

# THE SAFF FAMILY FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA ASSOCIATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES April 2010 Vol. 10-2

## CALLING ALL FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FATHERS!!



In every area of a child's life the participation of a father, or a role model that can act as a father, is so important. In the world of Foster Care, fathers also play a crucial role. Some of our children have never had the experience of a positive male parent. We need to see more fathers at our SAFF Trainings, attending SAFF events, volunteering for our programs or just weighing in at our Board and Committee meetings with your unique perspective. There is also a huge need for men to volunteer as Court Appointment Special Advocates, so many cases would be better served with a male CASA. If you want to become involved for the children, please call Joseph Galata at the SAFF Resource Center or email [marysondgroth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marysondgroth@sbcglobal.net). We would love to help you get involved.

Mary Sondgroth, SAFF Board President

### EASTER BASKET DONATION

Beautifully assembled Easter Baskets were donated to SAFF this year by Vagos Reno Motorcycle Club. This is a collaboration of Motorcycle Clubs in Reno area of Northern Nevada Confederation of Clubs organized by Kristy De Martini and Shelly Faulkner, Co-Founders in honor of Traci Hayhoe, Founder. The entire SAFF family is so appreciative of their contribution to help make Easter special for deserving foster children.



### SIERRA ASSOCIATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES

PO Box 11112  
Reno, NV 89520  
Visit our Foster/Adoption Resource Center  
3376 Lakeside Court,  
Reno NV 89509  
Phone: 775-828-9977

### SAFF's FAMILY EMAIL NOTICE LIST

If you did not receive our Newsletter online , it means **YOU ARE NOT ON** our email list. Please contact us with your email contact information or, if you do not have a computer, please contact Mary Sondgroth so that you can be included on the PHONE TREE CALL LIST we are currently preparing. We don't always have the time or the funds to mail notices about opportunities or donations. The SAFF Board wants to be sure that you and all of our SAFF families are contacted , every time.

[www.saffnn.org](http://www.saffnn.org)



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## A Message From the Executive Director

Anyone remember the song from the famous musical OKLAHOMA with lyrics “ June is busting out all over?” Come June in Reno, it’s a special weekend for creating extra-ordinary exciting energy.

On June 11 and 12 at the Atlantis Hotel in Reno, The Sierra Association of Foster Parents will be producing the 2010 Statewide conference **THEIR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS: WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN, TEENS AND FAMILIES.**

Friday June 11 is for adults and Saturday June 12 is for the teens. Registration forms will be mailed out in April. Along with classes and workshops, special events will be taking place such as honoring SAFF’s funders, honoring foster and adoptive parents and announcing the winners of the Teen Essay Contest.

A few of the incredible speakers include: **The Honorable Judge Jennifer Elliott** from Las Vegas who will speak about her unique program **WOMEN’S DRUG COURT** and her other incredible program **SCHOOL TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM.** Judge Elliott will address both the adults and youth. Also are: **Michael S. Lea** from Las Vegas and is a Specialty Courts Specialist for Clark County’s Specialty Court Division and Drug Court Coordinator with Clark County’s Family and Juvenile Drug Court programs. **Patty Neely**, a former foster parent of 77 children and adoptive parent who has 24 years of experience in the child welfare system and is with the University of Nevada –Reno School of Social Work. Susanne Ketring a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker, Sandy Lowery who teaches undergraduate and graduate course in social work and addictions and is the Vice-President of the State of Nevada, Board of Examiners for Social Workers. Other workshops include: **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ETHNIC IDENTITY FORMATION, FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BIRTH FAMILIES** which includes a panel with birth mothers speaking about their experiences when their children were in care and an exciting presentation by nationally acclaimed author and lecturer **Maria Marinakis!**

We will be participating in the Reno’s 21st Annual **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION** at Idlewild Park on April 25th. Please volunteer to help by contacting Board Members Rose Santos or Mary Sondgroth or come to the event and look for the SAFF table.

### **Executive Board Members**

Mary Sondgroth, President

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Rose Santos, Vice President / Secty.

[tiaroz@charter.net](mailto:tiaroz@charter.net)

Kathi Hovore, Treasurer

[KNDHovore@yahoo.com](mailto:KNDHovore@yahoo.com)

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### **Executive Director**

Joseph Galata

[jgalata@aol.com](mailto:jgalata@aol.com)



**TEEN ESSAY CONTEST** ALL TEENS, currently 13 to 19 years old, who have ever been in foster care can enter our Essay Contest. Flyers will be coming out with the entry forms. The topic is How my future was affected by my experience in Foster Care. Great prizes for the winner and the chance to have your essay published.

**YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!** If you can donate even an hour of your time and talents please contact the Board and throw your hat in the ring. New Committees are forming and they could use your help. We are currently recruiting new Board Members.

