



# Family Connection

A newsletter for Macomb County Foster & Adoptive Parents



May - June 2008

## Foster Family Home Makeover

In 2007, Paradox Church in Roseville hosted a home makeover for a foster family in need. This year they are at it again!!!

Meet this year's family! Phil and Lori and their children Ethan (29), Sarah (27), Halden (19), Avery (17) and Cass (11).

This family's story starts over 25 years ago when a young caregiver at a special needs home fell in love with a baby named Ethan, who has cerebral palsy. Ethan and Lori formed an immediate bond and a few years later, when the home closed, Lori and her husband Phil decided to adopt Ethan. Phil and Lori started their family in a mobile home but when baby Halden arrived, the couple knew a bigger home was in order. Their next home was short lived when it was rezoned and the city bought them out to bulldoze for retail space.



Photos from the 2007 Home Makeover from Paradox Church.



On the hunt again, now with three children, the couple finally purchased an ideal home. Formerly owned by a couple with two children in wheelchairs, this new home offered all the conveniences the family would need for Ethan in his wheelchair but also had the size to hold their growing family. However, this dream home was in Imlay City. A few years later after the untimely death of Lori's father and a serious illness by her mother, the drive to Imlay City from Roseville turned out to be way too far. So the family, now with 4 children after the birth of Cass, was on the hunt for a new home again.

They found a large home in Roseville that they could afford but the home did not have the wheelchair access that made life easy for Ethan but it did have the size to fit the family and would be modifiable to meet their needs.

Flash forward to today. Phil has been seriously injured in a near fatal car crash, and is unable to do any heavy lifting. Their home that they had great plans for has become a money pit filled with hidden dangers like faulty wiring, leaky plumbing, lack of adequate insulation and much more. And because of Phil's injury, the much needed updates have had to wait.

Despite all these challenges, this family continues to serve the community and extend their love to others. The family now has grown to 7 with the fostering of Sarah, also with cerebral palsy, who came to the family a few years ago from an abusive and neglectful home. They also invite other special needs adults into their home on the weekends, to give the families of those children a much needed break.

We invite you to watch the family's video and hear their touching story for yourself. They have very little capacity to live a normal life: a life some of us might take for granted.

Ethan and Sarah rely on wheelchairs to get around the home and have many obstacles stopping them from simply eating with their family and or attaining access to a bathroom. The kids have to be physically picked up and carried to the dining area, which has become increasingly difficult over the years.

This family has given from their heart in so many ways and they are an inspiration to all.

The hard work by Paradox Church will lighten their load and allow them to share in a more family orientated environment, as they well deserve.

Financial and material donations along with volunteers are being sought. If you can help, please contact Rodger Smith at Paradox Church at 586-759-1877.

### Michigan's New Booster Law

Starting July 1, children from age 4 to 8 must be in a booster seat if they are not yet 4' 9".

Clinton Twp.



586-722-8813

Roseville



586-585-0351

Warren



586-758-1253

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email instead, please send your email address along with your name to [ctaylor@careofmacomb.com](mailto:ctaylor@careofmacomb.com) and we will add you to our email list!

## Roseville

### Special Thanks From Anna Marie

- **Jessica Dodge**, daughter of an Eastland Jr. High teacher, thank you for donating some of your books, stuff animals and clothes to a little girl in Roseville that needed to know someone cared about her.
- **Jenn Roeske**, Macomb resident, thank you for your donation of children's clothes and toys. They were greatly appreciated by a Roseville mom waiting to be reunited with her children.
- **Paulette Vollbach**, Roseville resident, thank you for the donation of children's clothes and infant jumper seat, infant play pad and woman's coat. Your donations helped three families in Roseville.
- **Peter Hedemark**, Principal, Roseville High School, thank you for your support and future outreach to the families in Roseville.
- **The Crochet Group**, Roseville Senior Center, thank you for the hand made blankets, hats, tooth fairy pillow and slippers that you donated for a teen mom and dad and their infant son. They were grateful to receive such beautiful gifts.
- **Roseville Optimist Club**, thank you for allowing me time at your meeting to present information about Roseville Family Resource Network. I look forward to working with you in the future for a healthier Roseville.
- **Brenda Reedy**, Fraser resident, thank you for reaching out to families in Roseville with donations of clothes and toys.
- **Jen Moore**, Eastland Jr. High teacher, thank you for your donations to a mother and daughter in need in Roseville.
- **Robert Cannon**, Supervisor, Charter Township of Clinton, thank you for allowing me to display information regarding Family to Family and meet the wonderful people of Clinton Twp. at your recent fund raiser.
- **Rose Diciuccio**, Fraser resident, thank you for your donations of a dresser and rocker glider for our families in need of extra help and care.
- Hungry Howies Pizza on Frazho in Roseville for donating pizza for our parent education class participants.

## Warren

### Special Thanks From Laurie

- Thank you to **Girl Scout Troop #957** for tying 1,198 ribbons for our ribbon tying ceremony.
- Thanks to **RSVP** for the handmade drawstring laundry bags.

## Clinton Township

### New Community Specialist

Jeannine Washington has recently taken the position as the new Clinton Township Community Specialist.

In this position, Jeannine will provide services, resources and support to birth parents, foster parents, and other families that are at risk of becoming involved with the child welfare system. In addition, she will help recruit local families to become foster parents.

Jeannine completed her education in Human Services at the University of Detroit Mercy and has been committed to the welfare of children and service to the community.

Her office is currently housed in the CARE building at 31900 Utica Rd. in Fraser. In the near future, her office will be located within the Clinton Township community and will serve as the headquarters for the Clinton Township Family Resource Network.

If you have any questions or are interested in getting assistance please contact Jeannine at 586-722-8813.



**A special Thank You to  
CVS/pharmacy for their  
donation of lice shampoo!!!!**

### Ribbon Tying Ceremony

In honor of National Foster Care Awareness Month, the Roseville & Warren Family Resource Networks are hosting a Ribbon Tying Ceremony on May 3, 2008 that will dedicate one ribbon for each child in the Macomb County Foster Care system. It will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Roseville at 11:00am with an Ice Cream Social following the event.



Carl "Doc" Durlock will be making balloon animals for the kids and members from the Roseville Police Department DARE Division, Roseville Fire Department and the Warren K-9 Division will be there!!!

The church address is 18430 Utica Road (corner of Utica & Gratiot Avenue) in Roseville. Please call Laurie Dare at 586-758-1253 or Anna Marie Riesterer at 586-585-0351 for more information.



# IN THE COMMUNITY...

## **Foster Parent Mentors Needed**

You must remember what it was like as a new foster parent. You had lots of questions and didn't know where to turn. DHS is seeking foster parents who are interested in acting as mentors to new foster parents. The commitment is not too much. Just make yourself available to answer questions and provide some guidance to those new members of the foster parent "team." DHS is also in need of foster parents who would be willing to assist at the PRIDE Training. Financial reimbursement is available to those that assist at PRIDE. Please contact Marsha DeLonge at 586-469-7331.

## **Homes for Black Children**

HBC will host its annual Business Meeting on May 22, 2008, for its foster/adoptive parents and relative caregivers. The meeting will be held at our Faith Based Partners-St. Paul AME Church at 2260 Hunt Street, Detroit, MI. 48207.

Monthly Support Group meetings are held the third Thursday at the agency from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for foster/adoptive and relative families.

On June 21, 2008 HBC will hold its second annual Family Reunion in conjunction with our Federal Grant "Project Family Ties". The reunion will be held at AB Ford Park in Detroit.

For more information on this agency, please contact Cheryl Jackson at 313-961-4777

## **FREE Youth Support Summer Camp**

CARE's Youth Support Summer Camp will be held on July 8-11 and July 14-17th from 8:30am to noon at Cornerstone Baptist Church at 17017 12 Mile Road in Roseville. The camp is for youth ages 6 - 15 who are either concerned about a family member's use of alcohol or other drugs or have a family member in recovery from addiction. Children will learn tools to reduce their anxiety, develop healthy coping skills, learn about addiction and discover they are not alone with their concerns. The camp is full of fun activities while using a skill-building approach. A FREE parent education/support group is also available at the same time but is not mandatory. For more information or to register, please call 586-541-0033.

## **Free Parenting Workshops**

Macomb County Foster Parents licensed through the Department of Human Services are eligible to attend CARE's Parenting Workshops for FREE! The current schedule of parenting classes can be viewed online at [www.careofmacomb.com](http://www.careofmacomb.com) or you can call CARE's Parent

Education department at 586-541-0033 for more information. Please make sure when you call to register, that you let support staff know you are a Macomb County DHS Foster Parent!

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group**

For relative caregivers held every 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00pm at Mt. Calvary Community Center. Child-care available for ages 3-14.

## **MCCSA Headstart**

Free preschool programs for 3 and 4 year old children. **Foster children automatically qualify!** Call 586-469-5215 for more information and registration.

## **ABC 1-2-3 Literacy Project**

Single parents of children ages 0-3 and have limited means are invited to participate in a free program that encourages early learning. Children hear stories and participate in fun activities, receive free books and backpacks filled with supplies. Michigan State University Extension sponsors the free entertaining program. Parents wishing to improve their relationship with their children through reading can call Su Porter at 586-469-5180.

## **Girl Scouts**

The Fostering Success Program for the Girl Scouts of Macomb County- Otsikita Council is designed to make Girl Scouting more accessible to girls in foster care or residing with relatives other than parents by providing all financial support for membership, troop meetings, handbooks, uniforms and trips. For more information contact either: Lisa Sorbie, Fostering Success Coordinator at (586) 263-0220 X 210 or Wendy Peace, Membership Specialist at (586) 263-0220 X 215.

[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)  
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[www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)  
[www.mom2momlist.com](http://www.mom2momlist.com)  
[www.nofas.org](http://www.nofas.org)  
[www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

**April 26 - Mom 2 Mom Sale** at Paradox Church From 10:00am - 1:00pm at 18250 Church St. in Roseville. Admission is \$1. Visit their website - [www.paradoxchurch.com](http://www.paradoxchurch.com) for more information!

were in the foster care system. Come and have fun learning about resources, services and opportunities for young people in and out of foster care! Registration deadline is April 25. Please call 586-307-8220 for more information or to register.

## MAY

### May 3 - Ribbon Tying Ceremony

Please see the inside of this newsletter for more information.

### May 10 - Booster Seat Sale & Education Day

The new Michigan Booster Seat Law goes into effect on July 1, 2008. Come to Kohl's Department Store at Macomb Mall in Roseville from 10:00am - 3:00pm to receive free education and purchase an appropriate booster seat at discounted prices!

### May 7 - June 18 - PRIDE Training

If you are currently interested in becoming a foster parent and have not yet attended the PRIDE Orientation and Training, the Orientation will be held on May 7 from 6:00 - 8:30pm and the training sessions run from 6:00 - 9:00pm on Wednesdays May 14 through June 18 at the Roseville Rec. Center. Call 586-469-5834 to sign up.

### May 13 - Foster Parent Training

Training Topic: Life Books & Treasure Boxes. The meeting is held at Mt. Calvary Community Center in Warren from 6:00 - 8:00pm. FREE DINNER is provided from 6:00 - 6:30pm. FREE CHILDCARE is available for children under 3 years old and planned programs are available for children ages 3 - 12. One hour of training credit is available for licensed foster parents. Please call 586-541-0033 ext. 212 to RSVP for dinner and childcare.

### May 7 - National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

The purpose of this day is to help teens understand that unplanned pregnancy can happen to them and they need to think seriously about what they will do in the moment. On May 7, teens will be invited to visit <http://www.stayteen.org>, to take an online challenge that highlights the key issues, feelings and beliefs about teen pregnancy through a series of real-life scenarios. For more information, visit <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national/>.

### May 8 - Youth Conference

The SPIRIT Youth Board is hosting an information event from 3:30 - 8:00pm at the Macomb Intermediate School District. This conference is for 14 - 23 year olds who either are or

www.careofmacomb.com  
Fraser, MI, 48026  
31900 Utica Rd.

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