation that is amazing to watch – and one that’s a thrill to experience first-hand.

Thank you Marybeth!

We are thankful for your donations!

For Children's Sake of Virginia would like to extend our sincerest thank you to all that gave donations over the past months, especially in sponsoring our Foster Family Appreciation Picnic on May 16th. Our programs depend on your generosity and kindness and we appreciate all that has been given.

We thank the following sponsors

Birthmother Ministries - \$500 sponsorship
 Advantage Real Estate Team - \$300 sponsorship
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - \$250 sponsorship
 Giant Foods – \$85 sponsorship
 Target - \$50 sponsorship
 Costco - \$25 sponsorship
 Shoppers Food Warehouse - \$20 Sponsorship
 Chick Fil-A – Sponsorship of drinks
 Wegman's – Sponsorship of drinks

In-Kind donations for Picnic Raffle Prizes

Niebauer Dental – electric toothbrush
 Starbucks – coffee and mugs
 Red Hot and Blue – 2 \$25 gift certificates

Volunteers

Carol Kuczborski – Thanks Carol for dedicating your time and serving our foster parents and kids!

Further Thanks



Herndon United Methodist Church – for sponsoring us at your fellowship dinner on June 3rd, 2009. We are looking forward to being back with you on September 30th!

The Business Bank – Reston and Ashburn for displaying FCSVA posters and collecting donations.

Virginia Commerce Bank – for promoting FCSVA in 7 Virginia Commerce Bank Branches.

Mary Beth Henry – for all the networking you have done to promote FCSVA.

Lisa Piscopo; Spa Girl Promotions - for always thinking of ways to help our kids.



Cash Donations

Susan Ungerer	William Evans
Sylvia Bernardiini	Mark Joseph
PF Novick	Adrienne Oneto
Christopher Migliaccio	Bonita Deaton
Ed Niederberger	Richard Yuras
Aarons Furniture	Spagirl Promotions

Welcome to the Board Paul Yeloushan of Virginia Commerce Bank introduces himself

I am Vice President at Virginia Commerce Bank covering the Loudoun County region. I have been with VCB for 3 years where I started in the Cash Management Dept. I have several hobbies which include playing golf and softball as much as I can! I keep myself very busy by serving not only on FCSVA board but also on the Loudoun Arts Council Board of Directors. I am also a member of the Loudoun Chamber Ambassador Committee.



Once I read the Mission statement at FCSVA I knew this was an organization I wanted to be affiliated with. A positive family environment, trust, stability, and independence are all of the values that were instilled in me from my family. The missions statement coupled with FCSVA's values are the main reason I joined the Board.

I feel that investing in foster care is vital for the growth and development of children and young adults. I truly believe in the old adage that it takes a village to raise a family and FCSVA provides just that by not only providing a Foster Family but also providing the support needed for raising children in today's world.

Wish List!

Office Supplies

Laser Toner for HP 3505 \$250 per cartridge (\$1000 per year)
 Color Laser Toner for HP 3525 \$1000 per set (\$2000 per year)
 Laser Toner for HP 1320 \$150 per cartridge (\$450 per year)
 Color Laser Toner for HP CP2020 \$500 per set (\$1000 per year)

Foster Home Development

Flyers for displays - \$ 175
 Posters for Bank Displays - \$250
 Sponsoring of Promotional Items for displays - \$500
 Sponsoring of dinners for support groups and trainings (\$40 per dinner)

Monetary donations may be made through Pay Pal by visiting our website: www.fcsva.org or through the United Way #8457 or Combined Federal Campaign #29582.

Thanks for your support in helping us provide a nurturing home for every child!

FCSVA Plays Golf

On May 18th, Creighton Farms made their spectacular Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course available to the supporters of Loudoun Youth for their 2nd Annual Loudoun Youth Invitational. **For Children's Sake of VA** was excited to be Loudoun Youth's 2009 partner for this event. For Dave Benco, Bill Beale, Ron Masci and Tyler Beale, the **For Children's Sake of VA's** team of players, the day started off with a 9 a.m. registration and breakfast. At 11 a.m., play began with a shotgun start at each of the teams sponsored holes. After a day of golfing at one of America's best new private golf clubs, participants were treated to an exquisite cocktail reception and awards presentation. The evening concluded with dinner, complete with entertainment by the nationally renowned comedian, Buzz Sutherland. At the end of the day, not only did the players go home having had a fabulous experience, they went home with the satisfaction of knowing that they partnered to support the youth of Loudoun County and the foster children in the care of FCSVA. For Children's Sake of VA was awarded a \$25,000 grant as a result of their active participation in serving the youth of Loudoun County. **We are already looking forward to next years' invitational and thank you to all who participated!**



The Gift of Time



According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 1.6 million Virginians volunteer 233.2 million hours each year. Together, they provide an estimated economic contribution of \$4.5 billion dollars to the organizations they serve.

At **For Children's Sake of Virginia**, we are deeply grateful for our volunteers and are looking for ways to swell their ranks. Perhaps this is not the season of your life to have a foster child in your home, but there are many other opportunities to support families who do.

1. Provide 2 hours of childcare

Foster family support groups meet once a month at our Chantilly and Woodbridge offices. Foster parents also attend in-service trainings periodically at different locations. Volunteers care for children while foster parents meet with groups. *Requirements:* a love for kids, TB test, and background check

2. Plan upcoming events

FCSVA sponsors a Christmas Brunch for our families and children and a Christmas party for our foster parents. Volunteers help with wrapping presents, planning games, and soliciting churches and donors to sponsor this event.

3. Sponsor a meal

FCSVA provides a meal for participants at each support group and training meeting. At five meetings per month, these dinners for our foster families adds \$200-300 to FCSVA's monthly budget. You can help by providing \$40 for a pizza meal or by making a home-cooked meal for meeting participants.

4. Serve a meal

Herndon United Methodist Church sponsors "Wednesday night out" meals and donates proceeds to FCSVA. Our volunteers cook and serve a simple "crock-pot" type meal. Church members eat, have fellowship, and make a donation to the agency. *Meal dates: September 30, 2009, December 2, 2009 and May 12, 2010*

5. Provide birthday gifts

Each child placed by FCSVA receives a birthday gift from FCSVA on his or her special day. Volunteers help provide gifts year-round, including games, video games, gift cards and clothing. This is an especially good way to introduce groups, schools, classes or churches to FCSVA.

6. Staff FCSVA displays

FCSVA sponsors an information table at local festival events. Volunteers distribute literature, answer questions, and take down contact information from members of the public. This is a perfect service opportunity for a volunteer who enjoys meeting and talking to people.

Dates: August 14-22, Prince William County Fair

To invest in any of these opportunities, contact Teresa Blanchard at 703-817-9890 or by email at tblanchard@fcsva.org. You can also learn more about making a powerful difference for foster children and foster families when you attend FCSVA's volunteer orientation on July 16th or September 24th at our Chantilly office.

Thank you for your gift of time ... for children's sake!



Chantilly Office

14014 Sullyfield Circle; Suite B
Chantilly, VA 20151
703-817-9890 phone 703-817-9860 fax

Woodbridge Office

12721 Darby Brooke Court; Suite 101
Woodbridge, VA 2219
703-490-5090 phone 703-490-1809 fax



Calendar Catchers

Orientations

- Aug. 3rd: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Woodbridge Office)
- Aug. 6th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Chantilly Office)
- Sept. 14th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Woodbridge Office)
- Sept. 10th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Chantilly Office)
- Sept. 24th: Volunteer Orientation, 7 PM
(Chantilly Office)
- Oct. 5th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Woodbridge Office)
- Oct. 8th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Chantilly Office)
- Nov. 2nd: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Woodbridge Office)
- Nov. 5th: Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Chantilly Office)
- Dec. 7th Foster Parent Orientation, 7 PM
(Woodbridge Office)

Foster Parent Training Classes

PRIDE Training classes are held each month in our Chantilly or Woodbridge offices.

- July 21st – Session 1 at 7pm in Chantilly
- July 23rd – Session 2 at 7pm in Chantilly
- July 25th – Session 3 at 10am in Chantilly
- July 28th – Session 4 at 7pm in Chantilly
- July 30th – Session 5 at 7pm in Chantilly

- August 18th – Session 1 at 7pm in Woodbridge
- August 29th – Session 2 at 7pm in Woodbridge
- August 22nd – Session 3 at 10am in Woodbridge
- August 25th – Session 4 at 7pm in Woodbridge
- August 27th – Session 5 at 7pm in Woodbridge

- September 15th – Session 1 at 7pm in Chantilly
- September 17th – Session 2 at 7pm in Chantilly
- September 19th – Session 3 at 10am in Chantilly
- September 22nd – Session 4 at 7pm in Chantilly
- September 24th – Session 5 at 7pm in Chantilly

To RSVP for foster parent training classes, or to receive more information on In-services, support groups, safety crisis management classes and other training opportunities, please call Janita Tuck or Jordan Farrar (703)490-5090.

This years Foster Family Appreciation Picnic was made possible by the following Sponsors:



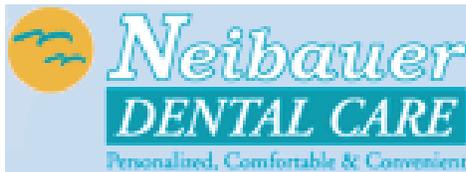
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Shannon Hrabe-REALTOR®
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20% OF ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD “For Children’s Sake of Virginia”

For Children’s Sake of Virginia is a private, non-profit foster care agency dedicated to providing a nurturing home environment for every child.

SPA SERVICES \$500-VALUE FOR \$55-

**ACT NOW - LIMITED AVAILABILITY
New upscale spas added continually!**

Noufalhairstudio –Tysons, VA

Lite Touch Medi Spa- Chantilly, VA

Chiropractic Health & Wellness Center of Countryside - Sterling, VA

Denude Med Spa & Customized Skin Care - Annandale, VA

Symi’s Hair Design – Centreville, VA

Carlo’s Salon & Spa – Leesburg, VA

**Massage, Manicure, Pedicure, Facials, Hair Cuts, Highlights,
Laser Hair Removal, and much more...**

**View and order services online @
www.spagirlpromotions.com &
www.spaguypromotions.com**

**IN THE MESSAGE TO SELLER ON PAY PAL
TYPE IN “FCSVA” FUNDRAISER**

**Once orders are placed, a receipt with your VIP# will be mailed to you.
Call Spa directly with your VIP # and schedule appointments at your
own convenience. Feel free to contact Lisa direct with any questions
703-898-2301**

Member of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Yes, I want to help For Children's Sake of Virginia
reach out to Virginia's foster children!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email _____

Tel. _____

_____ I would like more information about becoming a foster parent.

_____ I have enclosed a donation of \$ _____ .

_____ I pledge to visit www.fcsva.org and make a \$ _____ donation
through Pay Pal.

_____ I pledge to donate \$ _____ to the United Way Campaign #8457.

_____ I want to volunteer. Please contact me regarding volunteer
opportunities.

_____ Please add me to your mailing list.