

NEWS FROM YOUR PEER LIAISON



GWEN TIMMERMAN

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!



November is National Adoption Awareness Month!

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. A coalition of national partners – Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, The Alliance for Children’s Rights and Children’s Action Network – sponsor National Adoption Day.

<http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/>

This year National Adoption Day will be celebrated on November 21 (or an alternate date in some locations). On this day, a number of courts and communities in the United States will come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care. More than 300 events are held each year in all 50 US states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care. In total, more than 40,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day.

Events in Iowa

Join Iowa KidsNet, DHS, and IFAPA for a National Adoption Month proclamation signing on November 5 at 2:00 pm at the Iowa Capitol!

Governor Branstad will sign a formal proclamation declaring November as National Adoption Month in the state of Iowa.

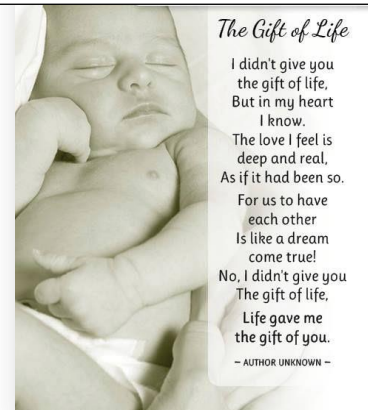
The **Des Moines** Model Court will be celebrating its 16th Annual Adoption Saturday on November 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the Polk County Courthouse in downtown Des Moines! Judges and court personnel, DHS, Iowa KidsNet, and other community partners will be donating their time to make over two dozen foster kids part of a forever family.

Waterloo Adoption Day Celebration at the Black Hawk County Courthouse

Friday, November 13th from 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Adoption Reception at the Grout Museum, 322 Washington Street, Waterloo
Friday, November 13 at **4:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP to Christa Hefel at 563.880.2638 or chefel@fouroaks.org.



The Gift of Life

I didn't give you
the gift of life,
But in my heart
I know,
The love I feel is
deep and real,
As if it had been so.
For us to have
each other
is like a dream
come true!
No, I didn't give you
The gift of life,
Life gave me
the gift of you.
- AUTHOR UNKNOWN -

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SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION:

Marshalltown- Applebee's Restaurant, 3101 S. Center Street
Meets bi-monthly – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

CONTACT PERSON: Mindy Speake - Youth & Shelter Services / Iowa KidsNet (515-291-1292 or mspeake@yss.ames.ia.us)

Waverly- Vineyard Community Church, 319 West Bremer Avenue

Parkersburg- Monarch Therapy, 505 Coates Street

The Waverly location offers support and training while the Parkersburg location offers only training. Both locations meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday

Waverly meets 6pm- 8pm | **Parkersburg** meets 6pm-7pm

Groups meets all 12 months /Childcare at Waverly location with RSVP

CONTACT PERSONS: Nancy Magnall - IFAPA Resource Info Specialist (319-352-3600 or nmagnall@ifapa.org) OR Gwen Timmerman - IFAPA Peer Liaison (319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

Waterloo-Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 W. 8th Street

Meets monthly - 2nd Tuesday from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Group meets September through May/Child care is offered

CONTACT PERSON: Gwen Timmerman - IFAPA Peer Liaison (319-883-3594 or gtimmerman@ifapa.org)

IKN-RELATIVE KINSHIP SUPPORT/EVENT

Kinship support group is planned for **November 18th from 5:30 to 7:30 at KT's Inflatables on Airline Highway.** No child care is offered, but children can play while adults network and socialize. \$3 per child and Pizza can be ordered from Godfather's and delivered as well for anyone who wants to eat during the group. Children age 12 and under can be in the bounce houses but older children can use the trampolines, basketball hoops and foosball table and there is a toddler area as well.

AMP—Achieving Maximum Potential

AMP is a youth-driven, statewide group that seeks to unleash the full potential for personal growth among foster and adoptive children in Iowa. AMP offers leadership opportunities, service learning projects, speaking opportunities, and educational/vocational assistance. Amp also provides the life skills youth need to become self-sufficient, independent adults. **AMP members are ages 13 and up who have been involved in foster care, adoption or other out-of-home placements.**

Waterloo AMP meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1024 West 8th Street, Waterloo. Contact: Jessica Christman at 515-451-4233 (cell) OR jperrychristman@gmail.com

Marshalltown AMP meets every first and third Tuesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the YSS of Marshall County office located at 11 E. State St. Marshalltown, Iowa. Contact Alyson Hicks at Mtownamp@hotmail.com or call me at 641-751-1776

Fall Crafts & Activities



All you need is paint and a paint brush!

How to dye corn kernels:

1. Partially fill a cup, container, or plastic baggy with water.
2. Add vinegar to the water (a tablespoon or so).
3. Add desired amount of food coloring to the water/vinegar mixture. Swish to distribute color. I used about a tablespoon for every cup or two of corn.
4. Add corn kernels to the container/baggy. Make sure the liquid completely covers the corn.
5. Allow to sit for a few hours. I let mine sit overnight.
6. Remove corn kernels using a slotted spoon.
7. Let corn dry completely.



Here are some of the FUN activities and projects we've done using our dyed corn kernels:

- ✓ Colorful Corn Mosaics
- ✓ Sweet-Smelling Candy
- ✓ Cane Sensory Play
- ✓ Christmas Contact Paper Art – A Seasonal Sticky Table