

Foster and Adoptive Parent Newsletter



KVC Names 2014 Resource Foster Parents of the Year

In the spring, KVC held its annual Resource Foster Parent Conference at Glade Springs Resort. During the event, families engaged in games, training, food, and fellowship. KVC chose to use this event to recognize outstanding foster/adoptive parents in each of our offices.

This year, KVC selected foster/adoptive parents Eddie and Amber Eskew as the 2014 KVC Resource Foster Parents of the Year. The Eskew family resides in the Jackson County area and have been foster parents with KVC since 2010. In this time, they have adopted three children and have gone out of their way to provide support to children and mentorship to other KVC foster fami-

lies. The Eskews are very involved in the community and participate in a variety of activities with their children. The family is also very flexible and have been 'team players' to help out in difficult situations. The Eskews are very deserving of this award, and Amber was very surprised to be awarded during the conference. Congrats, Amber and Eddie!

Seven other families were nominated this year for the award and certainly deserve recognition. They are Joe and Tjuania Vance from the Logan area, Robert and Mary Clowser from the Roane area, Jimmy and Sherry Pauley from the Kanawha area, Mary and Joey Tolley from the Lincoln office area, Hobert and Tina Sutherland from



Amber Eskew accepts the award with President Brent Lemon and VP Erin Keltner.

the Wayne area, Sam and Betty Fleshman from the Raleigh office area, and Melvin and Laquetta Akers from the Wyoming area.

Congratulations to these families for their hard work as KVC foster parents!

Home Finders

Robin Cremeans
304-859-4229
Kanawha and Lincoln Offices

Lori Hesson
304-966-6262
Jackson and Roane Offices

Marsha Messer
304-859-4243
Logan Office

Tommy Redden
304-859-4242
Raleigh and Wyoming Offices

Tiffany Skidmore
304-859-4255
Wayne Office

Ride and Raffle is Saturday, September 20!

The Fourth Annual KVC Ride and Raffle will be taking place on Saturday, September 20. Rides start from the following locations:

- King Coal Chevrolet in Oak Hill
- Pinpoint Auto Service in Huntington
- The Jackson KVC Office in Ripley

- Mike's Harley Davidson in Delbarton

Registration is from 9-10 am at each location and the cost is \$20/rider and \$5/passenger.

The routes will meet at Cedar Lakes State Park in Ripley in the afternoon. Food will be provided, including barbecued pork from Triple A Farms, Inc.

There will also be a DJ and of course, many raffles! We have over 90 sponsors this year so

there are bound to be good prizes!

We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Robin Cremeans at 304-859-4229.



Spotlight on KVC Staff - Susan Greathouse



This month, KVC would like to highlight 'new' employee Susan Greathouse.

Susan was raised in rural northwestern Illinois on a farm. She enlisted into the Air Force after graduating from high school and met her husband (who was from WV) while stationed overseas.

Susan attended Glenville State College and received a Bachelors in Social Work and her Masters in Social Work from WVU Charleston. Susan has worked in a variety of settings, including the hospital, community mental health, and DHHR. In 1988 she began work at AYC (now KVC) and worked there for 20 years. Susan then went to work at Roane County Family Health Care. After 7 years, she now returns to KVC as a therapist. In Roane County. During her

34 year career as a social worker Susan has worn many hats but has found that therapy with families and children is her passion. She is very happy about returning to KVC.

Susan and her husband live on a small farm outside Spencer. They have a daughter who lives in Morgantown and a son who resides in Charleston. Susan enjoys flower and vegetable gardening and scrap booking in her spare time.

KVC is thrilled at the return of Susan to our agency. Please take the time to get to know her!

Remembering Why We Foster and Adopt

We are very saddened at the passing of two great foster parents in our community. Harry Crook from Jackson County and Rick Metheny from Clay County both recently passed away after battles with terminal illness.

Mr. Crook and Mr. Metheny were both great assets to our foster care program and were wonderful fathers and mentors to their large families. They were also in the process of adopting children when they passed.

As you reflect on being a foster parent, think about the impact that you have on the lives of children. You have an opportunity to leave a positive imprint on all of the children you take into your home; even the children that you have for one or two days.

Remember the importance of kindness, patience, and humor in everyday life. Your small gestures today can have a big impact in the lives of children tomorrow.

Life is so short, and we are thankful for these two men and their continuous commitment to making sure that their children felt like they were part of a family. We are thankful for the positive impact that they played in many children's lives.

Make sure to hug all of your children tight and let them know how honored you are to care for them and have them in your home. We never know what tomorrow will bring.

RFP Advisory Troops Underway



The RFP Advisory Troops are well under way, with each area having at least two meetings so far to discuss projects of interest.

Troops have been brainstorming about events in which they are interested in participating, such as bake sales, garage sales, and other events to promote KVC and our mission to help children.

While the Advisory Troops will not meet in September, these groups will reconvene before the end of the year to discuss other exciting events or projects.

If you have an event that you would like for KVC to attend or have an idea that the troops can utilize to promote KVC, help our children, or provide better support

to our foster parents, please let us know!

Robin Cremeans is currently 'head of the troops' and she can be reached at 304-859-4229 or at

rcremeans@kvc.org. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Logan RFP Picnic a Success!!!

KVC held its seventh annual RFP Picnic at the Chief Logan State Park on August 9. Even though the day started rather soggy, it ended up being a lovely day and an amazing event.

The event featured great food catered by Mom and Me Catering, as well as games and swimming in the park pool. In training foster parents Ron and Jeannette Joplin were kind enough to bless us with beautiful gospel music after lunch.

All in all, despite some wet weather, there was a great turnout for the day and families reported having a great time. Be on the

lookout for additional pictures from the event on our Facebook page.



Our beautiful cake created by staff member Tracie Toler



The Coleman family with Judge Evans after their adoption.

Adoptions, Adoptions, and More Adoptions!

We are honored to announce more adoptions and more creations of forever families in West Virginia!

The Graham family was pleased to complete Legal Guardianship of their daughter in August. Jeff, Wendy, and their family resides in Wyoming County. Congratulations!

Shirley and Wendell Browning are thrilled at their completion of adoption of their 4 children, who have been waiting for permanency

for over 5 years. The Brownings reside in Lincoln County. We are so happy for you all!

Jimmy and Kathy Coleman adopted three children in Jackson County in August. Best wishes and congratulations!

Scott and Cassie Pauley of the Lincoln County area adopted two children in early September. We are excited for you and your family!!!!



The Brownings celebrate after their adoption with Judge Hoke and their attorney.

Technology is Coming Your Way!!!

By now, many of you have heard about the Rural Utilities Service grant that KVC WV received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This grant is going to allow for KVC to bring technology into the homes of our foster parents to be used with parents and children alike.

The iPads will serve many purposes. Foster parents will be able to have contact with KVC staff for brief check ins between ap-

pointments and in crisis situations (as appropriate). In some instances, our therapists will be able to provide therapy via the device as well. Foster parents will also be able to attend trainings via the iPads for convenience too!

The devices have been implemented in the Lincoln and Kanawha areas, while the Beckley/Wyoming area is next. Your Home Finder will be contacting you soon

about your interest in participating in the project. There will be plenty of training and parents will have the opportunity to ask all questions about its use.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing it with you!

Upcoming Training Dates

<u>Name of Training</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Office Location</u>
PRIDE	Mondays starting 9/8 through 10/27 5:30 pm	Lincoln Office
Autism Training	September 16 OR September 17 from 8:30 am—5:00 pm	Kanawha Office—you must RSVP with Erin Keltner (ekeltner@kvc.org)
PRIDE	Saturdays starting October 4 at 5:30 pm	Daniels Bible Baptist Church, Daniels, WV
Anti Bullying	October 7—11:00 am October 8—10:00 am October 9—10:00 am October 23—10:00 am October 24—11:00 am	Beckley Office Kanawha Office Lincoln Office Logan Office Jackson Office
MANDT	October 8—10:00 am	Kanawha Office
CPR/First Aid	October 9—10:00 am	Kanawha Office

Please let your Home Finder know if you will be attending these trainings.

KVC West Virginia
300 Kenton Drive
Charleston, WV 25311

Phone: 304-347-9818
Fax: 304-347-9820
Website: www.kvc.org/west-virginia

KVC West Virginia is on Facebook!

In this day and age, it is not hard to find people who use the media site Facebook in order to stay connected to childhood friends, old college roommates, or former co-workers.

Now family and friends can use the KVC WV Facebook page to keep updated on KVC events, to view highlighted KVC staff, and to browse pictures from KVC events.

The best way to stay current on all of the KVC WV happenings is to 'LIKE' our page! You can go to www.facebook.com/KVCWV or search for 'KVC Behavioral HealthCare West Virginia.'

Thanks to all of those who have already 'liked' the page! KVC appreciates the positive support!

