



WFAPA

Wisconsin Foster & Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Rethinking Orphanages for the 21st Century

Government-Run Foster Care Is a Miserable Failure Thursday, June 1, 2000

America's government-run foster care system has miserably failed the most vulnerable children in our society. It is a complex and expensive bureaucracy administered by social workers whose overriding goal is "family preservation"—that is, counseling troubled or abusive parents in efforts to reunite them with their children who have been placed in what is supposed to be temporary outside care. The trouble is that this counseling may go on for years as children are shuffled from foster home to foster home, never experiencing life in a stable, loving family. Children are also sometimes returned to abusive parents. As many as 700,000 children will spend all or part of this year in foster care, and the number is growing.



Rethinking Orphanages for the 21st Century argues convincingly that the private sector is better able to care for these children. It includes 15 essays that discuss the history of children's homes, or private orphanages, and the policy reforms needed to revive them (only a handful remain).

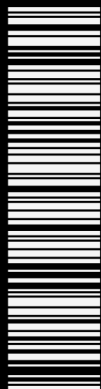
McKenzie, who grew up in an orphanage in the 1950s (and who rates his experience very highly), challenges the widespread notion that orphanages are undesirable places. He asks why it is considered acceptable for wealthy parents to send their children to boarding schools to receive education and moral instruction, but inappropriate to send children from unsafe, abusive homes to similar institutions. He presents findings from his own survey of middle-aged and elderly alumni from nine orphanages, almost all of whom look back on their orphanage experiences favorably. And interestingly, most of them outpace the general population in terms of education, income, and attitude toward life.



The essayists identify several reasons why orphanages have declined in this century. As poverty rates fell in the 1950s and 1960s, fewer parents had to abandon children they could not afford to keep.

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ADMIT ONE



Ticket Code : 123-456-7890

WFAPA'S Foster & Adoptive Parent's Fall Conference

Guest Speakers:

Rob scheer - Founder of Comfort Cases and an outspoken advocate for youth in foster care.

Stacy Wood - Founder of Through the Woods Consulting, she is a certified coach also consulting on the nature of leadership.

12
Credits
for under
\$100.00

October 20-22, 2023



Three Bears Resort in Warrens, WI.

NOVEMBER IS
**National
Adoption
Month**



WFAPA's Fall Conference



Speaker
Rob Scheer



Halloween Costume Contest - All Ages
Halloween Stations for Kids



Speaker
Stacy Wood

At any given time, there are approximately 437,000 youth in foster care in the United States. An estimated 700 children enter the system each day, and most arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs. Those who do have belongings are often given a trash bag in which to pack up and carry their life's treasures. Rob and his family decided it was time to change this practice and the idea for Comfort Cases was born. Since its founding, more than 220,000 "comfort cases" have been distributed to youth in and entering foster care in every state in the US, Washington DC, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom.



EARN 12 CREDITS



DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS & LEARN ABOUT HELPFUL RESOURCES



MEET NEW FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENTS



NETWORKING

October

20-22, 2023

Stacy Wood is an author, speaker, coach, and facilitator. As founder of Through the Woods Consulting, she is a certified coach also consulting on the nature of leadership. Her mission is to grow women's leadership with the combination of impactful communications and her signature framework, the 'Steppingstones of Success'. Stacy believes that leadership of self is the precursor to serving others; she relies on science, nature, DISC communication skills, and personal awareness to guide her clients along the journey of clarity and intentional success.

REGISTER NOW AT:
WFAPA.ORG



Get 12 Credits for under \$100.



At Three Bears Resort in Warren, WI.



Refer someone to our conference and they attend, you could be the lucky winner of a gift card!



WFAPA Nomination Form

FOR THE TERM OF: _____

For the office of: President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Individual Being Nominated:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Number of years as a WFAPA member? _____ Number of WFAPA's Conferences attended in the last four years? _____

Statement of Acceptance:

Should I be elected to the position for which I was nominated, I accept the position of:

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Signature of Nominee _____

Date _____

Please attach an article of introduction on a separate sheet of paper. Therefore, it is advisable that you provide additional information about yourself, as you feel appropriate, including your goals for the position and/or the Association. You may want to include such information as:

- Number of years as a foster parent and number of children currently in placement.
- Past/Current positions held in local and state foster parent association(s).
- Education (high school, college, special foster parent related training).
- Past/Current positions held on other associations (social, civil, volunteer, etc.).
- Social Achievements/Awards Received.
- Other information you think may be important for the voters to know.

Individual Being Nominated:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Mail nominations to: Lauri Thorssen, PO Box 122, Bennett, WI 54873 or email: lthorssen@gmail.com. Nominations may also be turned in at our Conference. Please make a separate copy for each person you wish to nominate.

Election of President and Treasurer at the Fall WFAPA Conference

Please feel free to nominate yourself or someone else for these positions by filling out the nomination form on page of this newsletter or by downloading the form from our website, www.wfapa.org. The completed form can be emailed to our Nomination Chair, Lauri Thorssen, at lthorssen@gmail.com. For any questions, feel free to contact Lauri at 715-816-4152. Thank you!

President

1. Preside at all regular, special, or called meetings of the board of directors and general membership.
2. Be responsible for the general management and the supervision of the affairs and operation of the Association.
3. Have the authority to appoint chairpersons of all standing committees and ad hoc committees as needed by the Association, except for the nominating committee. The president cannot be appointed chairperson of any committee.
4. Be a member ex-officio with a vote on all committees except the nominating committee.
5. With the elected treasurer, sign all contracts or obligations authorized by the board of directors.
6. Officially and publicly represent the Association.
7. Perform such other duties as provided by these by laws or as commonly appertain to the office of president.
8. Be bonded.
9. Be elected for a term of two (2) years with a three-year consecutive term limit or until a successor can be found.



Treasurer

1. Be responsible for collecting and safeguarding all funds of the Association.
2. Be responsible for all disbursement of funds.
3. Submit all financial records and all financial reports for state funding to the board of directors annually for an audit, or a group of three members, to be completed by the annual general membership meeting held in the fall. Additionally, an audit is required before a treasurer leaves office for any reason.
4. Make regular reports to the general membership at all meetings.
5. Be bonded.
6. Perform other duties as provided by those by-laws or as commonly appertain to the office of Treasurer.
7. Be elected for a term of two (2) years with no limit on the number of terms.

BE PART OF THE FABRIC

We are making another WFAPA Quilt and if you have adopted a child or you were an adopted child, we would like to hear from you. We recognize each adoption story is as varied as the individuals involved. Adopting a child is such a powerful, emotional experience and like pregnancy and birth, no two adoption stories are the same.



At our Fall Conference in October, we will have tables set up with blank cloth squares. Throughout the conference, anyone attending who has adopted a child(ren) or has been adopted will be invited to color and create — making their own masterpiece. Along with creating your work of art, we ask that you write a short article about what our adoption means to you with no identifying information.



You can also reach out to Sherry Benson, WFAPA Treasurer and Social Worker Liaison, and she will mail you a blank cloth square and fabric markers, with return postage. Again, we ask that you write a short article about what your adoption means to you with no identifying information and mail this along with your quilt square and markers. You can reach Sherry by calling or texting her at (715) 923-1124 or by emailing her at misssherry2@yahoo.com.

Once we have a collection of these beautiful creations, they will be woven together with other quilt squares. With each creation, our quilt becomes bigger and stronger. Once completed, the quilt and the stories that go along with it, will be displayed to raise awareness about adoption and celebrate amazing children and their families.

Building a Child Welfare System for the 21st Century

The Family First Prevention Services Act, which was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018, offers an historic opportunity for child welfare leaders to re-imagine a child welfare system for the 21st century.

By placing an emphasis on prevention, early intervention and evidence-based practices for children and families, this groundbreaking legislation is requiring child welfare providers to rethink the policies, practices and systems of yesterday and reshape service provision to address child and family needs and do so using trauma-informed approaches.

One of the areas that will be most impacted by the bill is residential care. In today's child welfare system, there are an estimated 57,000 children living in residential care. Residential services are provided by public, private nonprofit and for-profit child welfare agencies and may be campus-based, community-based, self-contained or secure facilities. In these settings, children youth, and their families are offered a variety of services, such as therapy, counseling, education, recreation, health, nutrition, daily living skills, pre-independent living skills, reunification services, aftercare and advocacy.

“Therapeutic Residential Care,” as it is known, focuses specifically on providing treatment for youth who have a mental health diagnosis or have experienced trauma and need help regulating their emotions. According to recent research from Casey Family Programs, it is most effective when it is relatively brief, when families are deeply involved and when the care continues after reintegration.

However, according to recent data, more than 4 in 10 children who are currently in residential care have no mental health diagnosis, medical disability or behavioral problem that would warrant such a setting.

There is a growing body of research that indicates that better outcomes are achieved when children are cared for in a family- or community-based setting and when they achieve permanency. Recent research suggests that young children living in residential programs are at a higher risk for developing physical, emotional and behavioral problems. These young children are also less likely to be placed in a permanent home than those who live in foster care.

The Family First Act is facilitating this change by shifting funding to more outcomes-driven, family-focused care. With its greater emphasis on preventative services and trauma-informed care, Family First is making resources available from the federal government to provide early intervention services that could prevent children, who are already known to the system, from entering foster care or residential treatment.

A great deal of advocacy at state and local levels will be required to fully implement Family First. The theory of change represented within the bill requires a robust array of home- and community-based services, yet there was no federal funding put in the bill to help states build up that part of the system. So, state legislatures and local governments are going to need to make further investments into developing this part of the system in order to keep children in the least restrictive, most family-like settings.

Another area that will need state and local resources is the court process for presiding over residential placements. Advocacy to elected officials will be required to ensure the resources are there to assist in training for judges to ensure they are well-informed through the status review processes.

These challenges must be addressed quickly because many child welfare providers are faced with increasingly stringent state regulations including stricter referral policies, contractual requirements on how services are delivered, and mandated maximum lengths of stay, all part of a tightening fiscal reality that makes the old model of residential treatment more cost-prohibitive.

Beyond these funding and resource concerns, many organizations looking to make the shift into children and family-focused child welfare programming face both organizational and cultural challenges.

That is why, since 2014, the Alliance has engaged child- and family-serving community-based organizations in a series of cohort initiatives to help inform and advance a transformational shift from traditional residential care to evidence-based stabilization and treatment as part of a home- and community-based system of care.

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WFAPA'S CONFERENCE ITINERARY

October 20, 2023 - October 22, 2023 | Three Bears Resort, Warrens, WI



FRIDAY: OCTOBER 20, 2023

3:00PM-9:00PM	Arrival: Registration, (Auction/Raffle Items and Raffle Tickets)
4:00PM-9:00PM	Hospitality Room - Food/Socialize Connecting, Networking, Socialize, Relax, Eat, Meet Foster Folks, and Share Stories
5:00PM-6:30PM	WFAPA Updates
7:00PM	Meet and Greet

SATURDAY: OCTOBER 21, 2023

8:00AM-3:00PM	Registration Table Open for Information
8:00AM-9:00AM	Breakfast - Hot Breakfast Buffet
9:00AM-12:00PM	Comfort Cases-Foster Youth Presenter: Rob Scheer
12:15PM-1:15PM	Lunch: Build Your Own Deli Sandwich Buffet and 50/50 Drawing
1:15PM-2:00PM	SAAN & FASPP Presentation (Surviving Allegations of Abuse & Neglect) Presenters: Norma Schoenberg & Sherry Benson
2:00PM-3:30PM	Motivational Speaker Presenter: Stacy Wood
3:30PM-3:45PM	15 Minute Break
3:45PM-5:00PM	General Membership Meeting: Nominations & Voting for President & Treasurer, Turn in Surveys, Drawing for Free Conference/Rooms, Certificates Handed Out
5:00PM-6:00PM	Get Spooktacular for Banquet
6:00PM-10:00PM	Halloween Banquet Buffet: Halloween Stations for Kids, Auction & Raffle, 50/50 Drawing, and Halloween Costumes-Voting on Best Dressed Costume



SUNDAY: OCTOBER 22, 2023

9:00AM-12:00PM	FASPP & Board Members Meeting - Closed to General Membership.
	This Conference Counts for 12 Hours of Training/CEU'S for Attendees.
	A block of rooms has been reserved at \$89.00 (not including local & state taxes). All rooms include waterpark wristbands. The last day to reserve your room is on October 6, 2023. For reservations, please call Three Bears Resort in Warrens, WI at 608-378-2500 and ask for Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association block.

Learn continually - there's always "one more thing" to Learn!



Conference Registration Form

Date: _____ WFAPA Member Non-WFAPA Member

Participant's Name: _____

Additional Participant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

County You Are Licensed With (**REQUIRED**): _____

Is this your first conference? Yes No

I am bringing a first time attendee Yes No If yes, Name: _____

Conference Registration includes workshops, hospitality room and meals on Saturday. Complimentary breakfast is available at the hotel. Buffett meals will be served at lunch and at the banquet. **If you have any dietary restrictions, please call Tracey Taylor at 715-560-0755 so she may make proper food arrangements for you.**

Complimentary Breakfast	Lunch Buffett	Supper Buffett	Conference Registration
# of Conference Attendees _____	# of Conf. Attendees _____	# of Conf. Attendees _____	# of WFAPA Members _____
# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Participants _____	# of Non-Members _____
Cost: \$10.00 Non-Participant	Cost: \$10.00 Non-Participant	\$20.00 Per Non-Participant	Member's Cost \$85.00 each Non-Member's Cost: \$95.00 each
Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00	Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00

No childcare is available for this conference. Due to the sensitive nature of many of our discussions, children are discouraged from being present in training sessions. Infants are welcome, but please be sensitive to other attendees by removing fussy or noisy babies.

Total Amount Owed: \$ _____ .00

You can make secure payments with your Debit/Credit Card on our website, www.wfapa.org. If you prefer to pay by check, please make check payable to WFAPA and mail your payment to Tracey Taylor, P.O. Box 381, Owen, WI 54460. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tracy Taylor at 715-560-0755 or taylor1028@charter.net. There will be a \$20.00 service fee for all checks returned for insufficient funds. There are no refunds.

I grant permission for WFAPA to use my personal image (photo) and name in any form of media for promotional and any other lawful purposes. WFAPA acknowledges that the images may be used on the organization's website, Facebook, social media, flyers, publications, and that there will be NO payment for the use of the photographs, names or any other forms of media for promotional purposes. This releases WFAPA from any infringement or violation of personal and/or property rights of any sort whatsoever based upon the use of your photo(s), and further acknowledges that WFAPA is not obliged to use the photographs.

Participant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Additional Participant's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Rethinking Orphanages for the 21st Century Continuation From Front Page

The social work profession has also disparaged orphanages and vigorously lobbied to expand state foster care. And the cost of running orphanages has increased because of new liability laws that hold institutions accountable for any harm children might incur while working. Most orphanages have reduced or eliminated child labor, such as on-site farm work, that at one time reduced their operating costs. Yet the essayists note that such work once instilled the values of discipline, responsibility, and team effort. Indeed, critics often cite "regimentation" as the chief drawback of orphanages. Yet this is what former orphans believe is their chief strength.

Rethinking Orphanages suggests several policy reforms that could help to revive children's homes. Among them: broadly liberalize state licensure statutes and regulations, giving providers greater authority to make their own staff and program decisions; eliminate statutes and regulations that discourage the use of volunteers and resident labor that could reduce operating costs; convert government child-welfare funds to block grants, allowing states greater flexibility in placing children into permanent adoptive or children's homes rather than in temporary foster care.

McKenzie and other contributors also propose reforms to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care and to make placement in permanent care settings more common. Two are noteworthy: assign the police and the criminal justice system, rather than social workers, to conduct the initial investigation of cases of significant abuse and neglect (eliminating a conflict of interest in the current child welfare system that usually investigates and also apportions funds for cases of abuse and neglect); and place a time limit, preferably 12 months, on abusive and negligent parents to rehabilitate themselves. If children cannot be safely returned to their parents after one year, those parents should forfeit any right to regain custody of their children.

Rethinking Orphanages is a worthwhile attempt to re-evaluate a private institution that has almost disappeared from the American landscape. It is an outstanding collection of well-argued essays that should rekindle interest in a viable private alternative to government bureaucracy that could greatly benefit tens of thousands of needy children.

Daniel T. Oliver is a research associate at the Washington, D.C.-based Capital Research Center and a freelance writer. Article taken from website, FEE (Foundation for Economic Education). fee.org/articles/rethinking-orphanages-for-the-21st-century/#0

Hello members,

Does it feel like summer is almost over with? Have you accomplished all that you wanted too? I can say that I have not.



THE PRESIDENT'S *letter*

WFAPA had a booth at Lifest this year! Our Activity Chair, Lauri Thoreson and her daughter, Renee, manned the table. They talked to a multitude of people and handed out our brochures and other fidgets. Be sure to read Lauri's article in this newsletter.

Some of our WFAPA members have been speaking to their representatives in regards to Assembly Bills 560 and 565. In Wisconsin, there are a couple counties testing the waters in a "pilot program" which may change court documents to make them easier to complete and to give a clearer understanding of them to both the foster and biological families. More information on these topics will be discussed Friday night. Be sure to bring your questions/concerns.

At our October conference, our guest speakers will be Rob Scheer and Stacy Wood. Once a foster child himself, Rob travels the country sharing his story and advocating for youth in foster care. Stacy, founder of Through the Woods Consulting, is a self-described naturist, individual development consultant, and impactful communicator. As a mother, wife, and entrepreneur she knows firsthand the value of time; using it wisely and living each day with purpose. Her mission is to impact individual lives of others by helping them live intentionally, embrace or create opportunities, and find their individual success.

WELCOME to our new members! We hope to see your smiling faces at our Fall Conference. We are going to make our Saturday night banquet "spooktacular" with a Halloween dress up contest. So take out your imaginations and get started designing your costumes. A \$100 gift card will be waiting for the best individual and/or couple!

November is National Adoption month. We honor all of you that have adopted a child or children and brought them to their forever home. Permanency for a child is the greatest gift!

Our next newsletter should be in the mail by the end of November, so I want to wish you all an early "Happy Holidays"!

The WFAPA Family thanks you for being part of our lives!

Love and Light,

Tina



Join WFAPA

WFAPA's Leadership has helped to educate policymakers and engage Foster and Adoptive Parents in the debate on issues that affect the Foster and Adoptive System.

We'd love you to join us on our adventure! We couldn't continue to play a role in influencing public policy and advocating on behalf of Foster and Adoptive children and parents in Wisconsin without our members.

One of the best ways to acquire our collective voice is to create a strong community among foster, adoptive and kinship families.

Our members:

- Receive four newsletters each year.
- Get first hand information of what's happening at the State level.
- Who you can call when an allegation arises.
- Peer Support.
- Scholarship information.
- Reduced rate for conferences.
- Opportunities to become involved in projects to help foster children.

There are two ways you can join. Either go to our website, wfapa.org, and click on Membership or you can fill out the attached Membership Form and mail it along with \$10.00 per adult to: Michelle Ward, W7018 Discovery Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

WFAPA Membership Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your Address _____

Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? Yes No

County, State or Agency Name (that licenses you): _____

Additional Donation: \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____

\$50 _____ Other _____

GO GREEN! I'd like to "go green" & paperless by receiving my newsletter online only.

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



FASPP SAAN

Foster and Adoptive Support and Preservation Program Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect



FASPP's mission is to meet the needs of foster and adoptive parents statewide through a network of peer driven support and information which will help to preserve foster and adoptive families. Are you feeling lost? Do you need information? Are you under an investigation? If so, FASPP may be able to help! Our FASPP and SAAN volunteers are highly trained to provide you with information and/or resources to guide you through various issues. FASPP and SAAN is made up of fellow foster or adoptive parents.

SAAN is a peer driven support network, the purpose of which is to minimize the trauma to foster and adoptive families while undergoing an allegation without compromising the integrity of that investigation. Foster parents welcome children into their homes knowing that they bring their histories and issues along with them.

For this reason, foster and adoptive parents are at a higher

risk of having an allegation made against them. Undergoing an investigation is a stressful and scary situation for anyone, and SAAN is here to provide information to support you throughout the investigation process.

Please call or email the following people with questions in these areas:

Norma, Chairperson (Advice on general/allegations)
Phone: (920) 922-9627

Melissa (Focuses on fostering younger children)
Phone: (608) 333-6650 Email: lovedalemelissa@gmail.com

Tammy (Advice on general/foster)
Phone: (715) 497-3561 Email: tmeesha1973@yahoo.com

Lauri (Advice on general/adoption)
Phone: (715) 816-4152 Email: lthorssen@gmail.com

A BIG Thank You To Our Sponsors

Dream Vacations
Megan & Josh Roberts
(715) 907-1270
Weston, WI

Family Works Programs, Inc.

KERRY
Kerry-Owen We are from food, for food. We are Kerry

ROMANUS ENTERTAINMENT
Romans 12 Entertainment Dana Longpre

Mama Kasch's Kitchen Recipe

Baked Crack Chicken Spaghetti

Prep Time: 20 Minutes Cook Time: 15 Minutes Total Time: 35 minutes

Ingredients

* 10 oz spaghetti noodles * 10.5 oz condensed cheddar cheese soup * 10.5 oz condensed cream of chicken soup * 4 oz cream cheese, softened and cut into cubes * 1 oz ranch dressing mix * 2 cups shredded chicken * 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled * 1 cup chopped green onions * 3 cups shredded mozzarella and cheddar cheese blend

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
2. Spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish well with cooking spray and set it aside.
3. Cook spaghetti according to the directions on the package. Drain and set aside.
4. Pour the cheddar soup and cream of chicken soup into the pot you used to cook the pasta and set the heat to medium.
5. Add the cubed cream cheese to the pot and stir until no large chunks remain.
6. Add the ranch dressing mix to the pot and stir well.
7. Add the shredded chicken to the pot.
8. Set aside 1 tablespoon of the crumbled bacon and add the rest to the pot.
9. Stir well.
10. Add the cooked spaghetti to the pot and stir until all of the noodles are coated in sauce.
11. Set aside 2 tablespoons of the chopped green onions and then add the rest to the pot.
12. Add 1 cup of the shredded cheese to the pot and stir well.
13. Pour the pasta mixture into the prepared baking dish and spread it out evenly.
14. Sprinkle the remaining 2 cups of shredded cheese on top.
15. Sprinkle the remaining bacon and chopped green onions on top.
16. Place the dish in the oven and bake until the cheese on top is completely melted. About 15 minutes.
17. Remove the dish from the oven and allow the pasta to rest for a few minutes.
18. Serve and enjoy!



LIFEST



Life Promotions is a nonprofit organization instilling hope in youth. Lifest founder and president, Bob Lenz, is featured each year as a keynote speaker, and he is available year-round to speak at your school, community outreach, church, conference, retreat or other event. While Lifest fills 4 days full of music and ministry, Life Promotions fills the other 361 days of the year with life-changing school programs and outreach events. More than 500,000 people are impacted by Life Promotions programs and events each year.

Lifest Through Lauri's Eyes

Lifest is held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and this year it was from July 6th-9th. This event draws over 25,000 for Christian music concerts, camping, and an Expo Center full of tables representing many organizations. This year, for the first time, this included WFAPA! My daughter, Renee, and I manned our table from Thursday, noon until Saturday night at 9pm. We were joined for a few hours by Jerry Fix and Randy Polifka, who provided a welcome hour respite for me!

There were all kinds of things being promoted in the Expo Center, including churches, camps, t-shirt sales, organizations against human trafficking, radio stations and more. At our booth, we gave out stress balls, wristbands and information on foster care and adoption. Many people stopped by wanting to know how to become foster parents, how to deal with parenting issues, how to get started in their counties and what resources are available to them.

Interestingly, foster care was the subject of one of the seminars being held during the festival. A minister from North Carolina, told of their ministry to kids aging out of the care where they provide life skills training and gift young adults with a vehicle upon graduation. They partner with car dealers in their area, as well as donors, in order to accomplish this goal!

It is my hope that WFAPA will have a booth at this festival every year. I'm excited about the opportunity for us to partner with other organizations to make life better for children in Wisconsin.

Renee's Thoughts on Lifest

This year was my first time attending Lifest. I liked being there and helping my mom with WFAPA's table, which was located far away from the doors. Not only did we see and talk to so many people, but we met a lot of good people as well. I even made three new friends. I can't wait until next year for Lifest!!



Thank you to Lauri & Renee Thoreson for sharing a lil bit of their experience representing WFAPA at Lifest. If you have a story to share, please email Tammy at boettcher_tammy@yahoo.com.

This shift requires residential providers to make significant changes in policy, practice, budget, historical programming and organizational culture. The growing evidence base continues to point to this change movement as being in children's best interests and necessary, yet providers continue to seek out clearer and more efficient pathways to understand this new reality and make this transformation a reality.

Many child welfare providers and operators of residential treatment facilities have a tremendous amount of equity and capital in their physical structures and campuses and a large portion of their organizational identity is encompassed in their role as residential providers. For example, Daniel Magnusson, president and CEO of cohort participant Lad Lake, pointed out that while only 20 percent of the youth they served were in their residential program, it represented 53 percent of Lad Lake's revenue.

It can be challenging for leaders and board members of these organizations to still deliver on their stated mission when such a large part of that mission is being transformed. Child welfare providers are among the oldest community-based nonprofits in the country, with a significant number of them owning and operating facilities that began as orphanages more than a century ago. These physical campuses make up a large part of their equity portfolio and many organizations are hesitant to make the leap to repurpose or divest these resources. Through the cohort initiative, the participants achieved a greater understanding of the changes needed to manage a shift from residential to community-based services while meeting the needs of the families they serve.

Through the cohort initiative, the participants achieved a greater understanding of the changes needed to manage a shift from residential to community-based services while meeting the needs of the families they serve.

There will always be a need for out-of-home care because there will be times when children need to be removed temporarily from their homes. But the role of out-of-home care, particularly residential care, has clearly changed. When out-of-home care is needed, it will be accessed as a short-term emergency crisis stabilization service for families, rather than a long-term solution.

Ultimately, successful transformation efforts will require the support of a myriad of interconnected components that recognize the importance and impact of culture, financing, staff development, program and service adaptation and policy drivers.

Article written by Jennifer Jones and Theresa Covington and was filed on 12/19/2018. Article taken from Imprint News at imprintnews.org/tag/imprintnews.org/tag/theresa-covington.

Jennifer Jones is the director of the Change in Mind Institute at the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Theresa Covington is the director of [Within Our Reach](#), an office established at the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to promote the recommendations of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities and supported by Casey Family Programs. Covington and Jones serve as content experts in the Alliance's safety and security impact area.

Become A Sponsor

WFAPA works hard every year empowering, supporting, advocating, and providing resources for foster and adoptive families. Our work is so important to us, and the strides we have made so far would not have been possible without supporters.

Will your company consider becoming a sponsor of WFAPA? You can make a one-time, yearly donation of \$300.00 or a monthly donation of \$25.00 for one year. Since we are a 501(3) (C), your donation is tax deductible.

Not only will your company benefit through the positive publicity of supporting our mission and organization, WFAPA helps you achieve this publicity by promoting your business:

- On our website, www.wfapa.org,
- On our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wfapa,
- Through social media,
- In our newsletters, which are published four times a year,
- At our Spring and Fall Conference.

If your company is interested in being a sponsor, please reach out to us. For more information, go to our website, www.wfapa.org, click on Support Our Work, and then click on Sponsors. We can't wait to hear from you!



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