May 2013

Finding Local Adoption Events

Families are always wondering how they can get their name out there in the foster care adoption world, and how they can meet kids and caseworkers. When they ask, I always suggest finding local adoption events. Every state has them, and summer is the time of year when there are TONS of adoption events. The weather is nice, and it's a great time to hold picnics, barbecues, mixers, carnivals, festivals, etc. Below I have outlined a couple of different methods for finding adoption events in your area. I recommend that all families look into adoption events and attend all the ones they are able to. I just had a couple families get matched with children after they attended an adoption event in their state, so get out there!

Contact your agency

Your adoption worker or agency should know of any local events; they might even be holding one themselves! Call your agency and find out if they have heard of any adoption events you can attend, and ask them to keep you posted on any they hear about.

Rainbow Kids' Events Area

Rainbow Kids has an adoption events area where you can look up events in your state. You can filter by event type (category) and agency. Check out their adoption events page here.

The Internet

The Internet is a wonderful tool, and you can use it to search for adoption events yourself. Do a search on Google (or Bing, whichever you prefer) for events in your area. You can search by looking up foster care adoption events (make sure to specify "foster care adoption, otherwise you'll end up with a bunch of animal adoption results) or by looking up local or state agencies.

If your adoption agency isn't hosting any events, it doesn't mean that other agencies are not either, so do a search for agencies in your area that facilitate foster care adoptions, and find an events calendar on their page.

You can also type in your state name followed by "kids fest", or "foster care kids fest". There are so many different searches you can do, and you are bound to find something in your area.

Finally, check out Facebook! A lot of agencies and adoption organizations have Facebook pages, so go "like" their page and see if they're hosting an event, or know of any organization that is.

What to bring to an adoption event

- **An open mind**. It may sound cliche or even obvious, but go into the event with an open mind about the children you are going to meet. A lot of them are going to be older, but don't write them off until you get to know them! You may go into the event thinking you have a set age range, and leave the event with the belief that you can expand your age range. There are a lot of great youth in foster care who are looking for their forever families, and so many of them are written off by families who have misconceptions about their needs. You may be surprised!
- **A family flyer**. It doesn't have to be long-just a single sheet will do-but have a brief narrative written up that shows off your family, your interests, experiences, and child preferences. Make sure to include fun pictures of your family, your home, pets, etc. You should also include contact information for your family and agency-names, emails, and phone numbers. Hand the flyers out to caseworkers you meet. Even if they don't have any children on their caseload at that moment that would be a good fit for your family, they may later on or they may have a co-worker who does.

Have you attended any adoption events?
Are you attending any adoption events?

If you attended an adoption event last year, send me the following information:

- Name of the event
- Name of the agency that hosted it
- City and state it was held
- When the event was held

If you are attending an adoption event this summer, send me the following information:

- Name of the event
- Name of the agency hosting the event
- City and state it will be held
- Date and time of the event

You may email me at nora.sharp@afamilyforeverychild.org

You all are some of my best resources for everything foster care adoption, so keep the information coming!

Upcoming adoption events

Below are upcoming adoption events in a few states! Please contact the appropriate people/organizations listed below with any questions, and/or for more information.

While none of our staff have not attended any of these events, we want to pass along information families may find helpful and give all our adoptive families support and also

opportunities to expand their knowledge, both before and after placement.

Ohio Adoption Event

Hamilton County is hosting a carnival on **Saturday, June 1st, from 12-3PM**. This event is for families who are approved to adopt, and are interested in adopting youth in the foster care system. The adoption event will take place at the **Cincinnati Mills Mall.**
Please RSVP to Carrie Fiasco at fiascc@jfs.hamilton-co.org or (513) 946.1083. See the Event Flyer for more information.

Event Flyer

Florida Adoption Event

This exciting day is for those interested in learning more about adoption. Whether you're exploring your options, pursuing adoptions, or in the midst of the adoption process, this day is for you. With sessions ranging from Agency Selection and Understanding the Screening Process to Wait Gain: Getting the Most from your Pre-adoptive Wait, you'll leave with a sense of understanding and encouragement about your adoption.

Date: Saturday, June 15th
Time: 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
Host: National Council for Adoption
Location: Buena Vista Palace; Lake Buena Vista, FL
Cost: $40/person
Registration includes entry into all sessions, supplies, and lunch. Reservations are non-refundable.

Agenda

Register

New York Adoption Info Meeting

Attend this free meeting delivered to you by Children Awaiting Parents Community Outreach Coordinator, Veronica Black. Veronica has adopted three of her four children and is one of the best resources on foster care and adoption in upstate New York.

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013
Time: 6PM
Cost: Free!
Location: Children Awaiting Parents Office (Village Gate)
274 N. Goodman St., Suite D103
Rochester, NY 14607
RSVP: Veronica Black veronica@capbook.org or (585) 232.5110

Future adoption events

Below are a couple future adoption events! Check out their pages every so often to get more details about any future events.

Washington Event-Kids Fest

If you're a Washington family, make sure to sign up to receive newsletters from WARE so you can find out when the next Kids Fest event will be! Learn more about

National Adoption Day

National Adoption Day is November 23! All 50 states will be hosting adoption events, so check the National Adoption Day site for more information about

Kids Fest and how to sign up to hear about events.

events in your state as National Adoption Day draws closer.

A Family For Every Child | 1675 W 11th Avenue | Eugene | OR | 97402