

CENTRELINK NEWS!

We are reliably informed that Foster Carers ARE AUTOMATICALLY exempt from PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS required by them –

If you are 'Registered and Active' as a CARER, You qualify for PARENTING ALLOWANCE OR NEWSTART ALLOWANCE...

FOSTERING a child COUNTS as a VOLUNTARY service for their purposes... If you have any problems on this one, let us know!



WHAT IS HAPPENING DOWN HERE?

FOSTER CARERS WEEK

Was very busy - with radio interviews, and a Friday Night Tea... A lovely do, with chance to get dressed up for a change!

Amanda and Tracy Riley have started a great "CLOTHES EXCHANGE" with Carers in the Mount.. Great Idea folks!

AMANDA WAYE

OUR AGM IS COMING SOON!

WHEN?

5th November 2007
From 7-9pm

WHERE?

The Lutheran Community Centre
Audrey Avenue
Blair Athol
SA 5084
Phone; 8262 4690

WHAT?

A chance to meet other Carers
Find out what we do, have done, and plan to do

WHO?

YOU and everyone who cares about improving
Fostering and Relative Care
And helping the Children in their care

WHY?

Because we need each other

***Light Refreshments will be served!!!**

GRANDPARENTS GROUP

Are having their AGM soon, keep up the good work folks.



Coffee Break

This is the spot reserved for you!

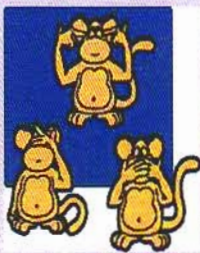
All phone calls are treated confidentially, and we try to help by, listening, sharing, and putting you onto the best people to help if that is what you need...

Our contact details are;

Phone; 1800 732 272 to speak to one of us...

Email, carers@cfc-sa.org.au

Website, www.cfc-sa.org.au



WEBSITES and OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES you may find interesting to **BROWSE** through:

- **The DFS Website** – www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au
- **Centrelink** = www.centrelink.gov.au
- **Family Assistance Office** – www.familyassist.gov.au
- **Legal Aid – SA** – www.lsc.sa.gov.au
- **Medicare** – www.medicareaustralia.gov.au
- **Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agencies** – www.snaicc.asn.au or phone 03 9489 8099
- **SA Aboriginal Family Support Services** – 134 Weymouth St, 08 8212 1112
- **Email** - childrenscentre@tacinc.com.au
- **Crisis Care** – 13 1611
- **CREATE** – 18—655 1056 – www.create.org.au
- **Kids Help Line** – 1800 551 800 or www.kidshelp.com.au
- **Youth Helpline** – 1300 131 719 – www.cyh.com
- **Office of the Guardian** – www.gcyp.sa.gov.au
- **IFCO** – Foster Care Organization International
- **Email** – ifco@ifco.ifco

Recipe this Issue
IMPOSSIBLE PIE...!

You NEED: 4 eggs, ¼ cup of margarine, 1 cup white sugar, ½ cup flour, ½ teaspoon baking powder, ¼ teaspoon salt, 2 cups milk, 1 cup coconut (optional), 1 teaspoon vanilla essence.

Place all ingredients in blender at the same time, and mix well. Pour into a buttered 25cm pie dish. Bake at 180c, (350f) for one hour.

When cooked, crust will be at the bottom and custard in the middle and coconut at the top!

DID YOU KNOW – that most **LIPSTICK** contains **FISH SCALES?**

AND THAT;

If a man **NEVER TRIMMED HIS BEARD**, it would grow to about 30 feet long?

OR;

That LEONARDO DE VINCI – invented **SCISSORS?**

WE CARERS NEED to be **PRO-active**: to have realistic goals and plans for a better future. To experience successes, however small, and give folk the will to carry on!



"Greatest Love of All"

'I believe that Children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we
used to be...'

(Whitney Houston)

C.F.C has attended the following meetings since our last Newsletter.

- Payments review**
- Liaison with the department**
- Foster Care Services – Reference Group Board / planning meetings**
- CAFWA**
- Foster Carers Week Events**
- Working with Carers Launch Marion Office**
- **PLUS many others**

Working on behalf of our Members; and for all Carers of young people in this State; we continue to voice issues and concerns raised with us by YOU.

By giving and sharing information, and being informed: By listening and learning about the needs of all involved in Alternative care: In the belief that, through this process, our Voices may be heard more effectively in their turn.



KEEPING THEM SAFE – in our Care...

We are told the Minister and the Department are using this document, which so many of you helped to formulate, as a basis for the Reform Agreement they are working on.

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATES!

CHILDREN'S PAYMENTS UPDATE!

Many of you have asked for a Current listing of these –
AND

As you will know, a review is also underway...

Take a look at the Children's Payments Review Fact Sheet enclosed for more information.



The Office of Foster Care Relations

The Office for Foster Care Relations has now become a part of Families SA in order to strengthen partnerships between Families SA and foster carers.

You can contact the Foster Care Liaison Officer on tel: 1300 134 034 (cost of a local call)

Carmel O'Loughlin has retired from the position of Director, Foster Care Relations after an influential public service career and will be missed.



Dear Lord....

So far today, I am doing all right.

I have not gossiped, or lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty or self-indulgent.

I have not whined once, bitched, cursed, or eaten any chocolates.

I have not even charged on my credit card, BUT; I will be getting out of bed in a minute; and I think I will need some help THEN..!

We KNOW THAT
~EVERYONE IS SOMEBODY'S
CHILD~



Abandoned children in China.....

The National Foster Care Conference
Is on soon –
5/6/7 October 2007
At the
Telstra Dome, MELBOURNE!
Run by AFCA

Happy Families...



Please God, I'm only 17!

This letter makes a great impression on all who read it. It has been around for a while; perhaps it will stop someone dying...

The day I died was an ordinary school day. How I wish I had taken the bus!

But I was too cool for the Bus. I remember how I wheedled the car out of Mom.

"Special favour, I pleaded. "All the kids drive".

When the 2.50 bell rang, I threw all my books in the locker. I was free until 8.40 tomorrow morning.

I ran to the parking lot, excited at the thought of driving a car and being my own boss. Free!

It doesn't matter how the accident happened. I was goofing off – going too fast, taking crazy chances. But I was enjoying my freedom and having fun.

The last thing I remember was passing an old lady who seemed to be going awfully slow.

I heard a deafening crash and felt a terrific jolt. Glass and steel flew everywhere. My whole body seemed to be turning inside out. I heard myself scream.

Suddenly I awakened; it was very quiet. A police officer was standing over me. Then I saw a doctor.

My body was mangled. I was saturated with blood. Pieces of jagged glass were sticking out all over it. Strange, but I couldn't feel anything?

Hey, don't put that sheet over my head. I can't be dead. I'm only 17.

I've got a date tonight. I'm supposed to grow up and have a wonderful time. I haven't lived yet. I can't be dead.

Later, I was placed in a drawer. My folks had to identify me. Why did they have to see me like this?

Why did I have to look at Mom's eyes when she faced the terrible ordeal of her life?

Dad suddenly looked like an old man. He told the man in charge: "Yes, he is my son".

The funeral was a weird experience. I saw all my relatives and friends walk towards the casket. They passed by, one by one, and looked at me with the saddest eyes I've ever seen.

Some of my buddies were crying. A few girls touched my hand and sobbed as they walked away.

Please... somebody ... wake me up! Get me out of here! I can't bear to see my Mom and Dad so broken up.

My grandparents are so racked with grief they can hardly walk. My Brother and sisters are like zombies. They move like robots.

No one can believe this. And I can't believe it, either.

Please don't bury me! I'm not dead! I have a lot of living to do! I want to laugh and run again. I want to sing and dance.

I promise if you give me just one more chance God. I'll be the most careful driver in the whole world. All I want is one more Chance!



Please, God, I'm only 17!

How to Handle STRESS!



Use your **MASTERCARD** to pay off your **VISA!**

Jam 39 marshmallows up your nose and try to 'SNEEZE' them out!

Pop some **POPCORN** – without the **LID** on!

Send yourself a **CANDYGRAM!**

Dance naked in front of your pets!

Pay a bill in 5cent pieces!

Fill in your **TAX FORM** in **ROMAN NUMERALS!**

Drive to work in reverse!

Go shopping. Buy **EVERYTHING**. **SWEAT** in it! Take it back the next day

Put your tongue on a cold steel guardrail!

Read the dictionary upside down and look for secret messages!

Bill people for the time you spend in their **WAITING ROOMS!**

Braid the hairs in each nostril!

Make up a language and ask for directions!

Lie on your back eating Celery and use your **TUMMY BUTTON** as a salt cellar!

IF YOU ARE NOT YET A MEMBER OF CFC ...

COME ON! What are you waiting for? Membership is **FREE!** And **TOGETHER**, we **CAN** improve things for everybody.

For **CHILDREN**, For **CARERS**, and for those more office-bound folks out there who are often as frustrated as the rest of us!

To **JOIN**: Contact us on **1800 737 272**

OR email – carers@cfc-sa.org.au

Tell us about yourselves,
OR Tell your friends about US,

OR: SEND OFF THIS SLIP;
TO: PO BOX 288
Kilburn, SA 5084

Name;

Address;

Post Code.....

Tel;

Mobile;

I want to do more to help carers help themselves; **YES/NO**