

1ST QUARTER

FOSTER BY FAITH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR BOSSIER KIDS

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Announcements & Reminders
- Child Abuse Awareness Month
- Get Involved
- Helpful Resources
- Activities
- Donor & Board Appreciation



CONTACT US

(318) 741-19341

2125 Airline Drive
Bossier City, LA 71111

bossierkids@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Give for Good: On May 2nd, we are participating in Give for Good, an online giving challenge led by Community Foundation of North Louisiana. This day helps raise thousands of dollars for nonprofits in our local area, and it helps celebrate the work being done to better our community. We will be raising money for storage buildings for two of our Bossier KIDS homes. Keep an eye out on our social media platforms and website for more information on how you can get involved. This year, we are asking for help in raising money for storage facilities for two of our Bossier KIDS homes.

Donations: Along with monetary donations, there are a variety of other ways you can donate to Bossier KIDS and local foster families. If you have gently used children's toys, gear, clothing items, or bedroom furniture, consider donating them for use in foster homes. In addition, you can also greatly bless a foster family by deciding to purchase these items for their children.

Foster Care Training: If you have considered becoming a foster parent, don't wait any longer! We need you. Consider visiting the website for the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (www.dcfslouisiana.gov). The DCFS website contains important information about the steps to becoming a foster parent, as well as answers any questions you may have before pursuing certification.

Website & Social Media Updates: As of December 2022, we have a new website! If you haven't already, be sure to visit our website (www.bossierkids.org) and take a look around at the ways you can get involved with our organization. You can also donate and send us a message through our website. Also, be sure to check us out on Instagram (@bossierkidsinc) and Facebook (Bossier KIDS Inc) and give us a follow to stay in the loop for what is happening in Bossier KIDS.

Becoming Advocates Against Abuse

The Month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month--Here's How You Can Help

In 1983, the month of April was designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to raise awareness and guide communities to prevent abuse and neglect among children.

According to the Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) website, almost five children in the United States die each day as a result of child abuse within the home. More than 75% of deaths occur to children under the age of four. In addition, one in every four girls and one in every six boys endure some form of sexual abuse by the time they turn 18.



While the statistics on child abuse are heartbreaking, they become even more so when we reflect on the effects of abuse on a child's development. According to the national Child Welfare website, "Research shows that children who suffer from the prolonged stress of abuse and neglect tend to struggle in their behavioral, physical, and cognitive abilities." In addition, it has been found that the effects of early trauma such as abuse carry through generations if the trauma is not addressed and treated.

According to the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the definition of child abuse is, "Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or the act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

Specifically, this law applies to abuse inflicted by parents or caregivers.

The causes of child abuse can stem from a variety of sources, such as living in a community with a high rate of violence, having limited access to social services, living in a home where a parent or caregiver is facing unemployment and living below the poverty line.

However, abuse does not just occur in areas of financial instability. In the United States, a report of child abuse is made almost every 10 seconds (CAPA), and these reports occur across ethnic and cultural backgrounds, within all religions, among all levels of education and across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

These incidents of abuse are typically not isolated incidents. If there is no intervention, it is highly likely the abuse will continue while the child remains in the home, endangering the child's life and wellbeing throughout their childhood.

So the question becomes: what can we do?

It is evident that any adult can make a positive, lasting impact on a child's life, no matter what role we play in a child's life.



Children need safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments to thrive from adolescence to adulthood, and we have the ability to cultivate safety and security in the life of a child.

Child abuse is preventable, but we must take time to look for and identify the signs of its presence before it is too late.

According to the CAPA website, here are five steps we can take to reduce child abuse and its long-term effects:



- Obtain Mandated Child Abuse Reporting training if you work with children in any capacity to learn about the risk factors and warning signs of child abuse. The Child Abuse Prevention Council in your area should have training opportunities.
- Report child abuse and neglect when you become aware of it or suspect it.
- Get involved. Volunteer your time at community agencies that promote positive, supportive services for families (libraries, community resource centers, nonprofit agencies that work with families and children).
- Conduct outreach activities in the community to raise awareness about support agencies for families.
- Ensure families are equipped with the resources, support and tools necessary to be successful parents and caregivers within their community.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH BOSSIER KIDS

1. Volunteer

There are several ways you can volunteer with Bossier KIDS. Consider offering respite care for a foster family on a weekend, provide a foster family with a meal, or you can mentor a foster child.



2. Consider Foster Care or Adoption

We are in need of individuals who will step up to care for children in our state. Prayerfully consider becoming certified to be a foster parent or adding a child to your family.

3. Donate

Because we are a private foster care agency, we do not receive state funding and solely rely on donations. Please consider donating to our mission of helping foster children in our state know the love of Christ.



FOSTER FAMILY RESOURCES

Adopt US Kids: Adopt US Kids is a national organization whose goal is to provide a family to every child and teen in the U.S. foster care system. They provide information for prospective foster and adoptive parents, aid in the adoption process, and connect families through their social platforms.

www.adoptuskids.org

CASA Louisiana: CASA stands for "Court Appointed Special Advocate." CASA Louisiana's website provides information for individuals who are interested in volunteering in this capacity on behalf of a foster child. Their website also features trainings, webinars, public policy resources, and more.

www.louisianacasa.org

Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization: The Louisiana Foster Care Support Organization connects Louisiana foster families to support groups, trainings, parents' night out opportunities, clothing/supplies, and opportunities for their foster children. Their website also includes information on how to connect with organizations that aim to help children aging out of the foster care system.

www.louisianafostercare.com

Fostering Families Today: Fostering Families Today is a national foster care magazine with resources, advice, and helpful information on aiding foster children. Their website also features access to free webinars, the Fostering Families Today newsletter, article archives, and Facebook discussion groups.

www.fosteringfamielistoday.com

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services: Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is a governmental organization that advocates for the safety of children, helps families and individuals at risk, and provides refuge in the event of a natural disaster. The Louisiana DCFS website provides detailed information on the steps to becoming a certified foster parent in the state of Louisiana, as well as numerous other resources for current or prospective foster parents in the state.

www.dcfslouisiana.gov

SEASONAL CRAFT

HANDPRINT FLOWER CARDS



SUPPLIES:

- Colored Cardstock Paper
- Pre-Folded Cardstock Cards
- Permanent Crafter's Tape Adhesive
- Craft Scissors
- Pen or Pencil
- Optional Embellishments (Stickers, Rhinestones, Glitter Glue)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Lay one hand flat on a piece of colored cardstock paper.
2. Trace hand using a pen or pencil.
3. Lift up hand and trim the traced handprint.
4. Grab a separate sheet of cardstock and trim out a rectangle. Glue to the front of the pre-folded cardstock.
5. Using a separate piece of cardstock (preferably green), cut out a simple stem and leaf shape.
6. Glue the handprint and stem cut-outs to the front cover of the card to look like a flower.
7. Add embellishments and a note on the inside to share with a loved one!

SEASONAL TREAT

BUNNY BAIT



INGREDIENTS:

- 3.5 cups Rice Chex
- 3.5 cups Honey Nut Cheerios
- 1.5 cups pretzel sticks
- 1/2 cup salted peanuts
- 16 oz vanilla almond bark
- 10 oz bag Easter M&Ms
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips

DIRECTIONS:

1. Prepare a sheet pan by lining it with parchment paper. Set it aside.
2. Mix together the Rice Chex, Honey Nut Cheerios, pretzel sticks, and salted peanuts in a large bowl.
3. Melt the vanilla almond bark in the microwave using a large microwave safe dish. Microwave it in increments of 15 seconds, stirring after each interval, until it has melted completely.
4. Pour the melted almond bark into the bowl with the cereal mixture and then toss together until thoroughly combined.
5. Gently fold in the Easter M&Ms and butterscotch chips.
6. Transfer to the prepared sheet pan.
7. Spread mixture onto pan evenly and let set for 45 minutes before breaking into pieces and serving.

DONOR & BOARD APPRECIATION