



## Open Hearts Open Arms

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August, 2011 Edition

### Adoptive Parents Speak Out!

Last year the **North American Council on Adoptable Children** (NACAC) surveyed adoptive families to help guide new initiatives in the Association. More than 1,100 adoptive parents in the United States and Canada have responded to the survey. The complete report on the result of the survey is available at:

<http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/postadoptionsurvey.html>.

In the survey parents identified four top barriers to accessing needed services. The barriers are:

- Inability to find needed services (43%)
- Providers who don't understand adoption (39%)
- Services that cost too much (33%)
- Providers who don't accept Medicaid (30%)

The survey asked parents to rank the top four issues they would like NACAC to address in the future. The top issues are:

- Adoption competency training
- Mental health services
- Training and education for parents
- Educational advocacy and support

**Jefferson County Division of Children, Youth & Families** has completed a survey of adoptive parents. Approximately 170 of our families were asked to complete an on-line survey and 25% of the families responded to the survey. The primary focus for the Jeffco survey was to identify needs and barriers to adoptive family supports. Of the families that were surveyed 67% said they would attend a support group. However, the barriers to attending a support group include: not interested (13%), travel distance (27%), child care (20%), scheduling conflicts (60%) and family issues (13%). Another question on the survey was regarding the day of the week, and time of day that would work best for families. Of those completing the survey there was a split on the days of the week that would work the best. The majority identified evenings as the best time of day to hold a meeting.

This same group was asked what topics or areas they would like supported. Of those surveyed 47% said Financial and Resources; 83% said Behavioral Concerns/Mental Health; 40% said connecting with other adoptive families; and 27% would like support in connecting with Birth Families.

A post-adoption committee made up of staff from Jeffco CYF and Jefferson Center for Mental Health will use this information to assist in the programming and development of future services for adoptive families in Jefferson County.

### Mark Your Calendar

**2011 Annual Jeffco  
Adoptive Family Picnic**

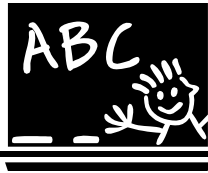
**Tuesday, August 2,  
4-7 p.m.**

**Jeffco Fairgrounds  
See you there!**

**See Page 2 for School  
Supply Procedures**

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**Jeffco Action Center  
2011 School Supply Distribution (see attached procedures)  
Wheat Ridge Middle School  
7101 WE 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033**



# Jeffco Action Center's 2011 School Supply Distribution

A program helping children from low-income families attending Jeffco Public Schools



## Here's how it works:

You must be registered at Jeffco Action Center (8755 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Lakewood) **at least 48 hours before** your School Supply pick-up date. Parents or legal guardians with proof of custody are welcome.

## To register you will need:

- Photo ID
- Proof of Jefferson County address (recent mail or bill in your name)
- Birth Certificates for each child (these are required)
- Proof of custody (if legal guardian)

## Pick up school supplies at Wheat Ridge Middle School!

**After you register or if you are already registered at Jeffco Action Center, to receive school supplies, you will need to bring your:**

- Photo ID
- Proof of Jefferson County address (recent mail or bill in your name)

| <u>Parent's Last Name Letter</u> | <u>Pick-up Date</u><br><u>Pick-up Time</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|
| D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K           | Monday, August 8<br>10:00am-3:00pm         |
| L, M, N, O, P, Q                 | Tuesday, August 9<br>10:00am-3:00pm        |
| R, S, T, U, V                    | Wednesday, August 10<br>10:00am-3:00pm     |
| W, X, Y, Z, A, B, C              | Thursday, August 11<br>10:00am-3:00pm      |
| OPEN day for all letters         | Friday, August 12<br>10:00am-3:00pm        |
| OPEN day for all letters         | Saturday, August 13<br>10:00am-3:00pm      |

**Wheat Ridge Middle School  
7101 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033  
(East of Wadsworth on 38<sup>th</sup> Ave.)**

**Call 303-237-7704 for more info.**