



**CHRISTIE MCGUIRE**  
IFAPA Peer Liaison

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**I UNDERSTAND...  
I AM A FOSTER PARENT TOO**

IFAPA recognizes that foster parents often need the perspective of peers during the foster parenting and adoption experience.

I can provide support and assist you with questions regarding:

- Licensing requirements
- Training needs
- Respite care
- Behavior challenges
- Working with birth families
- Confidentiality issues
- And much more!



www.ifapa.org

## WHAT IS PROJECT SEARCH?

**Project SEARCH** was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996 to fill the need for capable, dependable staff to stock supplies in their Emergency Room. In the ensuing years, it has spread across the country -- there are now over 300 sites in 43 states and 3 other countries. Here in Iowa, the first program began in Des Moines at Iowa Methodist Hospital in 2011. Since then, many sites have been established across the state, including Johnston, Ankeny, Windsor Heights, Ames, Chariton, Des Moines, Mason City, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Bettendorf. There is no charge to the employer.

**Project SEARCH** serves young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are in their last year of high school, recent high school graduate or young adults. The training program is nine to ten months in length with a business serving as the training site. Most Project SEARCH sites are located within a hospital but they can be done with any large business where there are a variety of jobs. Generally there are 6-12 interns enrolled in each training session. Project SEARCH interns complete three different workplace rotations (10-12 weeks long) over the course of the program.

**Project SEARCH** gives employers access to a diverse talent stream with skills that match their labor needs. When the program is complete and if a Project SEARCH graduate is hired, employers may also find that performance and retention in some high-turnover, entry-level positions will increase dramatically. Additionally, Project SEARCH is changing corporate culture and helping to add diversity to the workforce. Project SEARCH training is conducted in a real work place with contact throughout the day with people without disabilities.

**Project SEARCH** programs across the country have had great success in assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. Cumulatively these programs have placed over 70% of their graduates into employment. This is due in large part to the employability skills they develop over the course of their training

**Project SEARCH** uses a combination of classroom instruction coupled with workplace internships to prepare individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities for competitive employment.

**Project SEARCH** benefits...

- Internship training experiences
- Competitive, transferable, and marketable job skills
- Increased independence, confidence, and self-esteem
- Individualized coaching, direct instruction, and feedback daily
- Building personal and professional relationships
- Opportunity to obtain and secure employment in non-traditional jobs for people with disabilities
- For more information about Project SEARCH: <http://www.projectsearch.us/>

# NEWS FROM YOUR IFAPA PEER LIAISON

## CURRENT NEWS

### Plan Ahead-Register Now!

**IFAPA WILL NOT BE OFFERING TRAININGS IN DECEMBER**

\*Ifapa's current training schedule is available online at [ifapa.org](http://ifapa.org)

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Renew Support Group Cornerstone Church-Ames

- \* Enjoy the Holiday Season!
- \* **Save the Date** for the next scheduled meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2017

### Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group

Fredsville Evangelical Lutheran Church  
32756 150th St, Cedar Falls

- \* December 11th, 4:00-6:00 Dinner served @ 5:30
- \* Fun for the whole family--crafts, activities, visit and pictures with Santa, and a gift for each child
- \* RSVP with the number of people attending AND age and gender of each child by Dec. 1st to: [aafpsg@gmail.com](mailto:aafpsg@gmail.com), 319.241.0623, or [www.aafpsg.org](http://www.aafpsg.org)

## HOLIDAY FALL FOOD!

### MARSHMALLOW HOT CHOCOLATE STIRRERS



#### Ingredients:

Peppermint sticks or candy canes  
Fat marshmallows  
Dipping chocolate  
White chocolate  
Christmas sprinkles  
Red food coloring  
Hot chocolate

#### Directions:

Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  of melted white chocolate with a bit of red food coloring, leave the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  white and set both aside.  
Take your peppermint stick or candy cane and push it through three marshmallows. Roll the marshmallows in melted chocolate--or dip it using a deep mug--and lay on a sheet of wax paper.  
Immediately drizzle white and red chocolate on top, and top with sprinkles. Refrigerate for best results.  
Serve with an oversized mug of hot chocolate or package as a gift!

