

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Foster Parent Quarterly

This quarter's featured article comes from Fatherly.

Fatherly is the leading digital media brand for dads. Their mission is to empower men to raise great kids and live more fulfilling adult lives.

Foster Parents of the Quarter

Duane and Amy Sherman have been licensed foster parents since November 2010. They have assisted several children in their return home to their parents and are currently fostering a sibling pair. They chose to become foster parents because they felt a desire to help children in need. Through one of Amy's cousins, they learned that there were many children nearby needing help.

The Sherman's have also "quietly" recruited foster parents, 1 by 1; and inspired their new recruits to also spread the word about foster care needs, including the always present need for more foster parents. In the process, they have recruited families for YSB.

For a while, they were running a support group in Crystal Lake which became too difficult due the busy schedules of 5 children in their home. A new, small group has started with another family leading.

One of the recruited families has brought foster care community outreach to light at theirs and the Sherman's church home. They organized a "Lunch and Learn" one Sunday morning at church for any member to hear the Sherman's be interviewed as experienced foster parents. The license worker and agency presenter were invited guests. This group is connecting with another church in the area that is also starting a support network for foster families, as well as looking for other community connections that can be made. This same church is offering the Empowered to Connect Simulcast for a \$10 fee at this site in April 2018.

Thank you to the Sherman's for your generosity towards these children in need, and always for helping to make this a better world to live in for those who need it the most.

April 2018



"Like" the agency wide Facebook page or visit our agency

website at www.ysbiv.org.

If you would like to join our Foster Parent Facebook page please contact Kelley Lumpkin for an invite. She can be reached at kelleyl@ysbiv.org

Lessons From a Dad Who's Fostered More Than 50 kids.

My wife and I lost our first child to a brain condition. Years later, when we had three healthy kids of our own, we saw a lot of children around us who were suffering abuse and neglect as well as children who had been abandoned. We thought: "We lost our first child. How can we help other kids?"

For fifteen years now, we've had over 50 kids come into our home. We averaged nine children in our house at a time for a great long time but have had as many as 11, from as young as 27 hours old to 18 years of age — and everything in between. One year, we had seven kids in diapers on Christmas.

When I was a teacher, I saw the need for foster parents in my classroom every day. Fifty-five percent of kids in foster care will quit school before they age out of the system. Sixty-five percent will end up homeless, and 75 percent will end up in jail. The cycle will just repeat itself for the next generation. Two of the three kids I have adopted, their parents, and grandparents were all in foster care. That's when I knew foster care could be the way we help.

The kids that come to our home have suffered tremendous abuse and are suffering from great anxieties. So it's hard for them. They don't want to be in our house. They want to go back to their own home. Our norm is not their norm. I'm not their daddy, my wife's not their mommy.

We try to give these kids stability and security, but most importantly, we give them what they need the most, which is for someone to say, "I will love you unconditionally," because we might be the very first person ever that loved them in a healthy fashion. Every child needs to hear "I love you," once a day from their parents. If they don't hear it, they're going to go someplace else looking for it.

A lot of kids in foster care have never had a birthday. No one's told them, "Happy Birthday," or "Merry Christmas." I've had kids come to my own home who were five years of age and couldn't speak because no one taught them. We had a 10-



year-old who had never celebrated their birthday before. Because of this, birthdays are pretty big in our house. We just go way overboard on them. We wake up on birthday morning and everyone goes to the birthday kid's room and bring them

their favorite cereal, presents, and sings them happy birthday.

Later on, after school, we have a big party, and they get to choose their favorite meal. Holidays are as big, too, because these kids may never experience that again. You're sharing traditions and making memories.

It's all about being a consistent thing in their life. They need me to continue to reassure them they're going to be safe. That the pain they've gone through is over. And that we are there to protect them and to love them. That takes time for a child to understand that and then trust that.

I joke that I go to work to rest. When you come home you've got all the cooking, cleaning, laundry, homework, bathing, helping with everything else — taking kids to doctor's appointments, to visitations with their birth parents, to court hearings.

When the foster relationship ends, it's difficult for everybody. It's difficult for the child, because here I am, telling the child, "I love you, I'll love you forever. I'm here for you." Then they go back to an environment where I'm not there for them.

Unfortunately, I don't have a relationship with most of the kids after they leave our home. For some of the birth parents, I represent a part of their life that they don't want to acknowledge, they don't want to remember, they don't want to think about. They want to forget.

My words may seem empty. It's very hard for my wife and I. We've said so many times, when a child leaves our house, "We're not going to do it

anymore,” because it hurts so much. But then when that phone call comes and you hear the story of a child who is in such need, you have to say yes.

I’m on a national campaign called Foster 10k, where I’m trying to recruit 10,000 new foster parents by the year 2020. I’m opening up a residential home for boys in foster care called “Never Too Late,” for boys aged 10-18 who have no place to live. The system is just so crowded.

I never expected to be a foster parent. I never expected to get my doctorate, to write books, adopt kids, open up a group home. So many people say they don’t know how they could make a difference in the world. I tell them, “You can do it one child at a time.”

-As Told To Lizzy Francis

John DeGarmo

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John DeGarmo is the author of several foster care books, including the new book **Faith and Foster Care: How We Impact God’s Kingdom**, the training book **The Foster Parenting Manual: A Practical Guide to Creating a Loving, Safe, and Stable Home**, as well as the foster care children’s book **A Different Home: A New Foster Child’s Story**. He is the director of the Foster Care Institute and acts as a consultant to foster care agencies and legal agencies across the USA.

The post **Lessons From a Dad Who’s Fostered More Than 50 Kids** appeared first on **Fatherly**.

Please Welcome Tasha To Our Team!

Tasha Curry is joining the license team as the Community Presenter. Her job will be to assist in promoting the agency, Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley. She has 10 years of experience in Child Welfare and has worked as a foster care caseworker for many of those years. She is energetic, fun and funny.

Since May is Foster Care Appreciation month, would you be willing to ask your public library, local community organizations, workplace and/or place of worship to recognize this month (or the month of April’s Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month)? If so, we have resource lists for books that can go on display, suggested prayer guides for places of worship, etc.

Tasha would love to meet with any community connections that you could provide her with. She can be contacted at TashaC@ysbiv.org or call at 630-820-6303 ext.107

Medical Consents

There seems to be some confusion for Foster Parents as to when they can sign a consent and when they cannot. Please read the following policy for clarification. Per DCFS Procedures 327.5-3

3) Who May Provide Medical Consents: **When a medical consent is required for children under 18 years of age in the custody or guardianship of the Department, that consent shall be given only by the DCFS Guardian or an Authorized Agent.** For medical consents, “**Authorized Agent**” means **staff of the DCFS Consent Unit or Child Intake and Recovery Unit** who have received training on the duties and responsibilities of an Authorized Agent and who have been registered as Authorized Agents by the Department with the Illinois Secretary of State - Index Department. During regular working hours, medical providers requesting a medical consent (other than consent for ordinary or routine medical or dental care) should be instructed to call the DCFS Consent Unit at **800-828-2179**. After hours, and on weekends and holidays, medical providers should call the Child Intake and Recovery Unit at **866-503-0184**. **Providers and substitute caregivers cannot provide medical consents for children in DCFS custody or guardianship.**



Trainings:

Empowered to Connect
April 13th and 14th.

Live!

Harvest New Beginnings,
5315 Douglas Road
Oswego IL 60543

Simulcast

Christian Fellowship Church
3419 Walkup Road
"Crystal Lake, IL 60014
\$10 Fee
<https://showhope.org/our-work/pre-post-adoption-support/empoweredtoconnect>

DCFS Training:

Aurora

April 26th and May 3rd...must register with the DCFS office of training.

Module 9

Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family (6 hours of training)

TCI trainings:

Watch for the flyer's

Rockford Office—April 21st

Aurora office—May 5th

Ottawa office— June 16th—



APRIL is “Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month”.

Do you know what is or is not abuse?

CHILD ABUSE is...harm to a child that could be physical, emotional, sexual or neglectful ... these harms are defined by the Child Welfare League of America as:

Physical Abuse – Physical acts that cause or could have caused physical injury to a child (i.e., spankings with an electrical cord, punching, twisting limbs, etc.). Per the book, Hear the Children Crying, written by Dale Evans, the parent needs to know when to stop when utilizing spankings so that it does not become abuse.

Neglect – Failure to provide the child with needed, age-appropriate care, including food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, supervision appropriate to the child’s development, hygiene, education and medical care.

Sexual Abuse – Sexual activity by an adult with a child, including but not limited to any kind of sexual contact or exposure through persuasion, physical force or other coercive means.

Emotional Abuse – Parental acts or omissions, such as rejecting, terrorizing, berating, ignoring or isolating a child that will likely cause the child serious impairment of his or her physical, social, mental, spiritual or emotional capabilities.

CHILD ABUSE IS NOT...the normal, every day parental duty of providing structure, boundaries and discipline to teach and protect the child. Parents are expected to be the adult authorities in a child’s life and provide discipline appropriate for the child’s age.

What should you do?

If you have observed what appears to be abuse ... please call the toll-free child abuse hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE.

If you are interested in getting involved, keep local agencies in mind and please also consider volunteer options at a local child welfare agency. Those options may include: 1) involvement with a fund-raising event; 2) volunteering in the office, with transportation needs, etc.; 3) passing on agency information to others; 4) becoming a mentor to a foster child or their parent(s); or 5) become a foster parent.

One such agency is Youth Service Bureau (YSB). You can reach YSB at their local office in Glen Ellyn at: 630/474-9601 or terrip@ysbiv.org. There is also an Aurora office at 630/820-6303, ext. 114 or KelleyL@ysbiv.org. Or you can contact their corporate office in Ottawa at 815/433-3953 or mail@ysbiv.org. Check out their website at: www.ysbiv.org.