

Open Hearts Open Arms

From the Division:

Slowly all is returning to normal after a very busy holiday season. The Adopt-a-family program provided gifts for more than 300 families this year. Of the 300 families, 14 were from the adoption community. I made it a personal goal to deliver the gifts to the adoptive families. **Thanks to those of you that came to my rescue and picked up their gifts here at the Division.** In addition, the Christmas stocking program, sponsored by Betty Miller's Middle School Students prepared 102 Christmas stockings. Of the 102 stockings, 67 were prepared for our adoptive community. It is wonderful to share in the true joy of Christmas!

ArtReach 2012

ArtReach, Inc. is a non-profit that accepts donated tickets to metro area events and then disburses them at no charge to non-profit agencies. Jeffco's post-adoption program is a member of ArtReach. The membership fee is \$600.00 a year. This may sound expensive, but last year Jeffco's post-adopt families received tickets valuing \$16,156.27. This is a pretty good return on the \$600.00 investment. In the past, Jeffco had a grant that paid the fee, but currently families donate \$20.00 a year to participate in the program. The program provides opportunities for: 1) parents to enjoy a night out, 2) strengthening family connections, 3) cultural development for children, and 4) just having a good time... Contact Nancy if you would like to join.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, JAN 2012



Set a goal that makes you happy!

Special Events:

- 2012 Kidz Night Out— 3 hours of respite. Watch for details and register. Respite is good for all.
- Free Dental Clinic on Feb 3rd— details sent via email Tuesday, 1/17.
- Sweetheart Dance

10 Commandments of Talking About Adoption



The Feb, 2012 edition of Adoptive Families magazine published an article on talking rules to foster an open atmosphere within your family. The authors are Betsy Smalley, LSW and Jayne Schooler. To receive a copy of the complete article contact Nancy. In Summary, here are the 10 rules:

1. Initiate conversation
2. Use positive language
3. Never lie
4. Allow a child to express anger without joining in
5. After age 12, share all information
6. Consider a third party
7. Don't try to "Fix" the pain of Adoption
8. Don't impose judgments
9. A child should have control of his story
10. Your child probably knows more than you think

You may join a group on Talking About Adoption at:

adoptivefamiliescircle.com



Children love to dance. Have one or more of your children dress in their favorite dancing clothes and invite them to dance to your favorite music. The first person to email me a short description and photo from your self-created Sweetheart Dance (that can be shared) will receive their choice of Nancy Eldridge's books: 1) 20 Things Adoptive Parents Need to Succeed, or 2) 20 Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew.