



upcoming events

Adoption Orientation

3rd Thurs of the month
6:30pm—8:00pm

313 N. State Road 7,
Plantation, FL 33317
Jim McElhannon
(954) 461-9219

Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA)

4th Tues of the month
7:00 pm—9:00 pm
www.brfapa.org

Kids In Distress

Post Adoptive Group
4th Wednesday of Month
6:00-8:00pm
819 NE 26th St.
Wilton Manors
954-390-7654

FABFAMILYZ

Call for Meeting Times
Rosa Gordon
954-439-8832

SunServe Teen Drop-In Group For Ages 13-21

Deerfield Beach to Hollywood
Locations
SunServe.Org
954-764-5150



Adjustment Disorder: A Common Disorder Among Foster Care Youth

Adjustment disorder is a short-term condition that occurs when an individual is unable to cope with a particular stressful life event. Often the event experienced is a major life transition or loss. This could be a divorce, job loss, illness, trauma, accident, death of a loved one, birth of a baby, or living through a natural disaster. The individual often has symptoms that are very similar to depression such as tearfulness, hopelessness, and a lack of interest in work, social, and/or recreational activities. The person develops emotional and behavioral symptoms as a direct result of having suffered a specific stressful event. The symptoms typically begin within three months of the negative event and rarely last longer than six months. While almost every person who experience a stressful life event has some difficulty adjusting, individuals suffering from an adjustment disorder have a marked reaction which is significantly greater than that typically expected for the particular situation or event. The stress experienced is severe enough that it negatively impacts the individual's ability to function on a daily basis.

Adjustment disorder is perhaps the most common form of mental disturbance experienced by the children and teenagers in the foster care system. Most are abruptly

removed from their home environment and are separated from their mother, father, or caretaker. Even if that caretaker was abusive or neglectful, the removal can create overwhelming and uncomfortable feelings within the child or teen. While this experience would likely be stressful to anyone going through it, it is often more difficult for the children who have already experienced unstable home environments, exposure to previous traumas, and have poor coping skills.

Unlike adults who experience more emotional symptoms such as sadness and anxiety, children and teens in foster care often have more behavioral manifestations such as temper tantrums, biting, destruction of property, skipping school, fighting, and acting out. Often these behaviors are perceived as unpleasant by the new caretakers and are sometimes misperceived as the child purposefully being "bad". However, these behaviors should be more accurately identified as expressions of an underlying emotional disorder resulting from having gone through a traumatic event.

Fortunately, adjustment disorders are treatable. The best intervention is early detection and treatment. This approach can dramatically reduce the severity and duration of the symptoms. This is often done through counseling services which help the child or teen develop more effective coping skills and provide an outlet for them to verbally express their feelings rather than act them out through negative and self-

In This Issue

Adjustment Disorder P. 1

Continued from page 1 and Ump Care Event P. 2

Child of the Month P. 3

Sibling of the Month P. 3

Adoption Success Story, Poem and Events P. 4 & 5 & 6

defeating behaviors. In some circumstances, psychotropic medication may be used in conjunction with counseling to help control feelings of agitation and anxiety. The prognosis for adjustment disorder is usually good and may even allow the individual to acquire new coping strategies that actually help them to better handle stress in the future. In fact, effective intervention may even allow him or her to function better than before the symptoms began.

Written by Dr.Scott Rosiere

Umpcare Adoption Event 06/28/2014 By Stephanie Gooden and Kellisha Owens



Through their partnership with The Dave Thomas Foundation, Major League Baseball umpires offer unique baseball experiences for children served by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. UMPS CARE Charities ticket program is offered as a valuable tool to strengthen relationships between the WWK recruiter and the children they serve. Major League Baseball umpires offer memorable baseball experiences for children awaiting adoption and at-risk youth in mentoring programs through the BLUE Crew Tickets program.

The WWK Recruiters were fortunate enough to invite three wonderful kids to the baseball event filled with excitement and uproar. As we entered the stadium the children were welcomed, receiving special VIP treatment. Each child received a "On-field Pregame" pass. Directed to the field by our very own chaperone the children entered the entrance for the Umpires. Introducing themselves to the children, each of the umpires greeted the children and spoke to them about what a great opportunity this was to have the children as their guests. The children received a good bag filled with peanuts, candy, cracker jacks, a Marlins' baseball hat and other goodies. The umpires walked the children into their dressing room and spoke about the game. Each child then received an authentic baseball from the umpires and you could see the excitement on their faces. After the tour of the dressing room the umpires escorted the children on to the field. This was an awesome experience as the children had to chance to see up close where there Miami home team played, the bases, feel the dirt and the dug-outs. The children put on their baseball hats and looked around to see the many fans seated in the stadium looking onto the field. One child said "Wow, this is cool" as he looked upward from standing on the field into the highest of the stands. Each child felt special as they were treated in a celebrity-like fashion and posing for pictures with one another and with the umpires.

After being on the field and saying our good-byes to the umpires, we were then escorted to our seats. After settling into our seats, each child was granted a special treat of selecting food from the concessions stands and enjoying the baseball experience while eating peanuts, crackers jacks, nachos ad much more. They cheered, clapped, and shouted. They were all smiles and were able to bond more with each other and the WWK Recruiters. While into the game you could see the children's excitement upon their faces. While participating in "The Wave" from their seats and singing "take me out to the ball game" was not enough the children even gained more friends by talking to the children seated next to them. The Oakland Athletics were winning the majority of the game, the score was 6 to 5; until the bottom of the 9th when our team, the Miami Marlins made a run and tied up the game 6 to 6. The children were very excited by it going into extra innings and they hooted and cheered in delight. The games ended in a disappointing loss for the Marlins score 7 to 6 after 14 innings. However, the children were still in really good spirits and expressed that they really enjoyed the game and the experience and they wanted to be able to come again in the future. Overall it was a great event for our children awaiting adoption.



Child of the Month

Jaelyn, 14 years

Jaelyn is an African American female born June of 1999. Jaelyn enjoys being social and interacting with her peers. Jaelyn also enjoys spending time with her friends and being at school. Jaelyn enjoys going to church and participating in youth groups. Jaelyn needs a family that will encourage her spirituality. Jaelyn just brightens up when you talk about basketball, karate and school. Jaelyn aspires to get high grades but she is behind in school. Jaelyn is receiving tutoring services to help her catch up in school. Jaelyn would benefit from a family that will help her heal from her past while preparing her for a bright future.



Sibling Group of the Month

Breanna, 8 yrs and Dinari, 6 yrs



Meet this dynamic duo. Both Breanna and Dinari are affectionate and loving children and enjoy getting lots of attention. Breanna loves to read, playing with her dolls, and participating in Girl Scouts. Dinari enjoys legos and Spiderman Action Figures. He also enjoys reading books. Breanna and Dinari have siblings that they would need to maintain contact with. Breanna and Dinari would benefit from a family that can supportive and loving and provide lots of positive praise and affirmation.

Note: All of the children featured in this newsletter are available for adoption.

For information visit childnetadopt.com.

**A POEM BY SAMUEL
A CHILD ADOPTED BY A BROWARD COUNTY FAMILY**

ADOPTION BY SAMUEL

A bad situation living on the streets
Bad parent. Bad boyfriend, bad choices
Cannot find a new home
Do not wait and do not want to go back home
Eating is all I think about, so hungry
From foster home to foster home,
Gone away
Hit to the death
I wish I had a new home
Jobless foster parents, sit, argue, nowhere to go
Karen, my foster mom wants to adopt me
Love I felt no more
My mom left me and forgot about me, my foster parents do not want me anymore
No where to hide my sad soul
Overcoming my sorrow,
Parents at last who want and love me from the heart
Question, should I go or should I stay
Ready or not, here I come
Savor the moment, I am loved
True love forever
Unexpected, so happy, I sing a song
Very grateful to God, they prayed and prayed, they got their little boy
Waiting for the judge's approval
X-ray my heart, it is beating so quickly
Yeah, yeah, yep, screaming to get to my new home
Zig, zag, zoom, I run into my new home, when I walked into the home, it touched
my heart



SUCCESS STORIES!

Wendy's Wonderful Kids...

Otis is a four 4 year old boy with a heart of gold. Overcoming many obstacles in his few years filled with medical concerns, being in a vegetative state and recovering from health ailments are just some of the things what this adorable little boy has been through. You see, Otis was born with low brain functioning and developmental delays. Daily medications and G-tube feedings are a apart of his daily schedule in which he has to have 24 hour medical care. Finding the perfect family for Otis meant finding a family dedicated to ensuring that all his medical and emotional needs are being met. Finding a family who understood that Otis was a special child who deserves a special family. His adoptive mother, Ms. Gordon, was just that and has been committed from the beginning of this journey. Ms. Gordon has worked in the medical field for over 25 years but also went through trainings to properly care for a child with severe medical needs. She learned to properly feed and bathe Otis which she states she enjoyed. Ms. Gordon described visiting Otis during his time in foster care. She recalled being slightly impatient because as she states "I wanted to just bring my baby home with me." In foster care Ms. Gordon would go to the facilities, cradle him, wash his clothes and buy him the things he most liked. This was a long journey for the two which began in March 2013. His mom states, "Otis is my everything. He is my favorite thing. This home is his comfort and I enjoy my son." When asked, "At what point did you know that Otis was the one to become a part of your family?" his mother responded "The day I saw him on the heart gallery I told my sister, 'that's him'." Proud to report on 6/30/2014 the adoption has finalized in which Otis became on member of the family legally but according to his mother "Otis was my baby the first day I saw him." Ms. Gordon says that she eventually wants to adopt again (a sister for Otis) but for the time being she just wants to enjoy her prince.



Written by
Stephanie Gooden
Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

Adoption News and Events



Success Stories

Great News, Ismael is finally placed with his new family in Montana. His Adoption Advocate Allison Jones and Wendy's Wonderful Kid's Recruiter Kellisha Owens worked very diligently in giving a thorough disclosure and worked very hard completing visits with the family as they came back and forth to visit the child. The Adoption Advocate Allison as well as the Wendy's Wonderful Kid's Recruiter took trips back and forth to Montana to ensure the child was able to get acclimated to his new surrounding and his new family. Ismael is now having a great summer at his new home with all of his new siblings. He has been introduced to playing in the water, fishing, tubing behind the boat, and hanging out with cousins. He also got to learn how to ride the dirt bikes and then actually race and Ismael loved it! He brought home a big trophy and found a hobby he would like to continue. This match will continue to be supported until the child's adoption can be finalized according to Montana's requirements. Written by Kellisha Nelson



Adoption Mixer

ChildNet Adoptions Unit has an awesome mixer coming up on August 14th, 2014. Come and mingle with some of our great youth. The event will be at Planet Air from 4pm to 7pm. Please RSVP with

Lanecia Radcliff at 954-336-3448. There will be Trampolines, Ropes Courses, Zip Lines, Rock Climbing, and all around FUN!

<http://www.planetairsports.com/>

Address: 1401 Green Road
Deerfield Beach, FL 33064

MUST WEAR SOCKS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES!



**DON'T FORGET NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!
THE MONTH TO CELEBRATE ADOPTION!**

Post Adoption Services

Send inquiries to

srappaport@childnet.us



Ask Stan Column

Q: I am moving or living outside of Broward County, Florida. How do I get my adoption subsidy check and Medicaid transferred to my new location, so there is no interruption of service?

A: Notify Faye Jackson, ChildNet FIS Coordinator (954) 414-6000 ext. 3878 or e-mail her at fjackson@childnet.us with your new address, telephone number and whether you want to start or continue direct deposit of your adoption subsidy check. It's very important you keep Faye updated on any changes in your living arrangements in order for you to continue to receive your child's adoption subsidy benefits.



Theresa Kennedy, Assistant Vice President of Adoptions and Youth Services

Natalie Gomes, Director of Permanency

Adoption Supervisors
Claudene Stetzer
Joanna Neves

Lanecia Radcliff, Adoptions Home Finder
Jim McElhannon, Recruiter/MAPP Trainer
Stan Rappaport, Post Adoption Specialist
Stephanie Gooden, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter
Tina O'Brien, Recruiter/MAPP Trainer
Kellisha Owens, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter

ChildNet's adoption website featuring a directory of all children awaiting for adoption in Broward County.

www.childnetadopt.com

313 N. State Road 7, Plantation, FL 33317
954.414.6000 www.childnet.us

