

The mission of the Florida State Foster-Adoptive Parent Association, Inc. is to:

Foster a spirit of cooperation and teamwork among all entities involved with child welfare.

Promote quality education and training for families with the system's children, both prior to placement and as continuing education.

Advocate improved funding of human services for the benefit of all of Florida's most vulnerable citizens.

Advocate for legislative changes for protection and welfare of Florida's children at the local, state, and national levels.

Educate our parents regarding the needs of children by making them more effective advocates at all levels.

Increase community awareness, support, and participation in foster parenting and adoption.

Provide a forum for dialogue and communication among our parents, the department, agencies, and other interested persons via our newsletter, meetings, website, and server (flfpa@yahoogroups.com).

Educate foster parents regarding the risks of foster parenting and the steps they can take to reduce those risks, including, but not limited to, ways to administer appropriate and effective means of discipline, reduce stress within the foster family, relate to the child's natural family in a positive manner, enhance the child's self esteem, encourage constructive behaviors and realistically assess the types of foster children a foster family is equipped to care for.

Educate adoptive parents about issues affecting children, promote realistic expectations of the needs and behaviors of children being adopted, advocate support services for adoptive families to reduce stress, strengthen the family unit and reduce or eliminate adoption disruption.

Working together, we can make a difference!



- ➔ **FSFAPA** meets quarterly to conduct business and share information.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** usually has training at each quarterly meeting that can be used for the states/agencies' required in-service hours.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** promotes the development of support groups for foster/shelter/adoptive/relative-kinship care providers.
- ➔ **FSFAPAS'** F.A.S.T. program provides support to foster/adoptive parents facing allegations of abuse. Contact **1-800-FAST-119**.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** holds an annual conference at which all child welfare advocates can receive training and network.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** produces the *Florida's Professional Parent*. This informative and educational newsletter is available quarterly.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** works cooperatively with agencies involved in the child welfare system.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** advocates for improvement in funding and services that benefit children in placement.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** participates in events recognizing, Advocacy Day, Social Worker Month, Child Abuse Month, Foster Parent Month, and Adoption Month.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** maintains a hotline **1-866-900-8119** to answer questions, to offer support, and to refer callers to appropriate agencies.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** encourages the recruitment, and retention of professional foster parents.
- ➔ **FSFAPA** sponsors, along with the department, a monthly conference call for foster parents and their associations.

To stay strong, we need you!

If you are either a foster/shelter/adoptive/relative-kinship care provider, or a social worker, or any child advocate committed to improving the child welfare system, we need your support.

We need your energy, your ideas, your gifts, and your passion.

How you can help!

Become a member today. Every foster/shelter/adoptive/relative-kinship care provider, social worker, child welfare advocate/agency, and their perspective local support groups should be a member of the Florida State Foster-Adoptive Parent Association.

Volunteer your time. Whatever your talents, we need them. You can become active within several committees that serve our goals, such as Advocacy, Conference/Education, Adoption, Relative-Kinship, Public Relations, and even Membership.

Make a donation or bequest. As we work to maintain, strengthen, and expand our programs, we need financial support. You can either give directly or designate a bequest in your will. We are a 501 C (3) organization.

Please don't wait another day to take action and don't think someone else will do your part. If you care about children in the child welfare system,

JOIN US TODAY!