

Family Living

Holiday Treats



CIDER EGG NOG

1 egg (or egg substitute)
 1 banana
 3/4 cup cold milk
 3/4 cup cold Martinelli's Cider or Apple Juice nutmeg
 Mix first four ingredients together in an electric blender. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Makes 2-4 drinks.



ROASTED VEAL

Wild Berry, Cider and Thyme Buerre Blanc, made with Martinelli's Gold Medal Cider

Oregon Exceeds Federal And State Adoption Placement Goals

Hundreds of Oregonians opened their hearts and their homes this year to humankind's most precious resource - children.

Last year the State Office for Services to Children and Families promised the Legislature to place 1,800 children during the next two years into stable, permanent homes.

The state is meeting its promise, placing 849 children into permanent homes in just the first nine months of the two-year period.

Although this is news to celebrate, SCF adoption placement workers say that more adoptive families are needed.

During November, SCF celebrates National Adoption Awareness Month focusing on education and recruiting potential adoptive parents. Kathy Ledesma, SCF's permanency and adoptions manager, said public awareness is crucial to the success of the state's adoption goals.

"Although Oregon's excellent record of adoption placements is news to celebrate, we must stem the tide of children needing adoptive homes," said Ledesma. "We anticipate that the number of Oregon chil-

dren who will need alternate permanent placements - mostly adoptive homes during 1999 through 2001 - will increase because of changes in state and federal statutes."

The state's commitment to place children is bolstered by a federal adoption initiative called Adoption 2002.

In addition, the federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act established a baseline for adoptions in each state by averaging the number of finalized adoptions in that state for 1995, 1996,

and 1997. Oregon's baseline is 445, which the state surpassed by more than 220 when it placed 665 children during the last federal fiscal year.

And as the adoption numbers continue to climb, the disruption rate is down. Disruption occurs when a child leaves the adoption placement before it is finalized. From 1995 to 1998, the disruption rate dropped by 37 percent to an all-time low of 4.4 percent - one of the country's lowest.

"Adoption can be a joyous begin-

ning for children and their new adoptive family," said Ledesma. "However, children who have survived abuse or neglect may have special needs throughout their lifetime. Through a careful process and continued support, SCF works to ensure that adoptions are not disrupted."

For information about adopting a child through the state, call your local SCF branch, the SCF adoption and foster care line, 1-800-331-0503 or the Special Needs Adoption coalition, 1-800-342-6688.

Neighborhood

Foster Care

Place Where You Belong

Remember walking to school, riding the bus, playing with other kids in your neighborhood, being called in to dinner in the early evening just as it's getting dusk? Most of us do, and most of us take for granted that kids in our neighborhoods have that experience of feeling like they belong somewhere.

A sense of belonging translates into a pretty powerful feeling of security for kids growing up in an often unsteady world. That's where Neighborhood Foster Care comes in. Our goal is to make sure kids in care are living in homes that are a match for their cultural background. We work to keep kids in their own school neighborhoods. This helps birth and foster families work together to make the things that went wrong, right again so kids can go back to a safe and secure place called home.

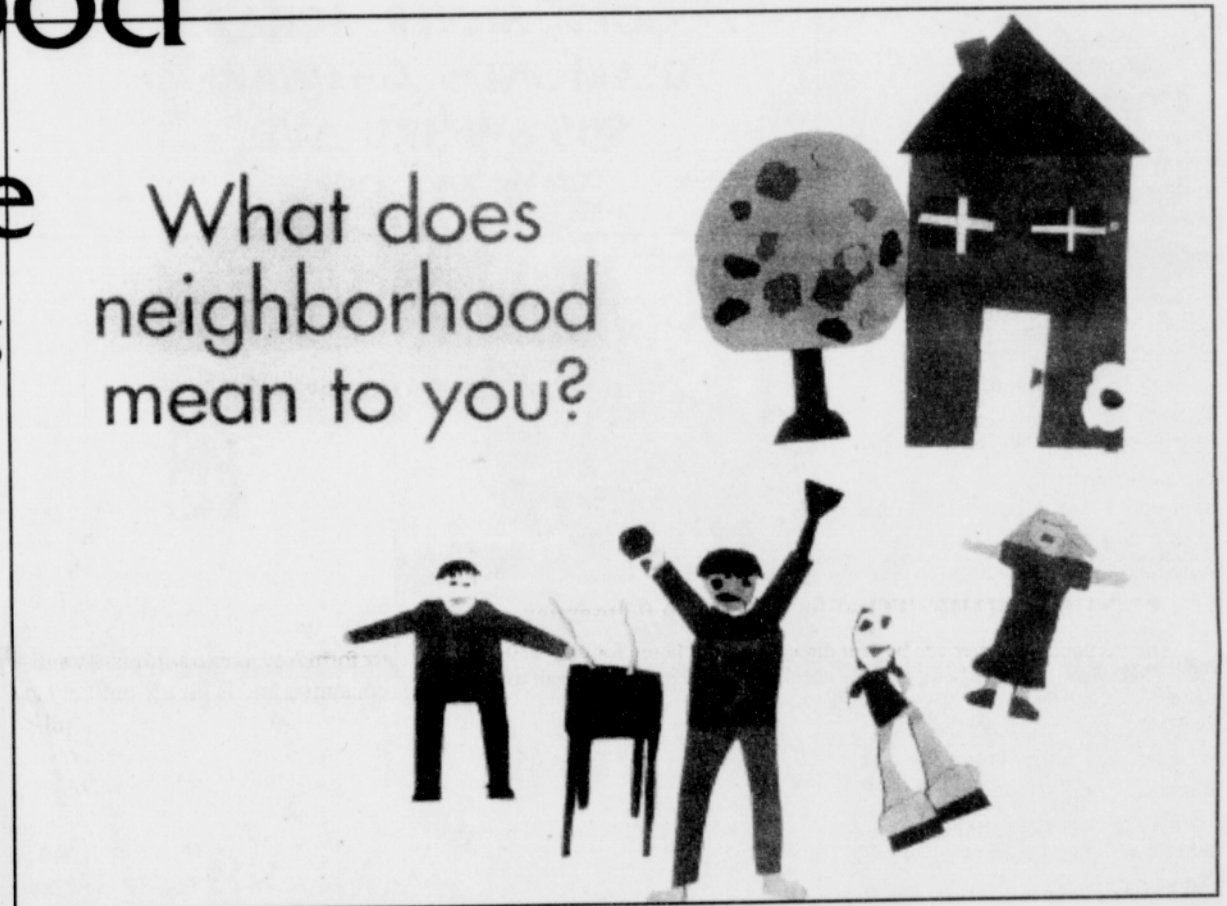
How Neighborhood Foster Care

Works

Foster kids often feel lost. They are moved out of their homes and, often, away from their neighborhood and everything that's familiar to them. That's a pretty scary experience.

Neighborhood Foster Care helps families work through the challenges that face them through a unique collaboration between public/private groups focused on improving services to kids, families and foster parents.

Located in the heart of two Portland metropolitan neighborhoods, this six-year pilot program is focused in the Jefferson Cluster community of Northeast Portland and the Centennial School District community in East Multnomah County. The Jefferson location emphasizes placing kids who need care with members of their own families (called "kinship care") while the Centennial



location focuses on keeping brothers and sisters together in the same homes within their neighborhoods.

Foster/kinship families will be established in both neighborhoods, where teams are set up to help link

neighborhood-support-networks with foster parents and birth families. Each network's team includes a community resource worker, foster/kinship parents and a case-worker. The team's leader is a foster/kinship

parent. Training, flexible funds for children and families and the strong desire to help keep families together, or find a permanent way to meet the needs of children, will be important parts of making it work.

The Original Bubbles The Clown!



Bubbles The Clown and Shay Washington

Winner of the 1996/1997 StageWonder Children's Theatre "Family Entertainment Award!"

* Offering Face Painting, Balloon Creations, Indoor/Outdoor Games, Storytelling, and More for more than 20 years!!

Call (503) 491-9423 (Office Line), if not available please leave a message! Call Now and Send in the Clown!

State Child Protective Services Office Receives National Telemedicine Award

The State Office for Services to Children and Families received third place honors in a national telemedicine competition.

At the 17th annual TeleCon awards in Anaheim, Calif., SCF was honored for an innovative program that allows rural health care providers to transmit photographs of suspected child abuse victims to a consulting site for assessment. The consultation sites are Portland CARES Northwest, Deschute's KIDS Center and the Jackson Child Advocacy Center. The system uses standard

computer hardware and standard telephone lines.

Janiver Slick of Keizer, who manages the Oregon Child Abuse Medical Information System for SCF, accepted the award on the state's behalf.

"We currently have 12 sites established and running throughout Oregon," said Slick. "Our goal, however, is to have one in every county. This program is a tool that allows children to have a thorough examination and enables physicians to access the consultation they need to

assure they are doing an accurate assessment."

The 12 sites are in Deschutes, Douglas, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Jackson, Josephine, Marion, Tillamook, Umatilla and Yamhill counties, and Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties, which operate as a single site.

Each year Teleconference Magazine and TeleCon host what is considered the Academy Awards of teleconferencing. Awards are given in 18 categories.

Adopting

Waiting For A Loving Family

These two delightful girls await a permanent home where they can continue to grow up as sisters. Spee'cheal and Kanisha are two of over 300 Oregon children waiting for an adoptive family.

Spee'cheal is a bright girl who takes pride in her appearance and enjoys dressing up. She is personable and animated, and her whole face lights up when she talks about something of interest. A helper by nature, Spee'cheal enjoys assisting both younger children and adults.

A well-mannered girl, Kanisha is shy around newcomers but talkative around familiar faces. She loves school, is proud of learning to read, and even asks for homework! She likes to receive individual attention, but she can also work cooperatively in small groups.



These girls need an enriching family environment that will encourage their love of reading, art, and learning. The family must also help Spee'cheal maintain contact with some birth relative

who are important to her. The girls have stated that they would like to have a Black or mixed race family. They can be placed in a family with or without other children.



Lillian, Age 7
 There's no doubt about it, Lillian is an energetic child with a lively spirit! Her zest for life has enabled her to develop many rich

and varied interests. Lillian is one of over 300 Oregon children waiting for an adoptive family.

Lillian's positive attachment to her foster mother demonstrates

her potential to bond with patient and nurturing adults. Lillian has expressed her desire for an African American adoptive family and wishes to remain in contact with her brothers.

Parents with energy to spare, a sense of humor and predictable lifestyle will enjoy growing to love this spunky girl. Single people, as well as married couples, are encouraged to inquire about adoption by calling The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at the Boys and Girls Aid Society, 1-800-342-6688 or 222-9661. Oregon agencies waive or reduce fees for the adoption of Oregon's children in state care, and pre-adoption training is offered statewide.